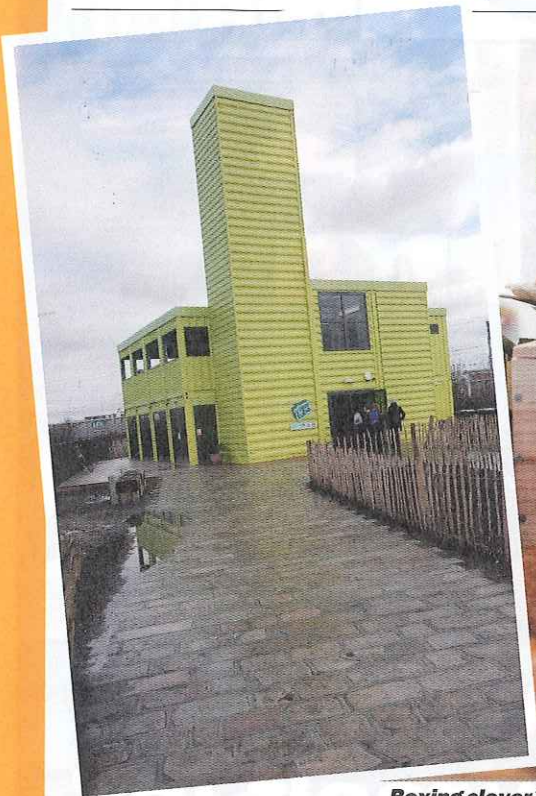


Food & Drink

London tried and tasted every week Edited by Guy Dimond



Boxing clever The Container Café, in the View Tube community venue, overlooks the Olympic building site

CHRISTINA THEISEN

Reviews

Container Café

★★★★★

Caff reflects the changing East End

If you wanted contemporary east London packed up in a box, this would be it – and what a brightly coloured metal box it is. Made out of recycled shipping containers painted a vivid yellow-green, community venue View Tube has all of new East End life epitomised within. At one end of this structure is the Container Café, with a charming, lightly bearded Antipodean barista, 2012 Olympic merchandisers, an ad exec on his phone, psycho-geographical couple with books and, nose to the French windows, daily visitor David Doyle, who is an illustrator patiently developing pencil sketches of the Olympic site.

The view could hardly be bettered. Almost within touching distance is the Sir Peter Cook/Populous Olympic stadium, on your right Zaha Hadid's surprisingly low-slung Aquatics Centre,

and between them a copse – nay, forest – of busy cranes with a foreground of trucks, work vests and apparently aimless pointing fingers.

View Tube combines this amazing setting with a commitment to social enterprise (cycle hire from Bikeworks, 'Classroom with a view' for school trips) and local producers (Beetroot & Culture veg, HForman smoked salmon in the cream cheese bagels).

View Tube has all of new East End life epitomised within

The café is already fully operational. A short blackboard list of hot eats (bacon baguette and relish, pie, soup of the day) and coffees, from long black to mochaccino (Square Mile beans, La Marzocco machine), are supplemented

by fresh orange juice and hot chocolate. Further temptations rest on the counter: moist, perhaps overly sugary chocolate brownies, cookies, appealingly overstuffed savoury croissants.

The goodies come from the people behind the excellent Counter Café – a big hit despite its where-the-hell-is-it Fish Island location – and they've done a great job again. The same chilled-but-helpful service, the same on-the-button décor: changing art, mixed furniture in arrangements to suit different groups, underplayed design features. Blue stools echo the angular Olympic motif, there's a pair of cute globe ceiling lights and, dividing the single room, a pot plant trellis with a hard hat hung off it.

We had a couple of quibbles. The scrambled eggs and bacon were so slow in coming that we started to nibble our brownie. The courgettes didn't seem at all 'caramelised', and the toast was a bit soggy. But we're happy to wait when food's prepared from scratch. And the

combination of flavours and textures was brunch perfect: filling and a little indulgent, especially with the addition of the concentrated tomato relish we've also enjoyed at Counter Café.

Getting here is easier than it seems, but you'll need the courage of your convictions to weave through construction hoardings that are only discreetly marked as a pedestrian walkway. Do so: this place is a lot of fun.

Simon Coppock
Container Café, View Tube, The Greenway, Marshgate Lane, E15 2PJ (07530 274 160/www.theviewtube.co.uk). Pudding Mill Lane DLR. 9am-4.30pm daily. Meal for two: around £20.

THE BILL

Food	£15.00
Drinks	£4.80
No service charge. Cash tip	£2.00
Total	£21.80