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SOUTHBANK SOARS

Predominantly known for its theatres and art galleries, now a range of new residential developments are popping up in this buzzing riverside district



Rooms with a view: One Tower Bridge, on the far left of this CGI, enjoys an unrivalled London setting

WHILE some areas of prime central London are currently in the doldrums – house prices in Knightsbridge, Kensington and Chelsea have actually fallen this year, by as much as 0.9 per cent – the Southbank is on the rise.

Since the start of the year prices here are up by an impressive 3.9 per cent, and over the past three years they have climbed by 28 per cent, compared to 18 per cent for prime central London, according to exclusive research by Knight Frank.

The cultural quarter houses some of the capital's best theatres, art galleries and attractions, as well as cafes, restaurants and Borough market. A range of new residential and cultural addresses are also springing up, from the Mondrian Hotel and a new theatre

to luxury homes at **One Tower Bridge** (one beds from £1,475,000, onetowerbridge.co.uk), and **Neo**

Bankside (penthouses from £5,950,000, neobankside.com).

The former Shell Centre will soon become **Southbank Place** (studios from £540,000, southbank-place.com) – a new residential, retail and office development from the developers behind Canary Wharf – with 877 homes. The first building to be launched is **One York Square**, designed by

Squire and Partners and interior designers Johnson Naylor, which will contain 199 studios, one and two-bedroom apartments.

At **One Blackfriars**, on the river between Blackfriars Bridge and the Mondrian Hotel, interior designer

Tara Bernerd has created different 'collections' of apartments in the 50-storey glass tower, all named after British artists – from the modernist Barbara Hepworth apartments to flats inspired by Turner, the master of light, and Gainsborough, capturing

18th-century classicism (from £1.15million, oneblackfriars.co.uk). The development will also feature an entire building

dedicated to retail and leisure, bringing some serious shopping potential to the area.

A new phase is about to launch at the **Music Box**, a mixed-use building comprising 41 apartments above the London Centre of Contemporary Music on hipster Union Street, one block back from the river itself. The new base for the music college, of which Amy Winehouse was an

alumni, will only add to the area's cultural credentials (prices start at £760,000, taylorwimpeycentrallondon.com).

Just behind the Southbank, Barratt London has just launched **Blackfriars Circus** (one-beds from £490,000, barratlondon.com), a collection of 336 new homes, shops, cafes and offices within walking distance of the Tate Modern, the Old Vic and the Southwark Playhouse.

