



THE  
PORTMAN  
ESTATE

## **Portman Estate squares a revamp**

Viscount Portman's property company is the latest London landlord to commission major public realm improvements to enhance the value of its estate.

The Portman Estate, which owns 110 acres in central London, has drawn up a strategy that includes a revamp of Portman Square, W1.

The proposals follow an estate-wide review by Dutch architect Jan Gehl, and aim to make the busy square pedestrian-friendly and more accessible from Oxford Street, to the south, through to Baker Street, to the north-east.

The plans are unlikely to be implemented until after the 2012 Olympics, but The Portman Estate said it was ready to start on improvements to lighting, paving and street furniture on nearby Seymour Place and New Quebec Street, both W1.

Gehl carried out a similar project for Grosvenor last year. The Duke of Westminster has since secured a £10m funding package from Westminster council to deliver a series of public realm improvements. Portman will seek similar assistance from Westminster.