

PRESS RELEASE**October 9, 2017****Brighton i360 Ltd announces the death of David Marks MBE, “a man who transformed skylines”**

The board of Brighton i360 Ltd, which owns and operates British Airways i360, is deeply saddened to announce the death of its chairman and founder David Marks MBE FRSA RIBA, who passed away on October 6 2017 following a long illness. David spent his last days at home with his family: his partner in life and work, Julia Barfield, and their children Benjamin, Maya and Sarah. [Read a full statement from the family [here](#)].

David was an architect whose work was founded in innovation, excellence of design and close collaboration with other disciplines, in particular with engineers. He believed that well-designed buildings and structures can improve the quality of people’s lives.

He leaves a legacy of much-loved landmarks behind him, including the London Eye, British Airways i360 in Brighton and the Treetop Walkway at the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew; all of which demonstrate his wish to elevate the mind as well as the spirit. David transformed skylines, and his vision will continue to offer inspiration and delight to future generations.

David was born on 15 December 1952 in Stockholm, Sweden and grew up in Geneva in Switzerland. He moved to London in 1972 to attend the Architectural Association School, where he soon met Julia Barfield, a fellow student and close neighbour. The pair married in 1981.

This was to be the defining creative relationship of his life - David and Julia collaborated throughout their studies and professional careers until in 1989 they formed Marks Barfield Architects, which would go on to become one of the most versatile and innovative architecture practices in the UK.

David and Julia founded Brighton i360 Ltd in 2005 and are its majority shareholders. Together with a tight-knit group of trusted consultants and companies, many of whom worked with them at the London Eye, they secured the planning permission, partners, land and funding for British Airways i360, before finally building and then opening the attraction in August 2016.

British Airways i360 has won nine awards to date for design and innovation, including a RIBA National Award.

David was awarded an MBE in the Queen's New Year Honours list in 2000 and was given a Special Commendation for Outstanding Achievement in Design for Business and Society by the Prince Philip Designers Prize in the same year. He was chairman of the Waterloo Project Board between 2002 and 2007: a £19 million regeneration programme that helped to bring about tangible improvements to everyday life for local residents, employees, and community organisations in London SE1. He was presented with a Civic Award by the Mayor of Lambeth in 2011.

David's role as chair of Brighton i360 Ltd will pass to Julia Barfield and the attraction will continue to operate under the remaining board of directors and the executive directorship of Steve Bax.

David's funeral will take place at a private ceremony, with details of a memorial to be announced in due course.

ENDS

High-resolution image of David Marks (please credit British Airways i360 / Gary Eastwood)

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/s05s0i9tqfl01hq/AABbyAIXCE7t9wFNPC37ED2ra?dl=0>

For further media information please contact Emily Bamber, PR Manager at British Airways i360

Emily.Bamber@BritishAirwaysi360.com / 01273 448363

Information for editors

About British Airways i360

British Airways i360 is conceived and designed by Marks Barfield Architects, creators of the London Eye.

With an overall height of 162m, and a glass observation pod that glides up from ground level to 138m above Brighton beach, British Airways i360 is the world's tallest moving observation tower. Visitors enjoy unprecedented unfolding views across Brighton and Hove, the South Downs and the beautiful Sussex coast. 'Flights' carry up to 200 passengers and depart every 30 minutes. While on board, guests can enjoy a drink at the Nyetimber Sky Bar which serves a range of drinks from Sussex including Nyetimber, an award-winning sparkling wine.

At the base of the tower is the British Airways i360 beach building which houses a stylish new restaurant, West Beach Bar & Kitchen, with sea views and a large terrace. Dishes feature ingredients sourced from the local area. The beach building also has flexible beachside events spaces which can be hired for private functions and can accommodate between 10 and 1,000 people. British Airways i360 is licensed for weddings and couples carry marry in the pod, saying 'I do' at 138m above Sussex.

British Airways i360 has worked with the West Pier Trust to reconstruct two of the original West Pier tollbooths using Victorian building techniques. The reconstructed buildings now grace the entrance to British Airways i360, and house the West Pier Tea Room and the British Airways i360 ticket office.

The British Airways i360 shop stocks gifts and souvenirs, many of which have been created by local Brighton artists.

British Airways i360 is owned and operated by Brighton i360 Ltd.

Website: BritishAirwaysi360.com

Twitter: @BA_i360

Instagram: @BA_i360

Facebook: BritishAirwaysi360

Pinterest: @BA_i360

Hashtag: #BAi360

About Marks Barfield Architects

The late David Marks MBE was the architect-entrepreneur behind the creation of Brighton i360, together with his wife and business partner Julia Barfield MBE. They founded Brighton i360 Ltd in 2005. Previously David Marks and Julia Barfield performed a similar role creating the London Eye where they remained shareholders and directors until 2006. Together with a tight-knit group of extraordinary individuals, trusted consultants and companies, many of whom worked with David and Julia at the London Eye, they secured the planning permission, partners, land and funding for British Airways i360. Marks Barfield Architects is one of the UK's most versatile and innovative architecture practices, established in 1989. Julia Barfield now chairs the Brighton i360 board.

MarksBarfield.com

@marksbarfield

About British Airways

British Airways is one of the world's leading global premium airlines and the UK's largest international scheduled airline, carrying approximately 35 million passengers worldwide annually, on around 800 daily flights. The airline employs around 40,000 people, the vast

majority of these at its sites throughout the UK, and has an annual turnover of £8.5 billion. It employs 2,500 people in Sussex, several hundred of them in Brighton.

British Airways is the naming rights sponsor of British Airways i360. The attraction is owned and operated by Brighton i360 Ltd.

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