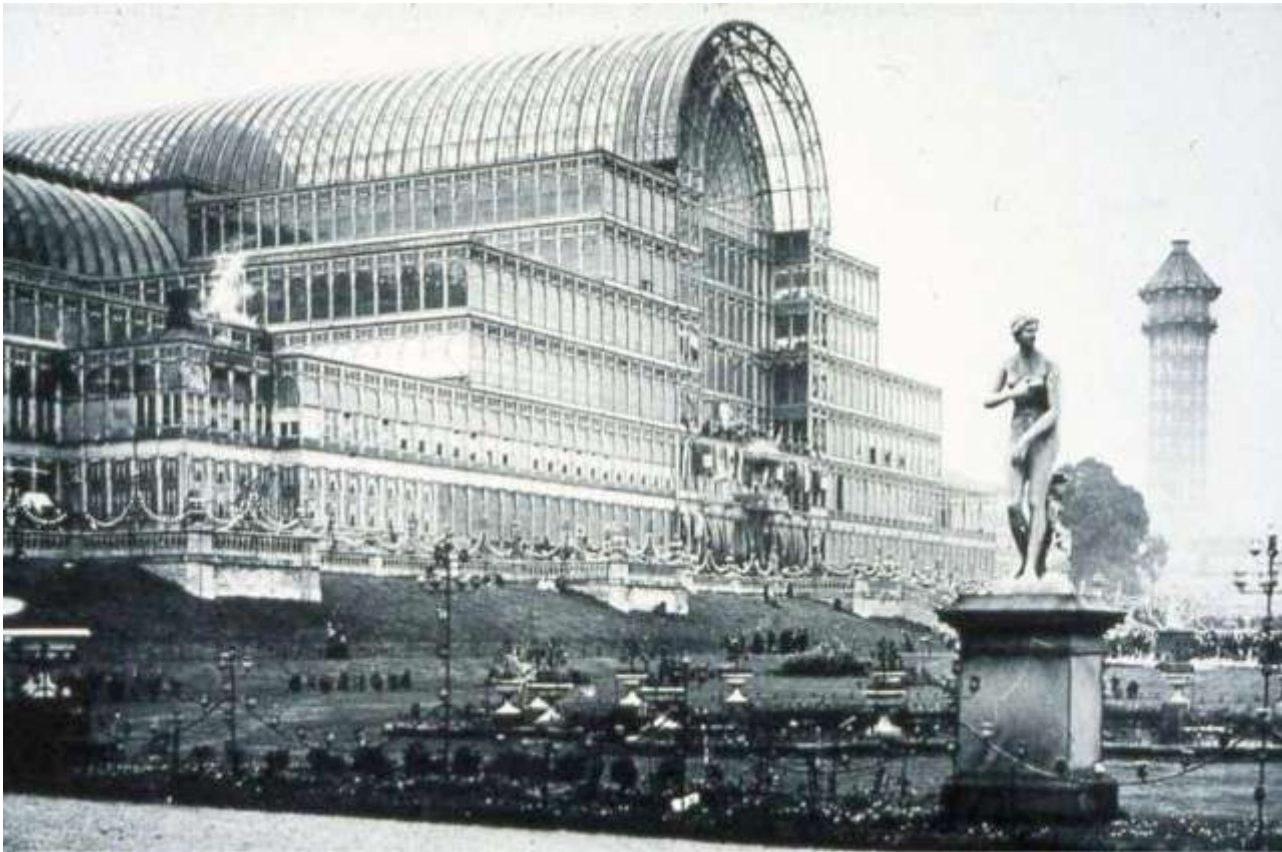


Will The Crystal Palace Be Rebuilt?

By **Alexander Baron** - Jul 25, 2015



The Crystal Palace, Hyde Park, London in 1851

59
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There is an area in South East London known as Crystal Palace. There is also a football team called **Crystal Palace** although it doesn't actually play at Crystal Palace, but a short way up down the road at Selhurst Park. There was though a real Crystal Palace, from which the area takes its name.

It was erected originally in London's Hyde Park, where between May and October 1851 the Great Exhibition was held. A century later, the Festival of Britain was held, and Crystal Palace would surely have been included in the 1951 national event, had it survived. Unfortunately, although the enlarged version was rebuilt at Sydenham in 1854, it was consumed by fire in 1936.

The original cost was around £2 million, which at the time of writing will buy you a decent sized house in Central London, but only in some areas! For some time there has been talk of rebuilding Crystal Palace, though these plans have to date come to nothing. Last year, a Chinese developer who had planned to rebuild it at an estimated cost of £500 million was left in the lurch by Bromley Council. Among other things a change in legislation would be needed because of local building restrictions.

The question must also be asked, does the original Crystal Palace need to be rebuilt, at least on this site? The park in which it was located has a national sports centre – indoor as well as outdoor – a lake, and its famous dinosaurs.

Whether or not anything comes of these proposals, it is clear the Chinese have not yet lost interest in the world famous park. Earlier this month, London Mayor Boris Johnson **met with** Mr Ni Zhaoxing of the ZhongRong Group, apparently to discuss a far more modest project for the area, but with Boris around, anything is possible.