

Design review

Bedales School

Planning a sustainable future for the Arts and Crafts core

Bedales School is famous for having some of the most outstanding buildings of the Arts and Crafts movement – Ernest Gimson's Lupton Hall of 1911 and Memorial Library of 1921. We have been asked to advise how to reuse and to give a sustainable future to Lupton Hall, the Quad and the former Art and Design building following the completion of new buildings elsewhere on the site. We propose that Lupton Hall, the original school hall, should become a dedicated space for music rehearsal and performance, able to accommodate a classical orchestra and ideal for chamber music.



Toynbee Hall, Whitechapel

Work begins on site

Our project for restoring, upgrading and extending Toynbee Hall is finally on site, and the highly constricted urban site is gradually giving up some of its secrets – asbestos, unstable chimneys, rot, cracked and bulging brickwork. The problems are being successively overcome, and the piles for the new building start imminently. The simultaneous redevelopment of the surrounding housing adds to the difficulties, but the finished building will give Toynbee Hall a sustainable future in continuing its vital social role in the community.



55-91 Knightsbridge

Demolition proceeds apace

Dixon Jones's project is for the redevelopment behind the listed facades of the terrace designed by Alban Caroe in the 1900's. The development consists of shops, offices and high-end housing, but our role is to repair the retained façade, to recreate the roof in facsimile above the rebuilt building, and to convert the houses in William Street into apartments over shops. The demolition is proceeding from one end to the other and from back to front, salvaging architectural elements for reuse.



St Pancras Renaissance Hotel Creation of a new bar above the Booking Office

The opening of the St Pancras Renaissance Hotel in Sir George Gilbert Scott's masterpiece, for which we acted as joint architects with RHWL, has proved a great success, so much so that the bar in the former Booking Office is now incapable of meeting the demand. We have therefore, with Arup's, investigated the possibility of creating a new area for the bar above the Booking Office, the linenfold panelling of which will form a balustrade to the new area of mezzanine seating. The original ticket windows will be fitted with mirrors and glass shelves for the storage of glasses.



The Charterhouse, Clerkenwell The Great Chamber 'beautified and refreshed'

We have been appointed to develop plans for the 'beautification and refreshment' of the Great Chamber where both Elizabeth 1st and James 1st held audiences. The room has been altered over the years, and was mostly rebuilt by Seeley and Paget after firebombing in WWII. However, it was originally one of the largest and finest Great Chambers in the country, and it retains its splendid fireplace decorated by Bucket. We have been appointed to design the redecoration and relighting of the Great Chamber as a gallery for display of their 17th century portraits. We propose a green fabric background, preferably a green silk damask, a fully panelled bay window reveal, a new floor of wide oak planks, and a new lighting system.



The Charterhouse, Clerkenwell External repairs to Chapel Court

Having already completed a Condition Survey, a Conservation Plan and a Development Plan for the Charterhouse, we have now completed the first element of implementation - the repair of Chapel Court, in conjunction with Eric Parry's project 'Revealing the Charterhouse'. The ugly and damaging hard cement ribbon pointing has been removed, and the stones variously repointed or replaced, thereby restoring something of the medieval appearance.



St Albans Abbey

West porches revealed in their full glory

We have completed works of cleaning, conservation and relighting to the west porches, one of the chief glories of the Abbey. Left incomplete in the 13th century, the porches were finally completed by Lord Grimthorpe in the 19th century, notoriously depicting himself as one of the four evangelists. The layering of the architecture, the richness of the carving, the colourful range of different stones and the medieval graffiti have been revealed below layers of grime thanks to a major grant from the World War One Grants scheme. The porches now provide a welcoming entrance for major services, concerts and civic events.



Christ Church, Hampstead

Repair of the highest church in North London

Christ Church lies near the top of the hill in Hampstead, with a tall spire visible from afar. We have completed the repair and roofing of the exterior of the church, cleaning and repointing the stonework, and renewing the slated roof coverings. Ragstone is not the most beautiful of stones when it is encrusted with dirt and pointed in a cement pointing, but the cleaning and repointing in a gritty lime mortar have transformed the appearance. Internally we have designed a scheme of re-ordering and redecoration that makes better use of the nave platform and makes the church accessible.



The Old Royal London Hospital, Whitechapel Planning its future as Civic Centre for Tower Hamlets

We are conservation architects working with AHMM on the conversion of the former Royal London Hospital, Whitechapel, into civic offices and town hall for Tower Hamlets. Previously inaccessibly situated in Docklands, this central site in Whitechapel offers Tower Hamlets a unique opportunity to bring together the office and town hall functions in a single, central building. However, the existing buildings are listed and consist of the surviving body of the original 1750's London Hospital, the 1870's Grocers' Wing by Charles Barry Junior, and the 1890's Chapel added in front. With AHMM we have devised a strategy for retaining this richly layered history of building, while creating a worthy public entrance, adding a z-shaped building to the rear and creating a linear atrium between the old and the new.



Willesden Jewish Cemetery Preparation of a Conservation Management Plan

Willesden Jewish Cemetery was built in 1873 in a then rural setting in Willesden, now swallowed up by rather run-down urban growth. The cemetery was one of the most prestigious, having the tombs of the Rothschilds and other notables. We are preparing a Conservation Plan and Development proposals with David Lambert of the Parks Agency, as part of a Stage 1 bid to the HLF. Issues of welcome and accessibility, reuse of the buildings, greenery, monument repair, the use of volunteers, maintenance and sustainability are all central to the project.



Electric House, Croydon Design consultancy for a monument of 1930's classicism

Electric House is a remarkable example of the kind of stripped Roman classicism that was used for certain building types in the 1930's, most notably in Italy. Electric House, built as an electricity showroom, is a fine example, with fluted columns of a light limestone, and doorcases of a fine veined dark grey limestone. We have been asked to design additional stories of residential accommodation in the lower ground floor and in a new attic on the roof.

