

RICHARD GRIFFITHS ARCHITECTS

DESIGN REVIEW DECEMBER 2021

SALISBURY COURT

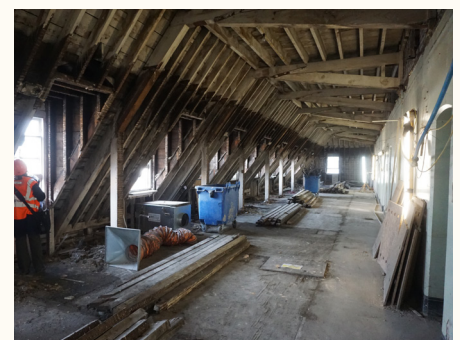
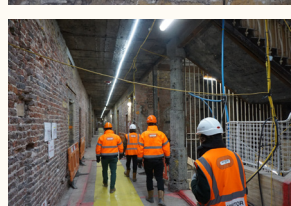
RGA were successful in winning the competition for the redesign of the listed buildings facing Salisbury Court in the City of London, as part of Eric Parry's new Law Courts off Fleet Street. Because the adjacent buildings were to be demolished, we designed a new brick elevation facing the new square to the south, extending the red brick Queen Anne style of the restored east elevation facing Salisbury Court, designed in 1884. Our design for the new elevation is centred on a tall ribbed chimney stack, such as Norman Shaw used in his buildings that gave rise to the style. The project recently received planning consent.



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OLD ROYAL LONDON HOSPITAL

RGA are working with AHMM on the conservation of the Georgian hospital building of the 1750's and of the Victorian wing by Charles Barry as part of the conversion to create a new Tower Hamlets Town Hall. The opening up has revealed fascinating aspects of the original buildings, the remarkable cantilevered roof of the Grocers' Wing, the zinc plates identifying the original chimney flues, and the purple brick walls of the central Georgian hospital corridors.



K N I G H T S B R I D G E

The scaffolding has recently come down on Knightsbridge, revealing the magnificent 13-building wide elevation designed by WD Caroe in the 1900's in red brick with Portland stone dressings and carved ornament. The shopfronts have all been renewed to match the sole survivor. The design of the elevation proved to be immensely complicated because the client required complete acoustic isolation of the façade from the new steel-framed building behind.



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O R I E L C O L L E G E , O X F O R D

The hall at Oriel dates to the 1630's, albeit still in Gothic style with a fine hammer beam roof. The panelling was replaced in the 1900's by Ninian Comper with a fine carved frieze of gryphons entwined in foliage. As part of the refurbishment of the hall Richard Griffiths was appointed to review the decoration of the hall and proposed decoration of the whole of the frieze, which was previously only painted on the heraldic shields, in order to brighten the appearance of the hall, especially in the evening when the gilding reflects the new lighting with sparkling highlights. It also serves to make the carving more legible and therefore enjoyable.

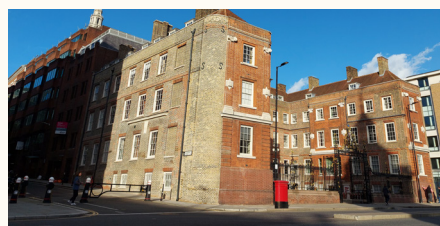


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6 Queen Square, London WC1N 3AT
T 020 7357 8788 | E admin@rgarchitects.com
www.rgarchitects.com

COLLEGE OF ARMS

The final phase of external repair project for the Godliman Street elevation at the College of Arms has been completed. Previous inappropriate repairs using poorly matching/ bonded bricks and cementitious mortar have been replaced with carefully selected matching bricks and breathable lime-based mortar. The window joinery has been refurbished and redecorated. The series of external repair works have benefitted the appearance of the Grade I Listed historic fabric and considerably enhanced the cityscape along the prominent Queen Victoria Street and Peter's Hill which connects the Millennium Bridge and St Paul's Cathedral.



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HOUSE IN HAMPSTEAD

We are adapting a Regency house in Hampstead for a private client. As part of the project we are proving a new balustrade to the staircase based on Sir John's Soane's house and museum in Lincoln's Inn Fields. The handrail construction is fascinating – circular rods of ebony glued to an oval softwood core.



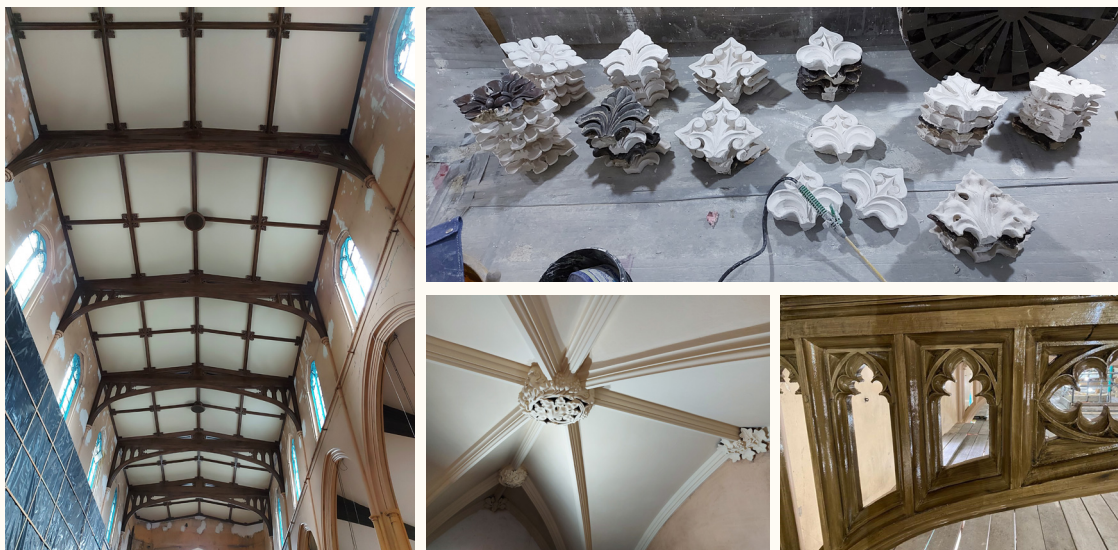
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C L O U D E S L E Y C E N T R E

Cloudesley Centre is the Grade II* listed deconsecrated church built in 1829 to the designs of Sir Charles Barry, based on Kings College Chapel, Cambridge. RGA worked through the pandemic and has completed three urgent repair projects as the initial phases of a major adaptation of the entire building to ensure a sustainable future of this magnificent building. They were grant-aided by Historic England.

The north and south aisle projects included structural reinforcement, reroofing and repairs to the high-level masonry. The nave and chancel ceiling project included repairing the collapsed nave ceiling, scumble finish on moulded decorations and reglazing of the clerestory windows. During the project, the existing plaster and paint schemes were analysed to inform the current and future proposals. The roof voids were filled with insulation to pave the way towards the Church of England's net zero carbon goal by 2030.



N E W D I R E C T O R S

We are pleased to announce the appointment of James Green and Aya Kihara Paul as Directors of RGA.

James Green

James Green has worked on the restoration and extension of Toynbee Hall, the redecoration of the Tudor Great Chamber at the Charterhouse, and is currently responsible for the NLHF-funded renewal of the Ragged School Museum. He has taught at the Royal College of Art and has been a guest critic at the Cass School of Art and at Central St Martin's. He is an enthusiast of Japanese archery.



Aya Kihara Paul

Aya Kihara Paul studied Architecture in Tokyo and Architectural Conservation at Bournemouth University. She has worked on the major repairs at the College of Arms, Christchurch Hampstead, and Hawksmoor's St Alfege Greenwich, and on new build projects at Toynbee Hall and the award-winning extension of St Paul's Hammersmith. She recently repaired Charles Barry's church-at-risk in Cloudesley Square.



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OLD BUILDINGS, NEW ARCHITECTURE

Richard Griffiths' book describing the challenges in adapting old buildings for the present and future has become topical with the renewed interest in the retrofitting of old buildings as an aspect of sustainability, and has been well reviewed. It can be obtained from our website www.rgarchitects.com

I am loving, enjoying and profiting from your book. I can see - if I did not know it already - that you are a past master of adding new layers of architecture while at the same time liberating or revealing historic layers in buildings of all scales and periods. We cannot all sit at the feet of a consummate master; but in this case we can at least read his book.

- Peter Burman, SPAB



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