

Design review

Success at the 2017 RIBA Awards

We are delighted that our work has been recognised in four awards in this year's RIBA Awards:

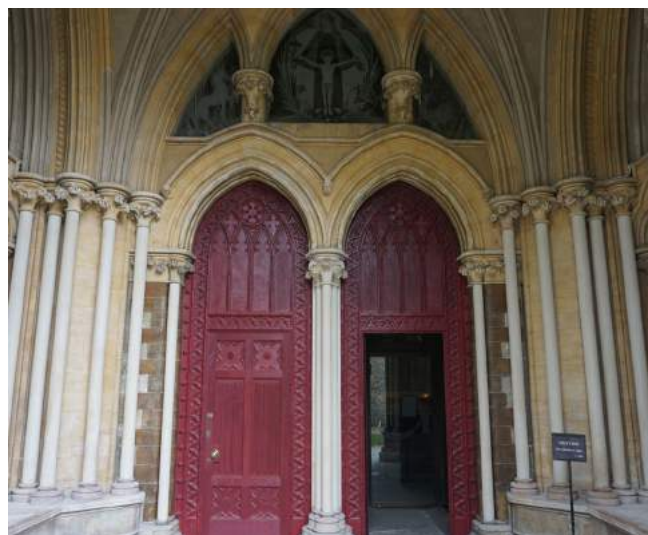


RIBA East Award for St Albans Abbey

RIBA East Conservation Award for St Albans Abbey

RIBA East Project Architect of the Year Award for Richard Griffiths' work at St Albans Abbey

RIBA South-East Award for the Cairns Tower at Brighton College



Completion of a 17 year programme of work at St Albans

Richard Griffiths retires this year as Cathedral Architect, and the cumulative transformation of the Abbey achieved during his 17 year tenure has been recognised in an RIBA South Award, Conservation Award and Architect of the Year Award. In the context of a great building like St Albans Abbey, a single project cannot hope to achieve all the work that is necessary or desirable, and the conservation of the presbytery ceiling, the nave wallpaintings and the medieval stonework were only completed after many phases of work. The new interventions, which have been carried out over 17 years within an overall long-term vision, extended the full length of the Cathedral, making it fully accessible and adapting it to changing patterns of use. The interventions range from the cleaning, decoration and relighting of the magnificent west entrance porches, the repair and redecoration of the nave, the creation of a new nave altar platform and nave sanctuary furniture, the creation of a new processional route below the organ to the refurbished and relit choir, the cleaning and relighting of the Lady Chapel, and the creation of new processional steps and a platform lift leading to the shrine of St Alban, the culmination of the pilgrim and visitor route through the Abbey.



Award for Brighton College's Tower, finally completed after 130 years

We are delighted to have won an RIBA South Award for our completion of the tower over the entrance to Brighton College. It was originally designed by TG Jackson in 1887, and was left as a truncated stub when funding ran out, with unfortunate visual consequences. As part of the College's major development programme, funds have been found to complete the tower, externally in accordance with TG Jackson's original design, internally as the headmaster's study and meeting room. The tower is constructed of moulded terracotta by Hathern Terra Cotta on a brick core, surmounted by a 10 metre high cupola and turret, constructed with a steel frame erected at ground level and lifted onto the top of the tower by crane. The entrance is now marked by a tower, a lead-clad turret, and a weathervane of a pelican, the school symbol. A comparison of Jackson's florid neo-Tudor to something more contemporary, stripped down to its geometric essence, yet providing the crowning symbol of the school, used as a picturesque and symbolic background in the school's publicity photographs.



