

Design review

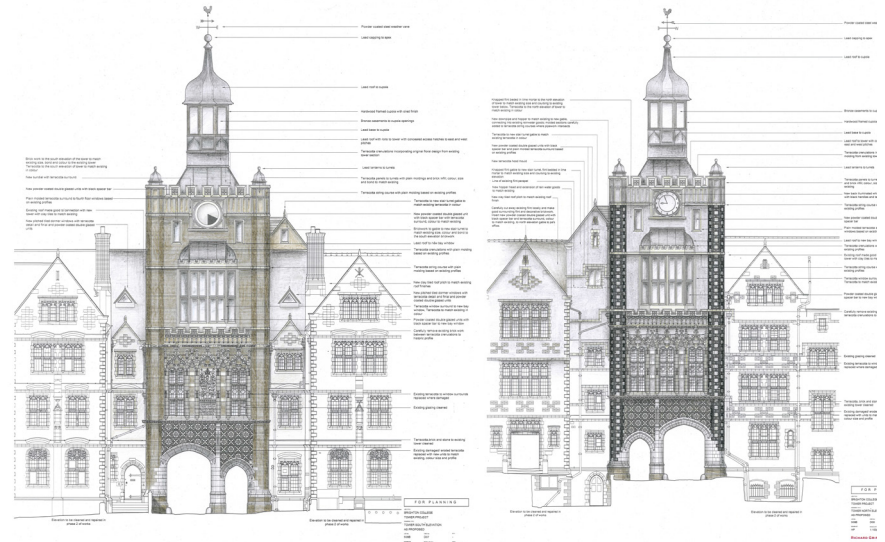
20 Years of RGA

This April saw the 20th anniversary of RGA. We illustrate some of the highpoints of the practice, with the Millennium project at Southwark Cathedral, the courtyard project at Lambeth Palace and the St Pancras Hotel. Richard is writing a publication about the work of the practice, the stories of the buildings and projects, and the dilemmas faced by the architect giving new life to old buildings. This will be published next year.



Brighton College

We have been appointed for the project to complete the tower over the main entrance to the school, designed by TG Jackson in the 1880's, but left unbuilt when funding ran out. A donor has now donated the funds for completing the tower to its original design externally, and to new designs internally for the Headmaster's office and meeting room. The necessary consents have been obtained, and the tower will start on site in November.



London Charterhouse

We have prepared a Conservation Management Plan for the museum at Charterhouse; a project to open up part of the Charterhouse to visitors and school children, designed by Eric Parry Architects. The Charterhouse is a marvelous example of a multi-layered building, from Carthusian Monastery, to private palace, to school and home for gentlemen 'who have fallen on hard times'. The Plan has helped an understanding of the different historical layers, and helped lay the grounds for its sustainable future.



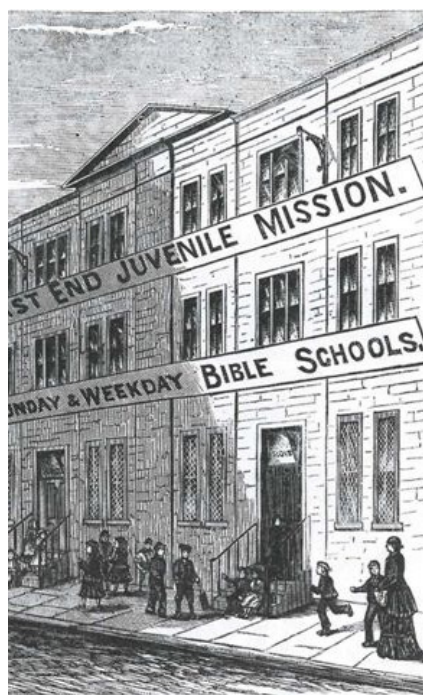
Lancaster Canal Quarter

In 2008 Richard Griffiths was asked by SAVE to prepare an alternative vision for the future of the Lancaster Canal Quarter, reusing the Brewery and other unlisted buildings on the site which were then to be demolished. In the meantime the proposals were turned down by the Secretary of State, the site has been acquired by British Land, and we have been appointed as part of the design team with Chapman Taylor to prepare a new masterplan for the site reusing wherever possible the existing buildings of note. This exciting project will contribute to the regeneration of Lancaster, one of our finest historic cities, and create a revitalized mixed use quarter, building on the two existing theatres and other arts uses already on the site, as well as providing new retail, bar, restaurant, residential and office uses.



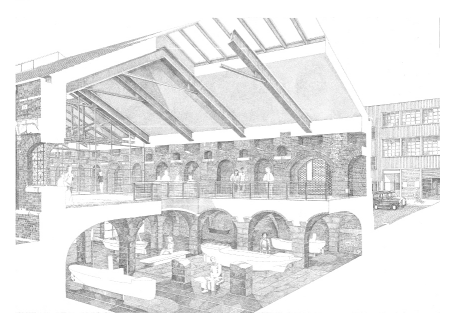
Ragged School Museum

Richard Griffiths converted the first part of the Ragged School Museum in 1988, and has returned to the Museum to prepare a Conservation Plan and Development Plan, focusing on the story of Dr Barnardo and education in the poorest part of the East End. No 46 Copperfield Road was built as a warehouse in 1872, became the largest Ragged School in London, then a factory for the rag trade in 1925, and has been very little changed since. The plans make the building fully accessible and allow a flexible range of uses to serve the purposes of the museum and its education programme, as well as introducing a new café/ bar and other revenue-generating uses to support the economic sustainability of the Museum at a time of public funding cuts.



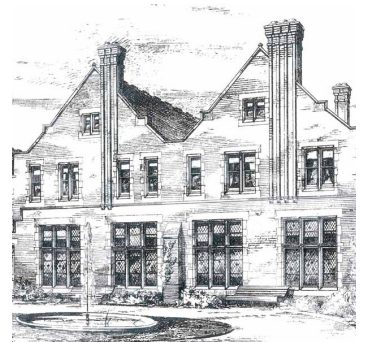
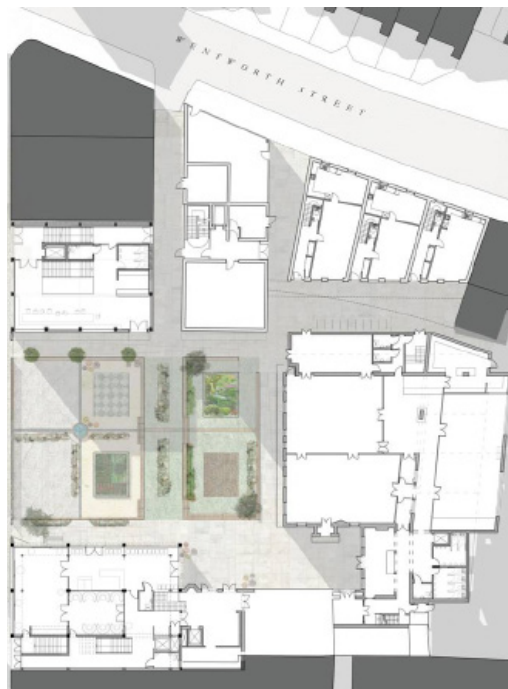
The London Dock

The Pennington Street warehouse is the only surviving part of the London Docks, the earliest of the enclosed docks, designed in 1805 by Daniel Alexander, arguably the architect who more than any other set the style for the great 19th century brick dockland warehouses. The warehouse has a great imperforate brick boundary wall to Pennington Street, with brick groin-vaulted cellars running the whole 330m length of the building. Our job has been to gain consent for the creation of accessible entrances, circulation, light and air to both levels of the warehouse, so as to allow a range of bar, restaurant, office and leisure facilities, as part of St George's redevelopment of Fortress Wapping as a mixed commercial and residential area. This will transform the area from a closed and hostile site into a permeable and publicly welcoming part of the city.



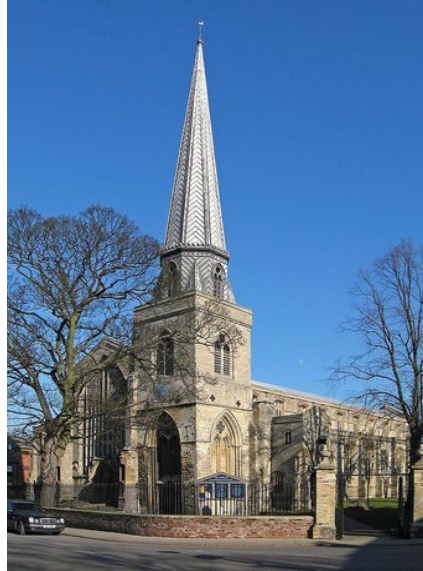
Toynbee Hall

We have recently been appointed as architects for Toynbee Hall, the remarkable pioneering social and educational establishment set up by Canon Barnett in the 1880's. The project includes the repair, conversion and extension of the listed Toynbee Hall with HLF grant-aid as a conference venue with interpretation and offices; the refurbishment of the 1970's Profumo House with two extra floors of offices; a new building flanking Toynbee Hall to the north; all three buildings surrounding a relandscaped public garden, Mallon Gardens. The project therefore offers a marvelous opportunity to provide a sustainable future for Toynbee Hall, as well as an enhanced public realm.



St Nicholas Chapel, Kings Lynn

The Churches Conservation Trust has received a stage 2 HLF pass for this project to replace the failing lead roof and to reorder the Chapel internally. Improved facilities will enable use of the chapel for a wide range of activities, most notably large choral concerts during the Kings Lynn Festival. The project is the largest project currently being carried out by the CCT, who are working with the Friends group to transform the role of the Chapel for the local community. It will be significant for the largest array of photovoltaic cells yet installed on a church roof for generating electricity.



Brazilian Embassy

Richard Griffiths Architects were invited to oversee a programme of interior alterations to fit out this listed building as a new Embassy and Chancery. It was the aim of the Brazilian Government to use the Grade II Listed building in Cockspur Street close to Trafalgar Square for cultural events during the 2012 Olympics and in the run-up to the Rio Olympics of 2016. Originally designed by AT Bolton as the headquarters of a shipping company in 1906-08, the former mahogany-lined booking hall survives of the ground floor.

Richard Griffiths Architects led a consultant and contractor team during a tight delivery programme in 2012 to create high quality interiors for exhibitions and receptions. The Hall was redecorated and relit following research into its original appearance. Improvements were made to disabled access, security and environmental controls. Proposals have also been developed for the Ambassador's Suite on the upper floor.

