

## Design review

We are conscious of a new emphasis within architecture on the recycling of old buildings as an aspect of sustainability, in view of their beauty, texture of age, and embodied carbon. We demonstrate in our work how old buildings can be adapted to serve the present and future needs, and to enhance the quality of life for everybody, as illustrated in the projects in this Design Review.

### The Charterhouse Great Chamber

The Great Chamber at the Charterhouse began life as one of the country's grandest Great Chambers in the Tudor mansion that replaced the Carthusian monastery at its Dissolution, was refitted by Blore in the 1840's and rebuilt by Seeley and Paget after being burnt-out in WWII. We have effected a further reinvention as a gallery for showing the fine collection of 17th and 18th century portraits of Governors of Sutton's Charity. The colour scheme of greeny-black dado and frieze with gilded highlights follows that of the fine Tudor fire surround, and the wall hangings of 'Griffiths Green' were inspired by Holbein's Ambassadors. The inspiration for the redecoration was the plinth of the Tudor fireplace, a greeny-grey, which was extended around Blore's dado and cornice. The wallhangings are of a silk-linen fabric with a moiree finish.



### Toynbee Hall

Although Toynbee Hall was completed some while ago, the wider project of rebuilding the adjacent Profumo House and building new housing around the whole of the site, together with a landscaped forecourt has only just reached completion. The Queen Anne style elevations of Hoole's Toynbee Hall of 1885, previously hidden, can now be enjoyed by all passers-by on Commercial Street. We have replaced the missing third gable on the street frontage, and added five zinc-clad gables to our new extension at the rear.



## Newington Green Unitarian Chapel

The Newington Green Unitarian Chapel has been transformed with the assistance of the National Lottery Heritage Fund into a multi-use chapel with projection and sound, meeting rooms and a newly excavated basement room for classes. The whole building is now fully accessible, and the rich history of non-conformity in Newington Green, and story of the connection with Mary Wollstonecraft and the rights of women, can now be told.



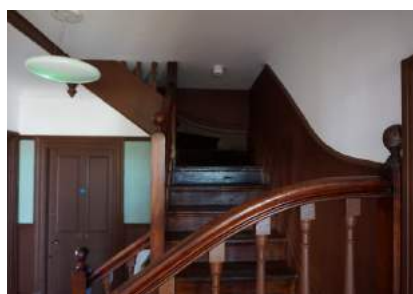
## St Alfege, Greenwich

We have just completed a major project at Hawksmoor's great church in Greenwich, opening it to the public with a new accessible entrance and ramp from the north, inviting visitors from the World Heritage Site. This project was funded by the NHLF. The whole church has now been cleaned, the churchyard repaved, the monuments conserved, new oak wc pods inserted into the staircases, and the crypt opened to hard-hat tours. The stunning quality of Hawksmoor's architecture can now be appreciated to the full.



## Willesden Green Jewish Cemetery

Willesden Green Jewish Cemetery is the oldest and most important cemetery for Orthodox Jews in this country, with the tombs of Rosalind Franklin, the chemist central to the understanding of DNA, the painter Mark Gertler, the Rothschild family and many others. A project assisted by the NLHF has opened the cemetery to all, interpreted its history, refreshed it planting and converted the lodge into a visitor centre with a welcoming new loggia of oak and glass walls and a brick floor.





## 55-91 Knightsbridge

The work in redeveloping nos 55-91 Knightsbridge is now well advanced, and the inventiveness and exceptional quality of the red brick elevation with Portland stone dressings, designed by WD Caroe in 1906, is now beginning to emerge. The roof has been rebuilt in facsimile behind the retained façade, reusing the stonework of the dormer windows but with new joinery. The green slates match the original green Westmoreland slates and making a harmonious relationship with the red brick and Portland stone.



## Old Buildings, New Architecture

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Richard Griffiths' book, *Old Buildings, New Architecture*, has been well received and has attracted some very appreciative reviews. The book gives an account of architecture that relates to old buildings rather than to new, and of building that adds a new layer to all those layers already present. The aim, as TS Eliot put it, is to achieve 'an easy commerce of the old and the new, the complete consort dancing together'.

The book can be ordered via our website [www.rgarchitects.com](http://www.rgarchitects.com)

*The beauty of this book is that it describes the approaches to a varied selection of buildings repaired and repurposed on the basis of careful aesthetic and philosophical thought but never dogma. With its short accessible texts on many cases the book is an absorbing and stimulating introduction to the many decisions an architect must take about fabric, materials, finishes and colour and the larger questions of aesthetics, structure and space.*

Marcus Binney, SAVE Newsletter

*This is a history of 25 years of work, beautifully illustrated, which will appeal to any thoughtful architect.*

Paul Finch, Architects' Journal

*I had not begun to appreciate the extent of your work, not least on buildings I know well and have come to admire. I can only describe you as a saint of the built environment.*

Simon Jenkins, SAVE and Guardian columnist

*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

