



Built as the Central Methodist Chapel in 1867 and later used as the North London Drama Centre the building has been transformed into an experimental exhibition space in London's Chalk Farm. A curatorial attitude to 'building as backdrop' led to a light-touch approach to the refurbishment ensuring that the fabric of the building, which has evolved over time, is retained, revealed and, where appropriate, built upon.

The 'light touch' philosophy conveys sensitivity to the historical backdrop, enhancing its inherent character, whilst creating a distinct new gallery environment with which artists can be allowed to reflect on and playfully engage with.

Sector: Arts

Location: London, UK Address: 176 Prince of

176 Prince of Wales Road, London NW5 3PT

Client : Zabludowicz Art Trust

Value : £1.3m

Start : November 2005 Completion : September 2007

Contract Type : JCT98 with Contractor designed Portion Supplement (CDPS)

Key Dates

November 2005 : Architect appointed to produce initial feasibility

July 2006 : London Borough of Camden grant Planning Approval

August 2006 : William Verry Ltd commence on site

September 2007 : Practical Completion achieved

September 2007 : Opening of '176' to the public

Areas

Gross Internal:	11,840 ft ² 1,100 m ²		
Gallery:	8,050 ft ² 748 m ²		
Bookshop:	560 ft ² 52 m ²		
Coffee Shop	215 ft ² 20 m ²		
Studio	2,100 ft ² 195 m ²		
Office	375 ft ² 35 m ²		

Planning History

November 2006 - February 2006:

Listed Building and Planning discussions.

Allford Hall Monaghan Morris beginning conversations with London Borough of Camden's Conservation and Planning departments. Through a number of site visits the emerging design was discussed with the various parties and an emerging solution developed.

February 2006 - April 2006:

Initial planning application and renegotiation

London Borough of Camden's encouraged Allford Hall Monaghan Morris to submit Listed Building and Planning applications for the proposed works. Following a number of weeks, LBC's opinion on the external works changed and Allford Hall Monaghan Morris were asked to withdraw both the Listed Building and Planning applications.

April 2006 - June 2006:

Revised planning application

After lengthy negotiation with LBC the revised Listed Building and Planning applications were submitted and granted consent in late June.

July 2006 - July 2007

Discharge of Conditions

A number of conditions were attached to the consent that required discharging prior to works which included submission of sample materials, finishes and preservation and of certain historical features that would need to be relocated and installed as part of the works.

One particular condition regarding the balustrade extension and support to the existing first floor balustrading in the main gallery, resulted in a number of lengthy debates with English Heritage, London Borough of Camden the structural engineer and AHMM. It was eventually agreed that an intrusive installation would be acceptable as the existing balustrade was seriously unsound and would not reasonably withstand lateral forces required to meet the current regulations.

The Listed Building and Planning Conditions were finally discharged in July 2007.

Project Team

Client: Zabludowicz Art Trust

Architect: Allford Hall Monaghan Morris

Project Managers, Quantity Surveyor

& Planning Supervisor:

Jackson Coles

Pilcher Hershman Soul Agent:

Structural Engineer: Michael Hadi Associates Ltd **Services Engineer:** Michael Popper Associates

Employer's Agent: Tamares Real Estate Investments

Accessibility Consultant & Approved Inspector:

BRCS (Building Control) Ltd

Main Contractor:

Suppliers:

William Verry Ltd

PAYE Stonework & Restoration; Gomac **Sub-Contractors:**

Ltd (Metalwork); Fiske Interiors Ltd

(Reception & Servery)

Vitsoe (Storage system); Erco/Concord: Marlin/ Continental (Lighting); Forbo (flooring); Armitage Shanks (Sanitary

ware)

Allford Hall Monaghan Morris Team Members

Simon Allford, Scott Batty, Tom Gardner, Jonathan Hall, Paul Monaghan, Peter Morris, Karl Normanton, Patricia Ribeiro, Jonathan Rixon, James Santer, Gesa Schenk and Bernd Woefl.

For further information and images please contact

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Project Description

A grade II listed, 19th century Methodist chapel has been subtly transformed into a major new arts venue by Allford Hall Monaghan Morris. The building, discovered by London's exclusive 'Soul Agent' David Rosen of Pilcher Hershman for the Zabludowicz Arts Trust, was severely decaying and need of considerable care and attention. The client, the Zabludowicz Art Trust, was drawn to Allford Hall Monaghan Morris by their reputation working with the Barbican and Saatchi but more importantly their treatment of the Tea Building - another found object. The subsequent client's brief requested a delicate conservation of the decaying fabric to retain the 'found' nature of the building's spaces. The subsequent project by Allford Hall Monaghan Morris has delivered a simple and skilful reinvention of the decayed church building incorporating the demanding requirements of a working gallery.

The original period features have been retained as have the historical layers-of-use and are an integral part of the three main double-height spaces within the building. The result is a gallery that will present three major site-specific exhibitions per year for a prolific global art collector.

The gallery is not a traditional art exhibition space, but a 'raw' addition to the often sterile spaces of private collections. Most exhibitions will be commissioned exclusively for display within the gallery thus making the building a central theme in the commissioned works.

The church was built in 1867 and since has seen a number of alternative uses – drama centre, storage, nursery, community centre. Prior to purchase the church remained fallow for a decade and was placed on English Heritage's 'building at risk' register.

To preserve the 'found' nature of the client's brief, Allford Hall Monaghan Morris proposal was considered to be subtle in scope, a 'light touch', essentially providing what is required to make the existing building 'safe and sound', and allow it to function as a public space. Allford Hall Monaghan Morris worked closely with English Heritage and London of Borough of Camden's Conservation Department to establish a balanced refurbishment combining new with old elements.

Generally, all finishes to the existing fabric are left as existing, with walls, ceilings, doors unpainted and floors uncovered. A 'light touch' was carried through to the service requirements, where the existing has been refurbished. Barring obvious fabric repair to ensure compliance with the Building Regulations, it was the intention that the refurbishment should maintain as much as was possible.

Externally much of the work has been made to make the building secure and accessible to all visitors. The terrace area has been upgraded with salvaged Yorkstone paviers to match the original paving. Parts of the boundary walls have been restored and upgraded and detailed to accommodate simple and modern elements such as the external balustrading to the front elevation, sitting between the existing nineteenth century gateposts. A new ramp has been added to provide reasonable access.

Internal partitions created for the drama centre have been removed in order to reveal more of the original fabric such as concealed cast iron columns and create a public reception area that includes a Servery and Library at the entrance.

All new elements have been designed and detailed to be deliberately simple and contemporary, contrasting with the historic fabric but at the same time highlighting and framing it, examples include the glazed lobby portals in the reception area. Where possible such elements have been designed to be 'removable', such as the first floor balustrade, offering potential flexibility of use in the future and limited impact on the delicate existing fabric. Some of the smaller side rooms have been opened up to provide further gallery spaces. A flexible track mounted lighting system deals with both ambient requirements for the gallery and task lighting for specific pieces where needed again without impacting significantly on the existing fabric.

The 'light touch' philosophy conveys sensitivity to the historical backdrop, enhancing its inherent character, whilst creating a distinct new gallery environment with which artists can allowed to reflect on and playfully engage with.

Project History

2005 Design and negotiate

Following the success of the Tea Building, AHMM were approached by the Zabludowicz Art Trust to complete a feasibility design study to turn the Grade II* Listed property into an arts venue for the Trusts expanding collection. Allford Hall Monaghan Morris were working with little brief but a clear vision from the client to retain as much of the existing fabric as was possible. Allford Hall Monaghan Morris began early discussions with the local authority conservation department as there were clear issues regarding access and modernising the building to relevant regulations.

2006 Design and build

The design progressed rapidly and early site investigations established the extensive amount of existing dry rot, condition of the roof and general building decay. It was estimated that considerable repairs would need to be started as soon as possible to limit the decline of the building's condition. Prior to a conservation and planning decision it was formally agreed with both Camden and English Heritage that works to make the building safe, water-tight and free of dry rot would start early. The first planning and listed building applications were submitted in Spring 2006. Both applications were withdrawn soon after submission as the opinion of Camden's conservation team changed. Allford Hall Monaghan Morris began further redesign and negotiation with the conservation and planning department and eventually a solution that satisfied all parties was agreed. In July 2006 planning and listed building conditions were granted and the design team began tendering process. After considerable debate a contractor was decided (William Verry Special Projects). The contractor commenced works in August 2006.

2007 Build and completion

It has been estimated that 70% of the construction cost was used to make the building structural safe and water-tight before any form of intervention was added. The client's brief to retain as much of the decaying fabric as a feature, proved to be a challenge for the contractor as no clear delineation could be easily established. The works proceeded slowly as removal of unsafe elements uncovered further issues. For example the main building's gable wall required rebuilding in like-materials as the existing wall was found to be on a considerable slant which potential could topple the stone pediment at the front.

After considerable delays practical completion was agreed in September 2007 with the gallery opening to the public soon after.

Sept 2007

Opening of gallery to the public

Design Development

Existing Building / Context Images







The context for the project involved not only existing geographical features, but also topographical change - newer buildings adjacent - and the operational context of working within a conservation area.

KEY

- I View of front elevation Nov 2005
- 2 View of front elevation January 2006
- 3 View of existing building from Prince of Wales Road showing local context



The entrance /foyer Nov 2005



The main gallery facing north



The main gallery facing south



View of rear gallery facing north



View of middle gallery showing original fittings



Detail of exterior facade in Nov 2005

Design Development

Outside



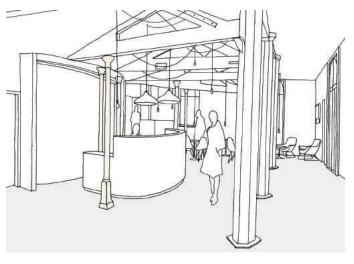
3D modelling design development, from initial studies looking at the boundary condition and external terrace on the front elevation





Top, sketch render of external ramp offering disabled access and additional entry point into the building along eastern elevation.

Inside





Hand drawn design development, showing proposed reception area (top) and new balustrade at upper gallery level (bottom)



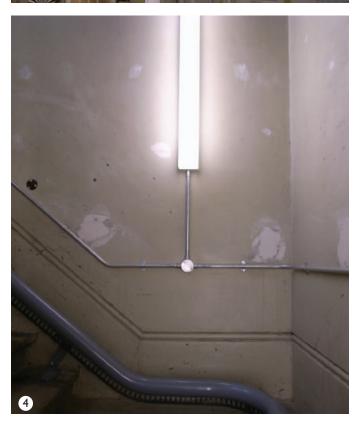
Above, sketch render of proposed lounge and kitchen servery in entrance foyer with proposed lighting.

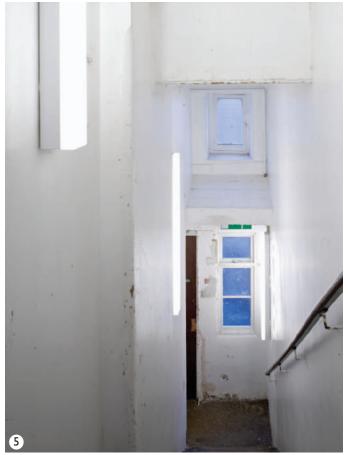
Interior Packages- Lighting







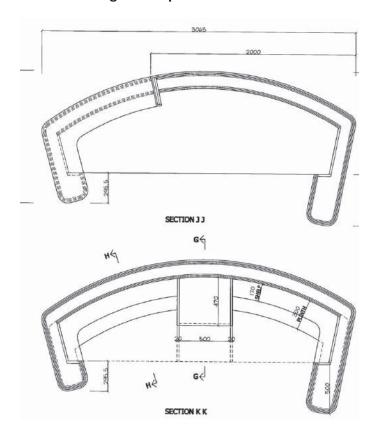




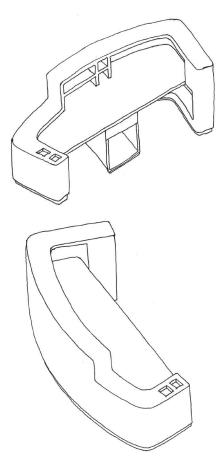
KEY

- Pendant light art installation precedent 'Documenta 10', Kassel.
 Pendant lighting in entrance lobby
 Exposed surface mounted lighting
 Installed pendant lighting
 As built, corridor with exposed lighting

Interior Packages- Reception

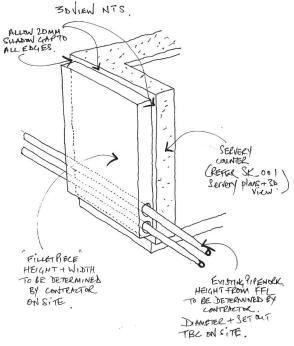


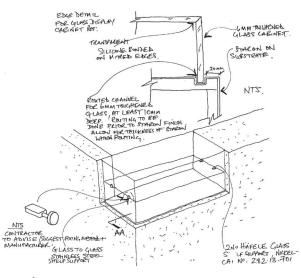


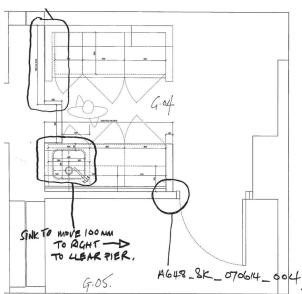


KEYReception desk sketches
Reception Desk
Photo of Reception desk as built

Interior Packages- Kitchen Bay Area



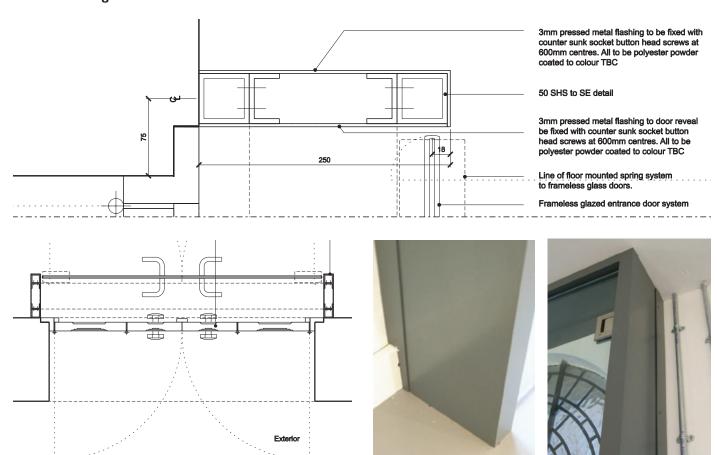


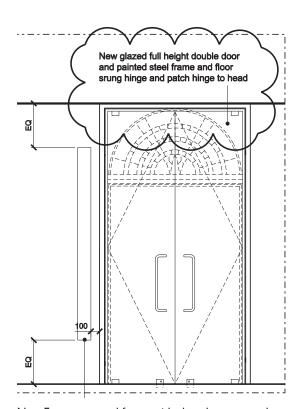




KEYKitchen bay sketches Servery counter sketch Photo of kitchen servery counter & units sketch

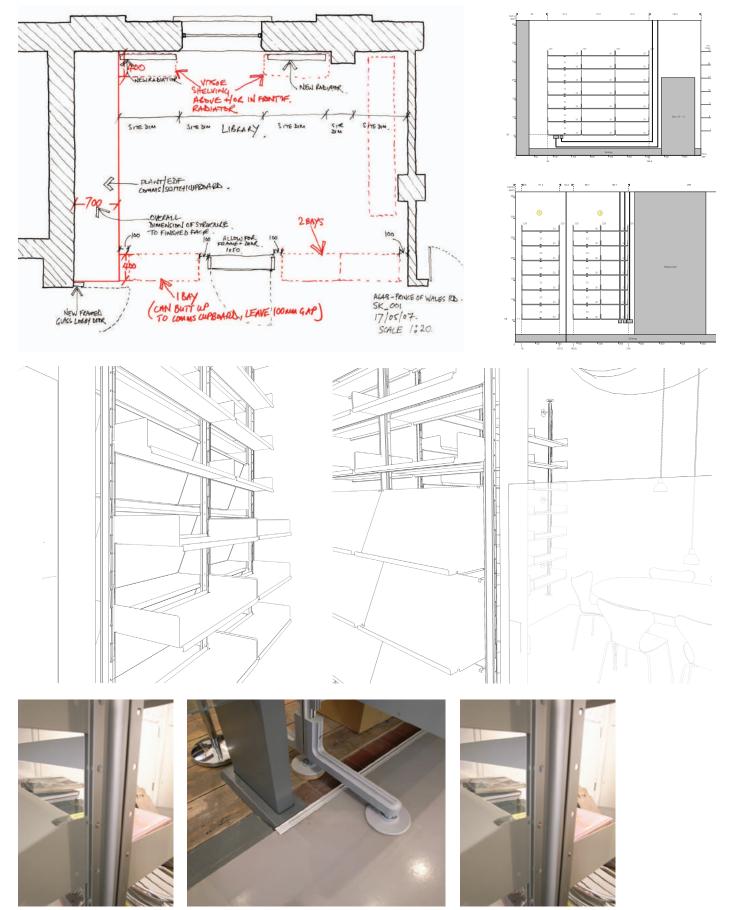
Interior Packages- Entrance







New Entrance portal frame with glass door to supplement the original retained timber doors



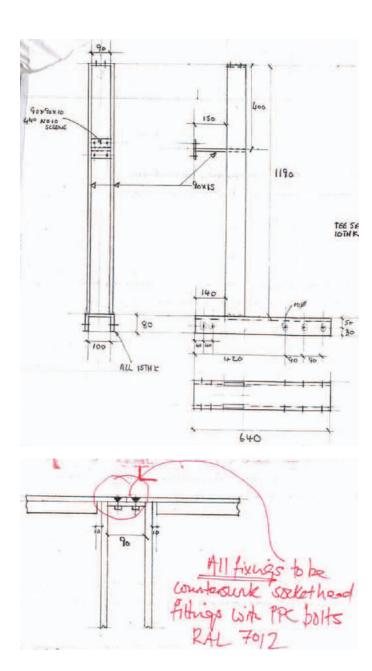
Library with customized vitsoe shelving system

Interior Packages- Balustrade Details

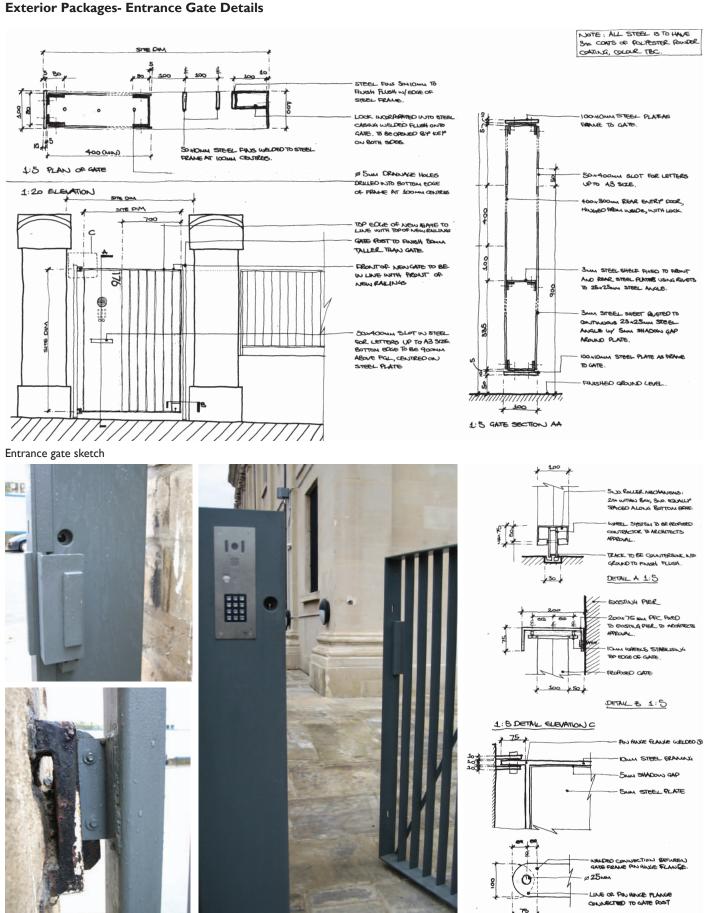






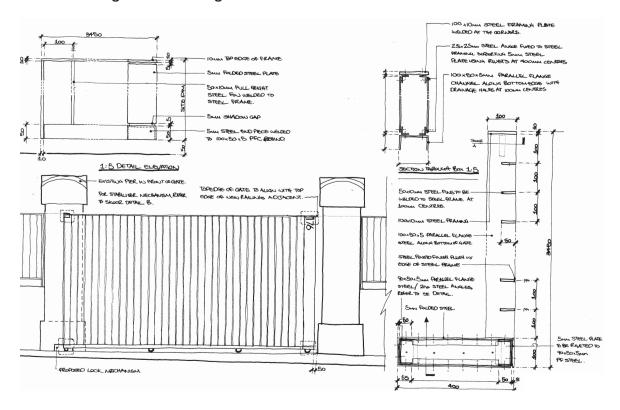


New balustrade installed to support the existing timber balustrading & satisfy the regulations



Entrance gate details needed to minimise impact on the existing gate posts

Exterior Packages - Gate Packages



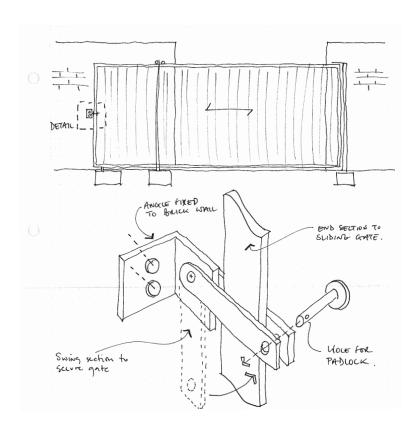
Sketch of illustration & details for the proposed sliding entrance gate







Fully integrated emergency escape doors into metalwork Sample of proposed railings lllustrated railings with new stonework cladding to up stand





Sketch design development & pictures of external metalwork

Time Out

'Hot Dates, Art, 176'. 27th June 2007

Evening Chronicle

'A Wealth of Art- Geordie Billionaire displays her collection at the Baltic'. 26th July 2007

Ham & High News

'Could Gallery be the key to cubing Anti-Social Behaviour?' 16th August 2007

The Art Newspaper

'Art Reinvents Chapel' 1st August 2007

Camden New Journal

'Sometimes Art for Arts Sake is OK'. 13th September 2007

The Daily Telegraph

'New Chapter for UK Collections'. 18th September 2007

Evening Standard

'Billionaires Wife gives young artists a chance'. 18th September 2007

Time Out

'Art Collectors Editions'. 19th September 2007

Time Out London

'Collectors Additions'. 19th September 2007

The Art Newspaper

'Major Collector to put on art on show in London'. 11th October 2006

Art Newspaper

'More Top collectors than ever before' First Night report on Frieze.

12th October 2006

* Further information can be provided on request.



wealth of art

Geordie billionaire displays her collection at The Baltic

BILLIONAIRE art lector will show neside gallery goers ne of her strange and bieces by

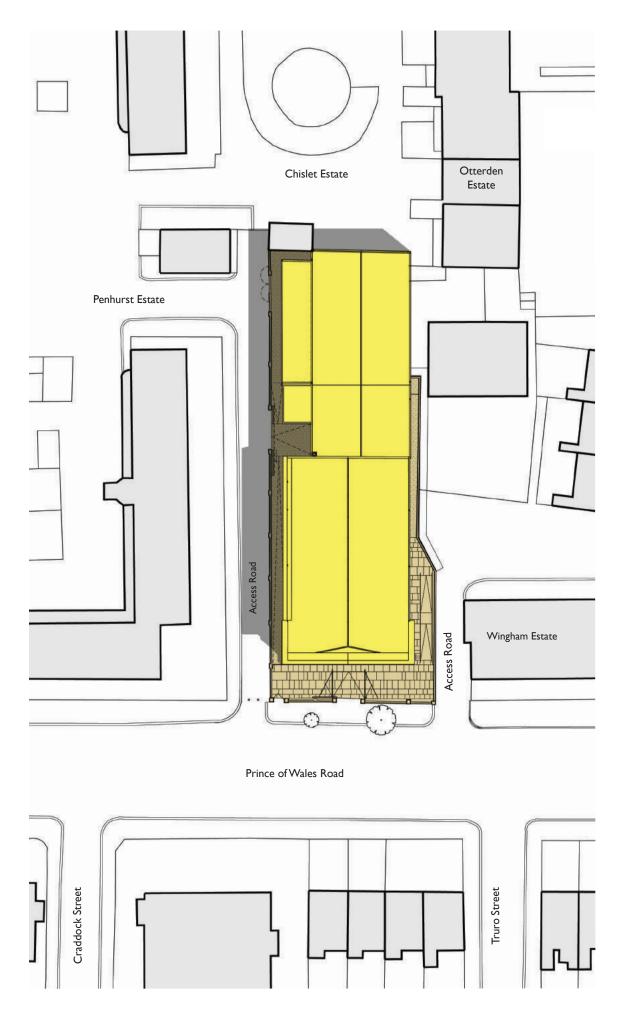


THE ART NEWSPAPER

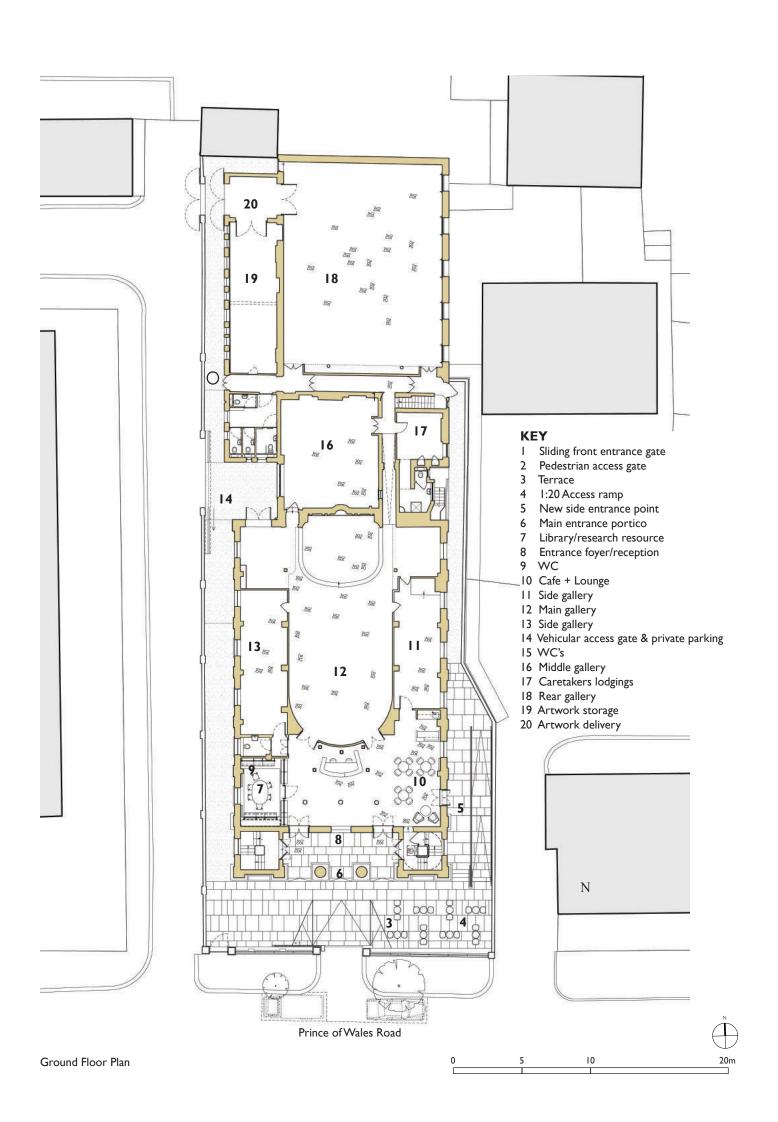
Wrong Gallery re-enacts 1972 performance which outraged Italy and the Vatican A man with Down's Syndrome will contemplate three objects during Frieze

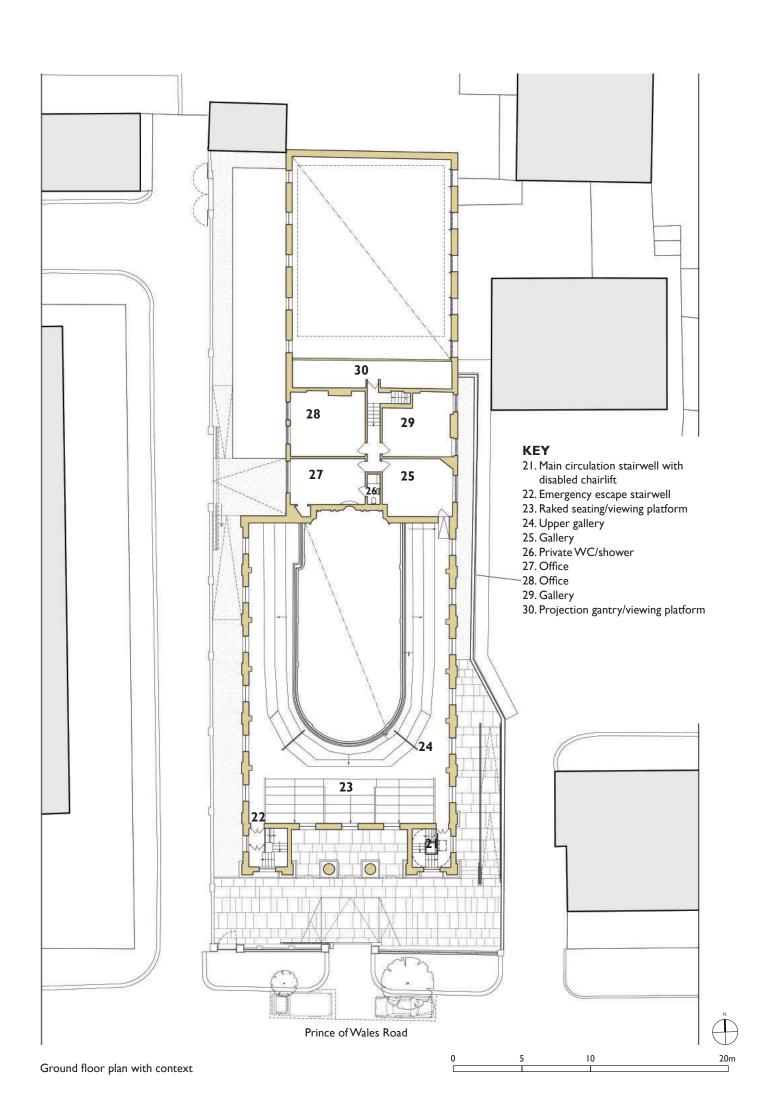














Long Section looking West



Entrance 3D cutaway model revealing main gallery spaces.



New roof installation on completion



Combating the extensive dry rot & repair of the original ceiling plasterwork



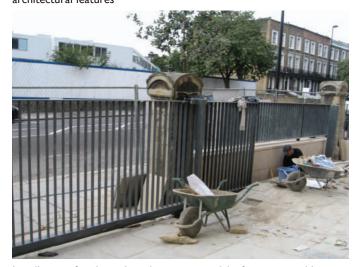
Combating the extensive dry rot & repainting of the existing roof structure



Installing new UK sourced roofing slate



Removing the move recent additions to reveal the original architectural features

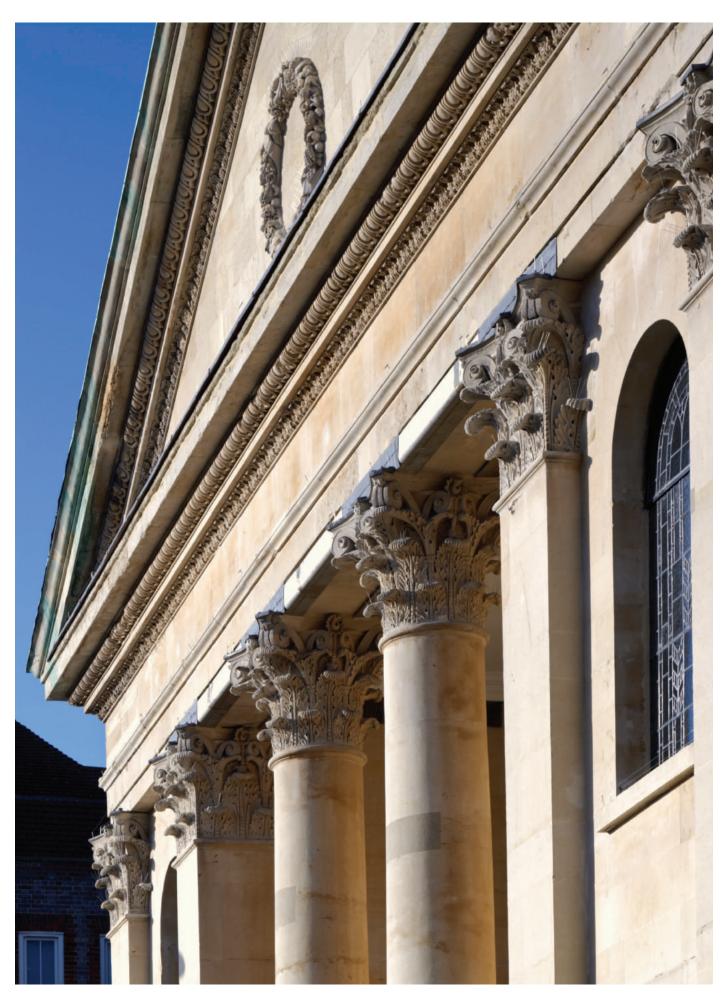


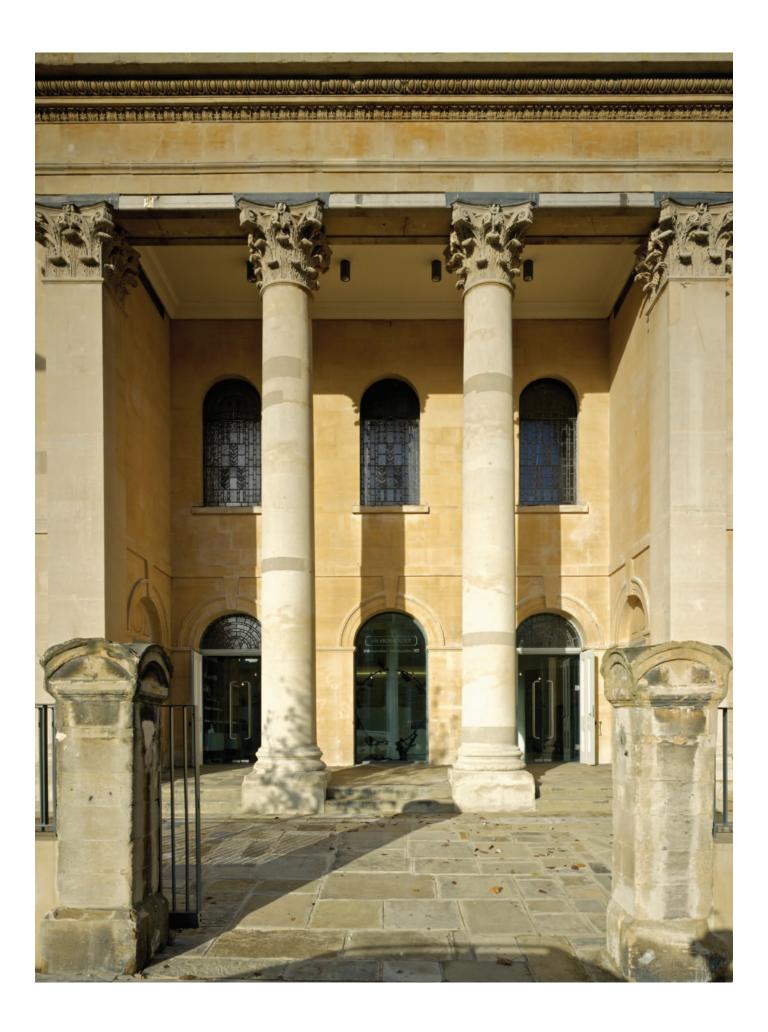
Installation of reclaimed sandstone paving slabs from sustainable source $% \left\{ 1,2,...,n\right\}$

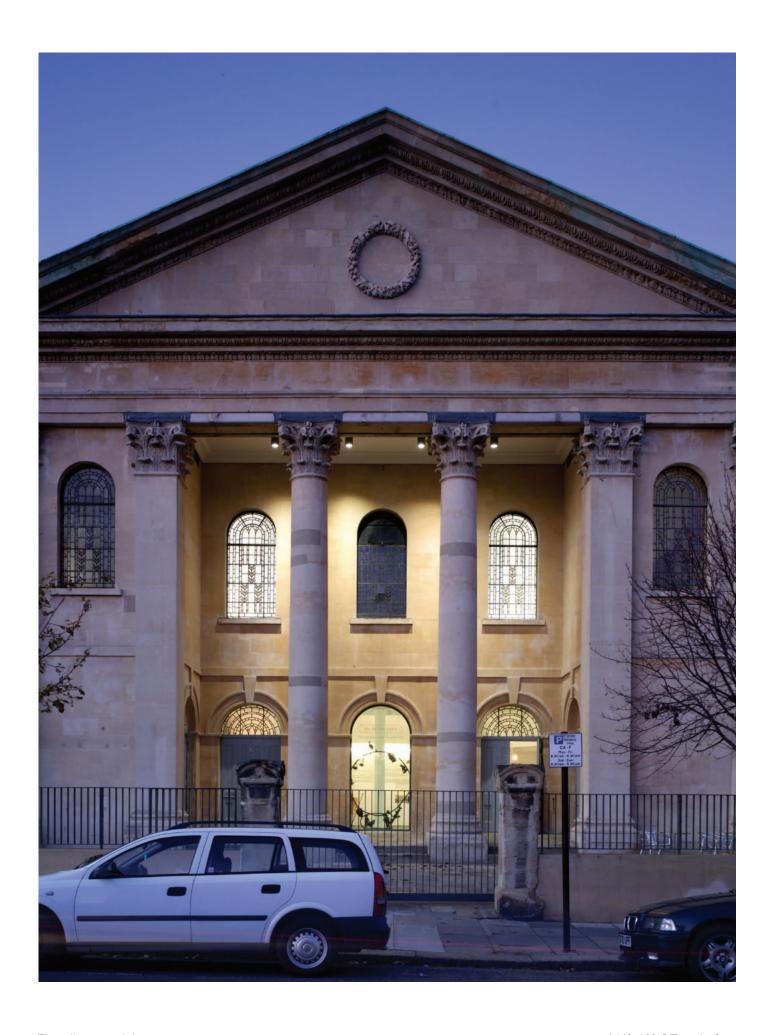
Final Photos



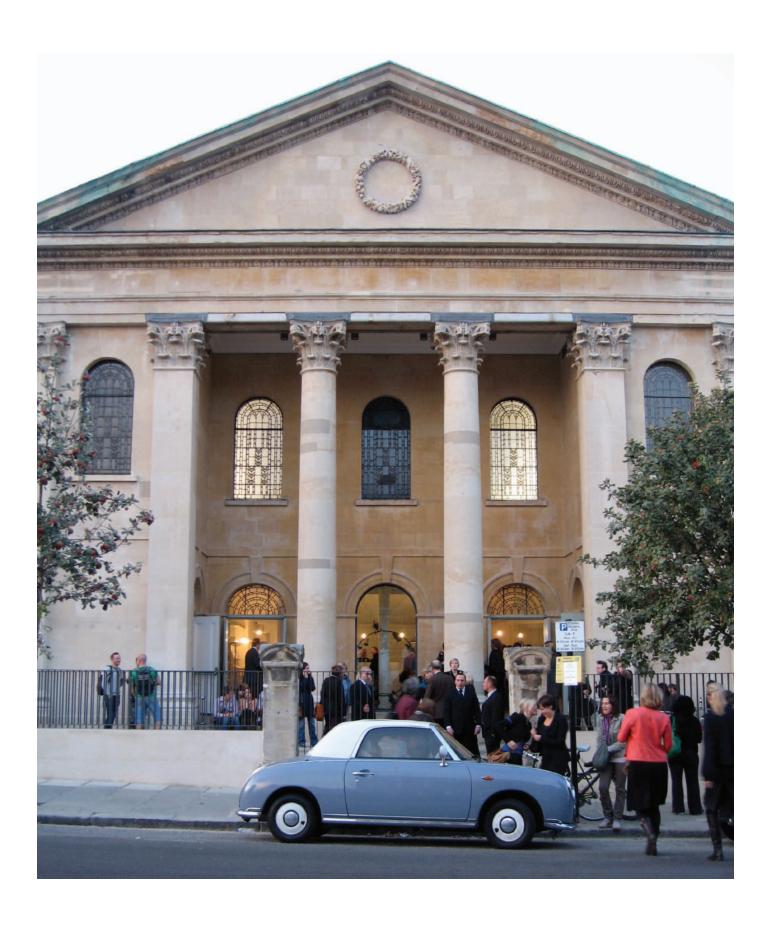
The refurbished gallery A648_88 © Timothy Soar







The gallery at twilight A648_100 © Timothy Soar









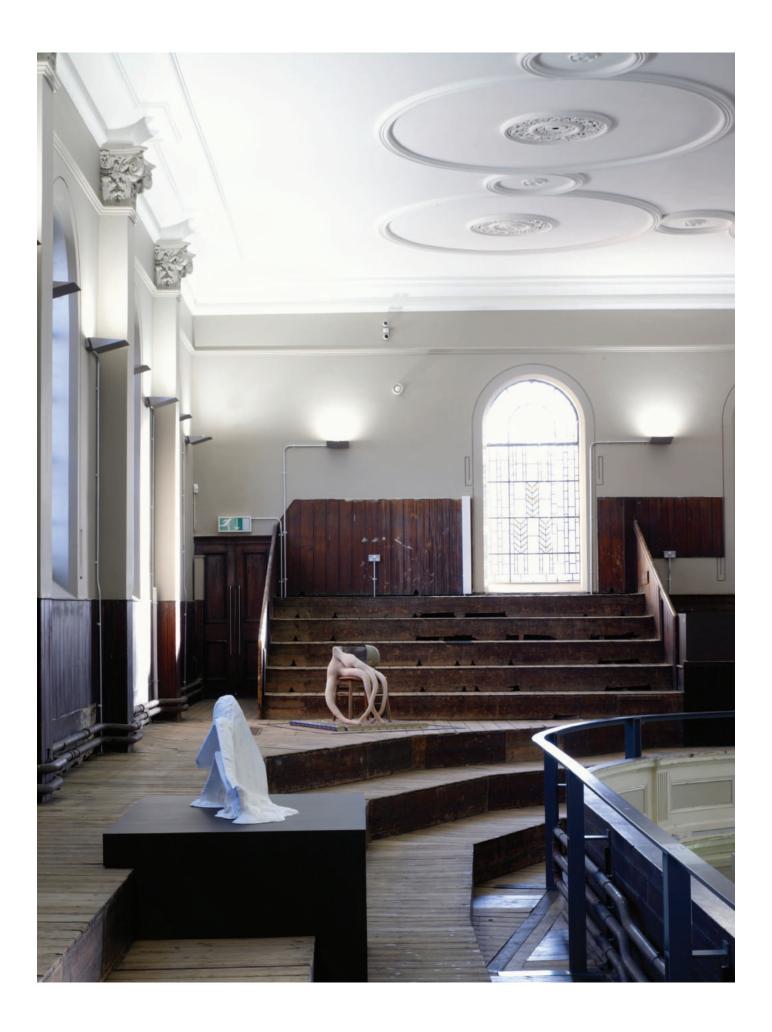
The kitchen counter with hanging pendant lighting

P9261126 © James Santer AHMM

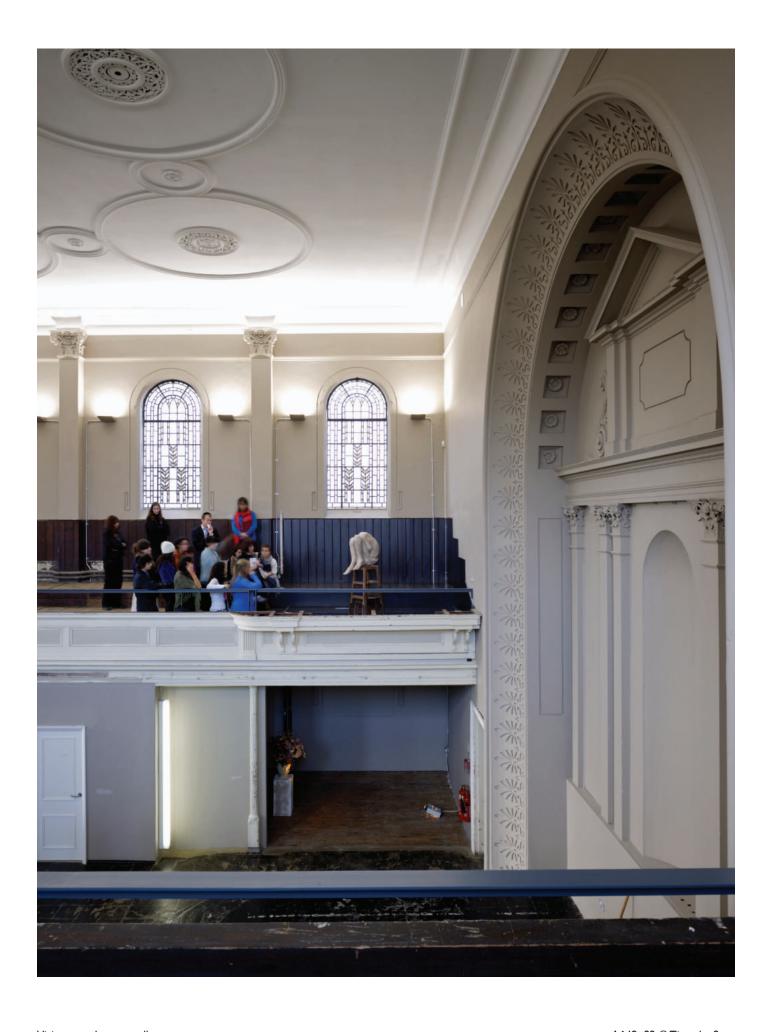


The main gallery space with art exhibtion in place. All original features fuilly restored.

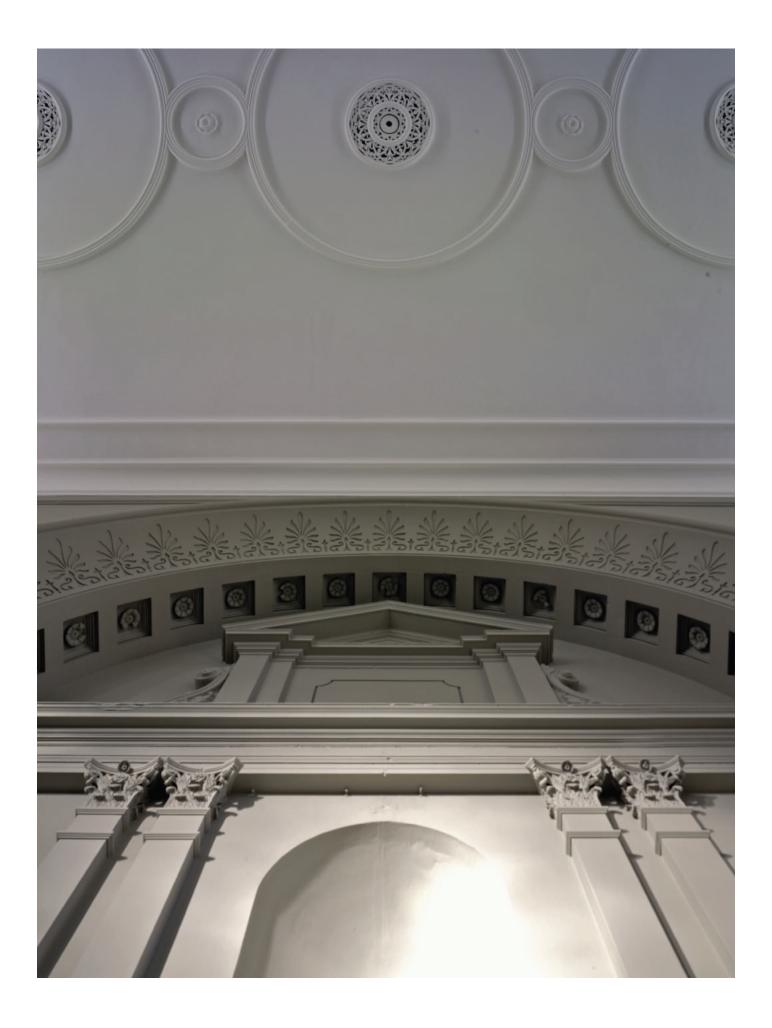
A648_81 © Timothy Soar

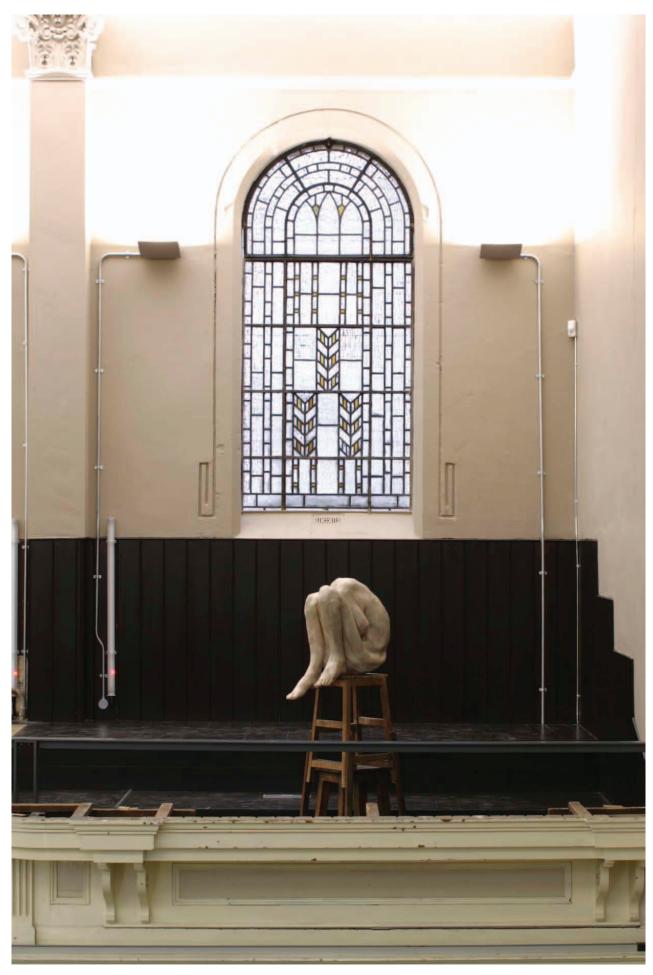






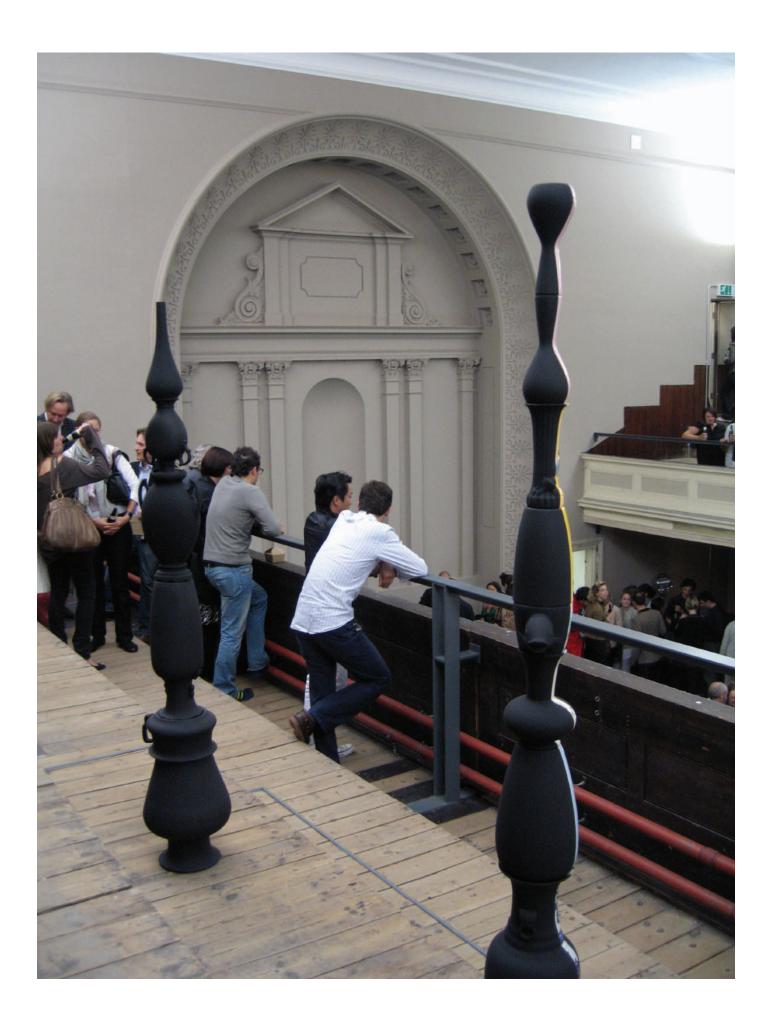
Visitors to the new gallery A648_82 © Timothy Soar

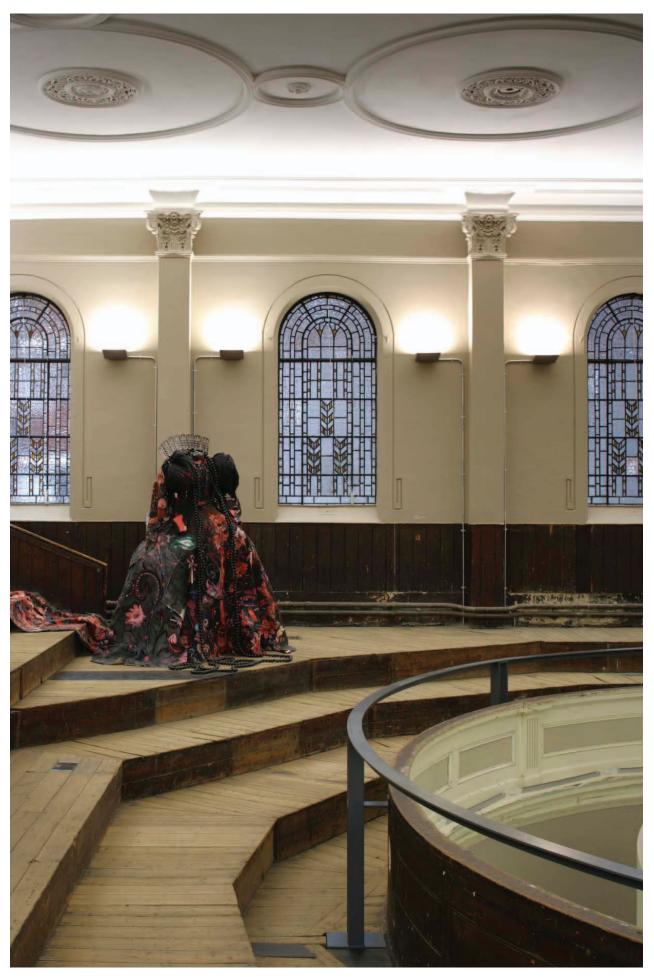




The main gallery with sculpture installation







The main gallery with its new decorations, minimal handrail & installed sculpture works

A648_078 © Rob Parrish





The main gallery A648_85 © Timothy Soar

