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The RIBA Journal

£8.95/€16/US\$18

The awards 2015



RIBA's Regional Revelations: From home to hospital, school to civic centre





10 New Burlington Street
AHMM for the Crown Estate and Exemplar
Contract value: £46m. GIA: 17,700m²

This is a creative reconfiguration of a series of existing buildings on Regent Street and New Burlington Street to form one new office building for the Crown Estate. The project retains four listed facades, while marrying the new floor levels, and their varying fenestration heights, with a three-bay frontage to create a contemporary entrance to the development.

The building's new nature is expressed on the side and rear facades as a curved volume with a triple-glazed skin, which pulls in light and creates a small secret garden space in Burlington Mews. Composite cladding brings the warmth of timber to both the foyer and office spaces while its five-storey atrium sports profiled green terracotta tiles.

The project is exemplary in its bold use of unconventional materials for the typology, fine detailing and finishes and sustainability credentials. It displays a quiet confidence that's certain to enrich Regent Street's heritage streetscape and London's commercial building tradition.



ROB PARRISH

St Paul's School Science Building
Nicholas Hare Architects for St Paul's School
Contract value: £16.5m. GIA: 4500m²

This is a building of great precision and care that will last for a very long time. The judges were struck by the impressive use of traditional materials and the robust and well-considered arrangement of laboratories.

Lab spaces are designed to let teaching and practical work happen apart. Necessary services are dealt with discreetly and allow the spaces to remain uncluttered so that pupils can focus on work. Generosity of spaces is evident in the breakout corridors of the south wing, with lofty spaces overlooking the quadrangle. This block is the mature work of an architect who knows his craft well and a client keen to set high standards.



Queen's Apartments
Stiff+Trevillion for Derwent London
Contract value: £9m. GIA: 2729m²

This restoration and adaptive re-use of a 1930s Art Deco former cinema transforms Queensway's dowdy edge into a glamorous mixed-use development of 16 apartments. The facade has been restored, including its original stained glass windows. Former solid brick walls have made way for horizontal bands delineating new cantilevered and curved balconies that fully respect the spirit of Art Deco. Inside, the entrance lobby exhibits an extraordinary quality of detail with its riot of marble, travertine, mirror stainless steel and etched mirrors. Flats are well-proportioned but not extravagant and even the internal fire escape, with lovely handrails, is robust and well-detailed.

The developer client's confidence to invest in artfulness and long term quality has produced a classic building reinvented with wit and virtuosity.



Foyles Bookshop
Lifschutz Davidson Sandilands for Foyles
Contract value: £9m. GIA: 4963m²

Located on the site of the former Central Saint Martin's College of Art and Design, this new flagship store for a Soho institution is a triumphant resurrection of a stuffy and declining bookstore into a dynamic, welcoming and accessible literary emporium. Driven by the client's passion for books but limited by a tight budget, the scheme strips away the former art school's interior to reveal its concrete frame. With all services exposed, its 6.5km of shelves have been made easily navigable with a central light well around which the staircase spirals from street level to a top floor café, gallery and events space. The concept is brilliant in its simplicity and execution.

Double height spaces and mezzanines create a variety of atmospheres in the shop; some full of light and movement and some quiet nooks offering a sense of retreat. With lighting and shelving designed with the client, it all comes together to create a truly spectacular space for book browsing and buying.

HUFTON+CROW

Mint Street, Bethnal Green
Pitman Tozer Architects for Peabody
Contract value: £10.9m. GIA: 6430m²

This mixed-tenure housing follows the curve of the viaduct and boldly faces out over the railway to the views beyond.

The flats are arranged four to a core, with two single-aspect one bedroom units and two dual aspect two bedroom units. On the facade facing over the railway, bedrooms and sitting rooms to the larger units are provided with winter gardens which allow a sense of external amenity space and provide insulation from the sound of the trains. There is a simple harmony to this elevation.

The curved form of the development creates a new public street between the housing and the railway viaduct, populated with tough but appropriate entrances. Overall the jury felt the development provided good quality mixed-tenure residential accommodation on a challenging site.



KILIAN O'SULLIVAN

Darbishire Place
Niall McLaughlin Architects for Peabody
Contract value: £23m. GIA: 1084m²

This five-storey affordable housing completes a group of six housing blocks in east London surrounding an internal courtyard, and is an effortless reinterpretation of the traditional mansion block form. Most of the flats are triple aspect with balcony spaces at either end of the floorplate.

The central core has an open staircase, unusually arranged to make circulating up through the building particularly enjoyable, with the resulting fire lobbies ending up as a handy location for service cupboards and storage for buggies. Flats are simply planned around a central corridor, with internal spaces generous and well-lit; balconies too are spacious.

The judges enjoyed how comfortably the new block sat with the old and how well its variegated pale brickwork sat with the gault bricks of the original buildings. Its deep white window reveals are distinctive yet complementary.

In all, this is an extremely elegant design reinterpreting the essence of the original for the modern day.



NICK KANE

House in Wapping
Chris Dyson Architects
Contract value: £442,000. GIA:

This simple, elegant extension to a building creates a seamless addition to the fabric. The new elevations draw on the character and construction of existing buildings. A restrained sheer facade evolves into a semi-circle at the rear, referencing the entrance to the historic dock.

Elevations are fine, bronze-fraught elegantly proportioned with delicate attention has been paid to the point of openings have four brick arches in a bonded 225mm thick brick wall – a connection to the original Georgian building.

With new spaces integrated with the home, this lovely extension brings a discreetly into the modern day.



HULT International Business School
Sergison Bates Architects for HULT Business School
Contract value: £3.7m. GIA: 4300m²

Conversion of a grade II-listed brick-framed extension provides a new urban campus for this business school. The insertion of a bold and generous open-plan atrium in a previously uninhabited atrium space is a new focus of interaction and movement.

The design's strength is that it left free to express itself. High ceilings and concrete floors and elegant furniture are treated with a light touch. All is constructed from lime-washed timber, a clarity and harmony in the expression of existing elements of the design. The rigorous discipline with a sureness of touch – the work of truly skilled hands.

