

Adelaide Wharf



Photo: Timothy Soar



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Designed by Allford Hall Monaghan Morris (AHMM), this new housing development, which consists of 147 flats and 650 square metres of workspace, is another 'vibrant' addition to the changing face of the Regent's Canal. The scheme is the first to be delivered as part of English Partnerships' London-wide initiative with a mix of privately sold, key-worker and socially rented apartments.

Since 1999, AHMM has designed a number of modular buildings in the borough, including the poorly received 'battenburg' building on Dalston Lane. For Adelaide Wharf they have taken more care when selecting colours for the building – choosing a palette that is warm and sun filled – rather than dark and gloomy.

Sited on Queensbridge Road, Adelaide Wharf is a six-storey block wrapped around three sides of a landscaped courtyard.

The two street elevations have coloured entrance courts lined in glossy vitreous enamel cladding panels. Within the apartments, circulation is minimised with all serviced spaces located along the corridor wall, and the living/sleeping spaces making maximum use of the window walls. The flats all have open plan living/kitchen/diners, and one-bedroom flats have double doors opening between the living and bedroom to maximise the sense of space.

Construction of Adelaide Wharf was completed in 18 months. Extensive use of prefabrication reduced time on site and improved the quality of the building. The principal structure is a concrete frame and an unitised cladding system which avoids the need for scaffolding.

The scheme has won a number of awards. In addition to a Hackney Design Award, Adelaide Wharf has also been successful in the 'Mixed-Use' category at the 2008 regional RIBA awards, and has achieved an EcoHomes Excellent rating by using innovative environmental technologies. It combines 'sophisticated urban intervention, emerging construction techniques and the latest thinking in residential development'.

A walk looking at 21st century buildings in Hackney has been arranged for Saturday 13 June 2009. For more details log on to www.hackneysociety.org

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Boundary

Boundary is a new restaurant and hotel complex in Shoreditch. Located in a converted Victorian warehouse, it offers restaurants and bars, guest bedrooms, a bakery and a food store. It is a joint venture between Terence and Vicki Conran, in partnership with Peter Prescott.

Left unoccupied for many years, parts of the building's structure had become slightly dilapidated; the original 1893 configuration, however, had barely changed since its original inception. Located on the edge of a conservation area, the building is sited at the end of a block, with a street frontage on three sides.

The architects demolished the mansard roof and constructed two new floors housing duplex suites with double height living space and bed-deck above, clad in green copper and timber *brise soleil*.

Boundary's rooftop includes a large bar with seating arranged around an open fireplace, a 48-seat grill restaurant and a garden designed by Nicola Lesbirel. The rooftop is accessible by a direct lift and is served by its own kitchen and bar. There are views to the City and to East London.

On the first and second floors there are 12 guest bedrooms with each of the rooms being inspired by legendary designers and design movements, including Charles & Ray Eames, Eileen Gray, the Bauhaus and the Shaker movement.



Restoration of Clapton Library

Clapton Library is to be restored. A new extension will enable the library to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act, with wheelchair accessible entrance and a lift.

Built by Edwin Cooper in 1913-14, Clapton Library was officially opened in 1914 by the then mayor of Hackney, Cllr Charles Winkley. It was funded by the philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. The new extension, which will be built behind the library, has been designed by architects Shephard Epstein Hunter.

The restoration will return the Grade II listed building to its former glory and create more space for improved facilities in a modern extension. When completed, the library will not only meet the highest environmental standards, but have a new IT room, dedicated study area, and many more new books and DVDs.

Since the end of November 2008, the library has been closed. While the restoration works are being carried out, its Islamic collection is being temporarily housed in Homerton Library. Clapton Library is due to reopen in 2010. To view plans log on to www.hackney.gov.uk/clapton-library-restoration.htm

Hackney Design Awards

The Hackney Design Awards 2008 were presented at a ceremony on 4 February 2009. The winners were Adelaide Wharf (see front page), the Hothouse (to be featured in our new book), Lau Sun House and Shoreditch Prototype House.

Hothouse in Richmond Road was the venue for a Hackney Society meeting in 2007. Designed by Ash Sakula Architects on a brownfield site, it is the headquarters for Free Form Arts Trust – who celebrate their 40th anniversary this year. The scheme offers a range of workspaces for creative industries within the new building and through utilising refurbished railway arches.

Lau Sun House by Kyson Design Limited was designed to fit on an extremely restricted rear garden site in Hackney Downs. The scheme was developed as a prototype low energy house for dense urban sites and seeks to green the city through the use of vertical planting as screen, filter, sunshade and oxygenator.

Shoreditch Prototype House by Cox Bulleid Architects explores themes relevant to modern housing. The design maximises space and light through the use of appropriate technologies while at the same time reducing building costs. The house is aptly named a prototype as the principles it promotes and the example it provides are transferable to other larger schemes and locations.

In addition to the winners, Rivington Place by Adjaye Associates and St John-at-Hackney Churchyard Gardens by Land Use Consultants were both commended. The following schemes were also mentioned: Gainsborough Primary School's Children's Centre (Meadowcroft Griffin Architects), Hackney City Farm Environmental Resource Centre (Mass Architecture), 2 Hillman Street (Hawkins/Brown) and Sunken House (Adjaye Associates).

Building Watch

Light Bar 'saved'



In Spaces 22, we reported that The Light Bar at 233 Shoreditch High Street was in danger of being demolished. Since then, Hackney Council has agreed to include it in the South Shoreditch Conservation Area. The Council accepted the view that the building is of townscape value and makes a contribution to the local streetscape in its role as a landmark building looking north from Bishopsgate. The building also signals a change in scale and marks an area of distinct historic character.

The Hackney Society welcomes this decision. We have long supported The Light Bar and consider it to be a good example of regeneration of an industrial building.

Last year the Society lobbied Hackney Council on the issue and submitted comments to the Planning Committee. In addition, we joined with the South Shoreditch Conservation Area Advisory Committee and Save Britain's Heritage in writing to the Secretary of State to request the use of reserve powers under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 to designate an extension to the conservation area to include this building. We regard the outcome of this campaigning as a great success.

Although inclusion of the building in the conservation area does not automatically save it from demolition, it does mean that the developers, Hammerson, will need Conservation Area Consent before they can pull it down.

Clapton Cinematograph Theatre

By Malcolm Smith

The campaign to revive the Clapton Cinematograph Theatre in Lower Clapton Road is being supported by Hackney MP Diane Abbott, who has called for the cinema to be restored in commemoration of Nobel Prize-winning dramatist, screenwriter and activist, the late Harold Pinter, who lived in Thistlewaite Road.

Ms Abbott has put down an early day motion in Parliament, in which she calls on the Government 'to do all it can to support the campaign by local residents to restore the cinema on Lower Clapton Road in Hackney in honour of this illustrious Hackney resident'.

The future of the building continues to remain uncertain, but for further information on the campaign log on to www.saveourcinema.org

St Mary's Lodge



St Mary's Lodge is currently in a very sad state, which has been made worse by the dumping of tyres in the grounds of this once grand Georgian house. The building in Lordship Road (Stoke Newington) dates from around 1843. It was designed and constructed by the Architect and Surveyor John Young (1797-1877) for himself and his family.

The house was used as a private residence until May 1959 when it was sold to the London County Council (LCC) for £6,250 (well below the property's market value at the time) on the understanding that it would be used for charitable purposes.

From the early 1960s, the local authority (firstly the LCC, then LB Hackney) used St Mary's Lodge as a charity-run hostel for unmarried young mothers. The hostel was closed in the mid-1990s, and the building and grounds were left unmaintained and unsecured. Vandals, squatters and the elements have left the house and grounds derelict.

In February 2002 the property was sold to the Torah Etz Chaim Synagogue for £705,000 on the understanding it would be used as a community resource. It remains in a derelict state.

Clarence Mews

Clapton residents are protesting about an illegal development at 42 Clarence Mews. The building's footprint is larger than it was given planning permission for, and it also overshadows buildings at 16 and 17 Clapton Square. The developer has ignored a Temporary Stop Order issued by Hackney Council in January, and building work continues. In recent years Clarence Mews has been transformed through imaginative architecture and a strong sense of community amongst the people who live and work there. Protestors regard the development as a real blight on the streetscape.

FROM FEVER TO CONSUMPTION:
the story of healthcare in Hackney

www.hackneybuildings.org.uk/health

Do you have a story to tell?
We are looking to interview former patients and staff of the Mothers', Hackney and St Leonard's Hospitals; and John Scott Health Centre.

Contact Lisa on
020 8806 4003 or email
lisa@hackneysociety.org

Hackney Society news

Our community history project, *From Fever to Consumption: The Story of Healthcare in Hackney*, is well under way with approximately 25 people coming forward to volunteer. We have also received many contributions for our new book *Hackney: Modern, Restored, Forgotten, Ignored*. In December 2008 we were confirmed funding from Hackney Heritage and Built Environment Partnership to develop an Illustrated Heritage Trail and a series of podcasts about Hackney Wick and its history. We are also in the process of developing a new interactive website. This will be going live in the next couple of months.

For the third year we have been unable to secure funding from Hackney Council, which means we receive no core funding, despite being an official consultee of the Council.

Noticeboard

Open House 2009

This year's Open House London 2009 will be held on 19-20 September. The organisers are looking for new volunteers to participate in the event. Volunteers will act as guides or stewards in one of the open buildings. If you would like to be a volunteer, contact Jeni Hoskin by emailing jhoskin@openhouse.co.uk, or phone 020 7383 2131.

Olympic legacy

The London Development Agency has been holding a series of meetings to develop plans for the Olympic Park and its neighbouring areas for after the Games. This stage of consultation lasts until 22 March 2009. To view the Legacy plans log on to www.legacy-now.co.uk/designing-the-park/have-your-say/ where you can comment online.

Thanks to Kopykat for sponsoring this issue of Spaces

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Publications

Hackney, That Rose-Red Empire: A

Confidential Report by acclaimed Hackney author Iain Sinclair has just been published. The book became nationally known following Hackney Council banning the author from doing an event to help launch the book in Stoke Newington Library. A talk by the author, organised jointly by *Pages of Hackney* bookshop and the Hackney Society on 4 March 2009, quickly became fully booked. The book costs £20 (hardback) and is published by Hamish Hamilton. To order a copy from *Pages of Hackney* email eleanor@pagesofhackney.co.uk

Discover Stoke Newington: a walk through history

is a new publication from The Friends of Hackney Archives. Written by David Mander and Isobel Watson, it provides an informal guide to the parish of Stoke Newington in the form of nine linked walks. The booklet is available from Hackney Archives, 43 De Beauvoir Road, London N1 5SQ. Cost £4.95 + £1.50 p&p (cheques made payable to London Borough of Hackney).

Spaces is published by the Hackney Society. Views expressed in the articles are not necessarily those of the Society.

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In memoriam

Professor David Batchelder, who was the Chair of the Hackney Society in the 1970s and 1980s, died on 6 June 2008. He chaired the Society during its most prolific period, when many of the Society's much-loved publications, including *From Tower to Tower Block* and *Lost Hackney* were published. He died at the age of 70 leaving his wife, Sián, daughters Meryl and Ceri and their children.

Hackney Society events

Beating the Bounds of the Games

Walk with Diana Olutunmogun, Storyteller.

Saturday 21 March 2009, 2pm

Joint event with Hackney Archives Starting at Gainsborough Primary School, Berkshire Road, London E9 5ND 'Yes, this was Hackney Wick, my dears, this was Hackney Wick, do the rounds and beat the bounds, and make the memories stick'. Find out about the history of people and places in Hackney Wick, including local boxer Harry Mallin, the Eton Manor Boys' Club and loads more.

FREE. Suitable for children aged 7 years and up (with their parents)

Ann Tayler Children's Centre

Tour with Louise Goodison, Architect.

Tuesday 31 March 2009, 7pm

Venue: Ann Tayler Children's Centre, 1-13 Triangle Road, London E8 3RP Join us for a tour of this new Children's Centre designed by Cazenove Architects. **FREE** members, £5 non-members

Reverting to type: the printing trade in Shoreditch

Walk with Susan Doe, London Guide.

Monday 27 April 2009, 7pm

Starting at Old Street Tube Station, exit 3 (Cowper Street) After the furniture trade, printing was the most important industry in Shoreditch in the 19th and 20th centuries. The new design and graphics companies that are now in the area in many ways make Shoreditch come full circle. There is still evidence of the companies that were here in the 1800s – those that first printed the *Radio Times*, and that printed the first cheques, and the first train tickets and timetables for the new railways. The Bank of England entrusted their currency printing to firms in the area. **FREE** members, £5 non-members

From Fever to Consumption: The Story of Healthcare in Hackney

Talk with Ken Worpole and Toby Butler. Thursday 21 May 2009, 6pm

Venue: Hackney Museum, 1 Reading Lane, London E8 1GQ Joint event with Hackney Museum In this talk, Toby Butler will focus on Hackney's historic hospitals and show how the care they provided changed over time; Ken Worpole will describe the eventful life of Dr Jelley – an eccentric doctor who practised in Hackney between 1910 and 1940.

FREE

Most events are free to Hackney Society members and £5 to non-members. For special and joint events there may be a charge for members (see individual listings). To avoid disappointment please contact Lisa on 020 8806 4003 or email lisa@hackneysociety.org to book a place.