

THE ROYAL BELL



The work of Benedict O'Looney architects around South London



Our first collaboration with Hillman's was a competition entry for the restoration and re-use of the former Ladywell Baths in Lewisham. This image above shows a rendered view of the restored historic bath house, with the addition of a new community building to the left hand side. This project was awarded second place but was The Victorian Society's preferred option due to the sensitive treatment and restoration proposal of the Grade II listed Victorian bath house.



The front elevation of the former bath house. We proposed a sensitive and thorough restoration of the building which included re-building the lost conical roof and gallery to the top of the tower.



This scheme shows how our proposed new enabling development uses materials and architectural shapes that carefully complement the setting of the listed Victorian buildings we propose to restore.



Our mosque projects in South London show an interest in the materials, detailing and spirit, of London's Victorian and Edwardian civic buildings.

(above) The front elevation of our new Women's and Children's Wing for the Croydon Mosque, completed in 2017.



Our Peckham Mosque project is opposite a Victorian Board School on Choumert Grove. Our design echoes the materials and decorative chutzpah of our Victorian neighbour.

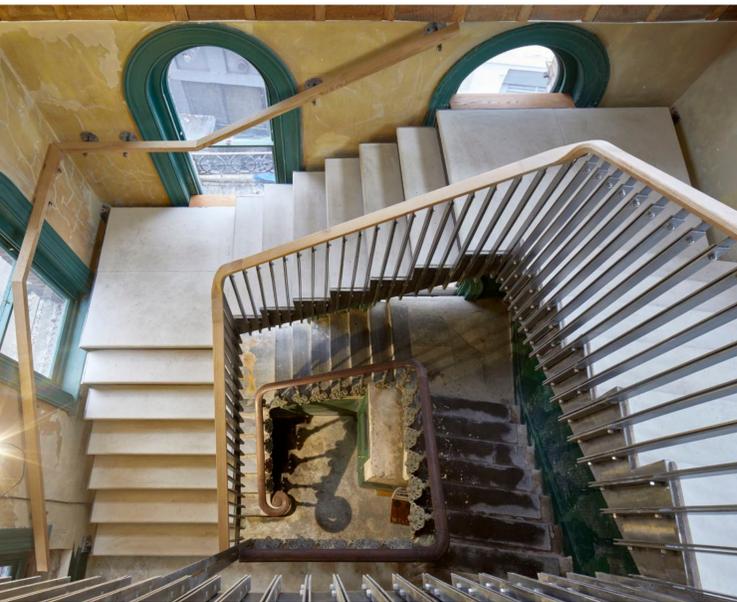


(above left) The new barrel-vaulted second floor prayer hall to the top of the Peckham Mosque.

(above) A detailed view of the decorative upper stages of the new minarets in traditional handmade bricks.



(left) The new prayer room and minarets for the Peckham Mosque, nominated for the National Brick Awards 2014.



We have fundraised and delivered a series of restoration projects at the grade II listed Peckham Rye Station - probably the most important Victorian building in Peckham town centre.

(above) Our work in the South Wing of Peckham Rye Station has been focussed on restoring a disused Victorian cantilevered stair and extending it with a new flight of steps that gives access to the 'lost' Old Waiting Room on the station's second floor. The new stair is carefully distinguished from the 1860s stair below, with the flights 'hung' from steels set discretely above, avoiding extra loadings to the listed Victorian structures.



We have been opening up 'lost', and disused spaces helping to create a social hub for Peckham.

Since we began working on, and raising funding for restoring Peckham Rye Station the dream has been to re-open up the disused Old Waiting Room for public use. It was closed in 1962 at the time of the Beeching cuts.

Community-led restoration.

This photograph shows the Peckham Society celebration to commemorate the repair of the Old Waiting Room timber floor.

(left) Restoration work to a large Art Deco ceiling and vaulted skylight in a former 1930s department store on Rye Lane in Peckham, now Khan's Bargains. This Art Deco ceiling which was lost for 50 years was re-discovered above several layers of modern suspended ceilings. In partnership with the shopkeeper Akbar Khan, we have been able to fully restore the period interior of this former department store. Externally we removed roofing tar from 1000 glass lenses, now the interior is illuminated with natural light for the first time since the mid 20th Century.



Discovering the 'lost' Sanitary Courts.

The Gent's Sanitary Courts were the most intact of the historic rooms we 'rediscovered' at Peckham Rye Station. It was built in 1934-1935 as a part of the expansion of station facilities and the re-ordering of station circulation in the interwar period. In 1962 the Sanitary Courts were mothballed as the public use of Peckham Rye Station's generous Victorian spaces sharply contracted under British Railways. The north 1/3 of the tall Victorian Booking hall was partitioned off and turned into a betting office. With access then blocked to the Sanitary Courts, they were closed up and left to decay, with parts of the roof beginning to collapse by the beginning of the 21st century.

