

NEWS RELEASE

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For immediate release



The 'Trio of Toilets' designed by Freeland Rees Roberts Architects for Cambridge City Council.
From left to right: Gonville Place public conveniences on Parker's Piece (Copyright: Peter Cook / VIEW); Victoria Avenue public conveniences (Copyright: Peter Cook / VIEW); A visualisation of the new Chesterton Road public conveniences (Copyright: Freeland Rees Roberts Architects).

AT THE PUBLIC'S CONVENIENCE...AGAIN

DESIGN FOR CAMBRIDGE CITY'S LATEST PUBLIC TOILETS UNVEILED

Award-winning Freeland Rees Roberts Architects have today unveiled their design for Cambridge City Council's latest public conveniences, to be constructed on Chesterton Road, Cambridge. The announcement confirms Freeland Rees Roberts Architects' third successive competition-winning design for Cambridge City Council, following the award-winning Victoria Avenue and Gonville Place toilets, as part of their major investment programme to provide high quality public services.

Having just secured planning consent, the new public facilities in Chesterton Road will replace the existing public conveniences built in the 1960s which are generally considered to be sub-standard and encouraging anti-social behaviour. New recycling facilities, consisting of underground storage bins, and an 'Office to Let' space are also included in the design.

The concept for the development, which makes extensive use of timber, has been generated by the significant presence of a large chestnut tree and consists of two interlocking leaf-shaped canopies sheltering the different facilities. The new public conveniences and recycling centre will address the street whilst the 'Office to Let' and panoramic terrace overlook the River Cam.

Four toilet cubicles will be provided, including one for disabled access/carer and baby, one for female use only and two standard cubicles. Four recycling points, each with a chute above ground, will store contents in a 1100 litre bin below ground, thereby reducing noise and smell.

The design concept portrays a striking form constructed from simple timber sections. The building will be finished in self coloured render on a brick plinth with a zinc metal roof whilst the cubicles will have factory finished steel doors and coin boxes. External hard landscaping will be resin bound gravel and recycled glass set in resin whilst lighting will be provided to illuminate the facilities at night. The 'Office to Let' will have timber framed glazing opening onto the terrace which will also be constructed in timber. Level access to all cubicles and the office space is included in the design.

To reduce the energy demands of the new facilities, rainwater harvesting will be used for toilet flushing. A feasibility study is also being undertaken to consider the possibility of generating hydro-electric power at the Jesus Lock weir.

Tristan Rees Roberts, Director of Freeland Rees Roberts Architects, commented: "We are delighted to have won the design competition for these latest public conveniences and are pleased to play a continuing role in the Council's improvement programme. Our design responds to the many practical, contextual and environmental factors affecting the site, drawing upon our experience in designing the two previous public conveniences for the Council. The building also provides the unique opportunity to rent part of the space for office use, in a prime location overlooking the river and close to the city centre."

Colin Rosenstiel, Executive Councillor for Environment and Waste Services, commented: "The Council has an ongoing programme of improving public amenities to make them cleaner, safer and more attractive. Through our design competition for these 'trio of toilets', which are all in high profile locations, we have tried to find designs which are inspiring and innovative as well as functional. They are very much intended to be public buildings and as such we don't believe they should be hidden away. Freeland Rees Roberts Architects' designs for all three public toilets are of a very high standard and the practice gives a strong lead in creating important public facilities that are sensitive to the character of their surroundings. The two completed public toilets have become true landmarks in Cambridge and we are confident that this latest design will become another."

Construction of the Chesterton Road public conveniences is due to begin in February 2008, with completion expected the following August.

Other recent projects Freeland Rees Roberts Architects have been involved with include the refurbishment of National Trust Picture Galleries at Anglesey Abbey in Cambridgeshire; the conservation and relocation of Temple Bar to Paternoster Square, City of London (which has been awarded seven architectural awards in the past two years); the refurbishment and expansion of the University of Cambridge's Department of Architecture and the redecoration of period buildings in Magdalene Street, Cambridge.

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Notes to the editor:

1. For further information, high resolution images or an interview, please contact Carri Crook, Carisma Communications. Telephone: 01842 815910; Mobile: 07704 920350 or email: carri@carismacommunications.co.uk
2. Freeland Rees Roberts Architects' key areas of expertise include: Education: Colleges & Schools; Local Authority; Sports; Extensions; Ecclesiastical; Residential; Libraries; Commercial; Conservation and Domestic.
3. The Victoria Avenue public conveniences won an RIBA East Spirit of Ingenuity Award 2006 in the 'Client Award' category and were 'Highly Commended' by the Copper Association in a Europe-wide competition in 2005.
4. The Gonville Place public conveniences won an RIBA East Spirit of Ingenuity Award 2004 in the 'Architecture for Tourism' category.