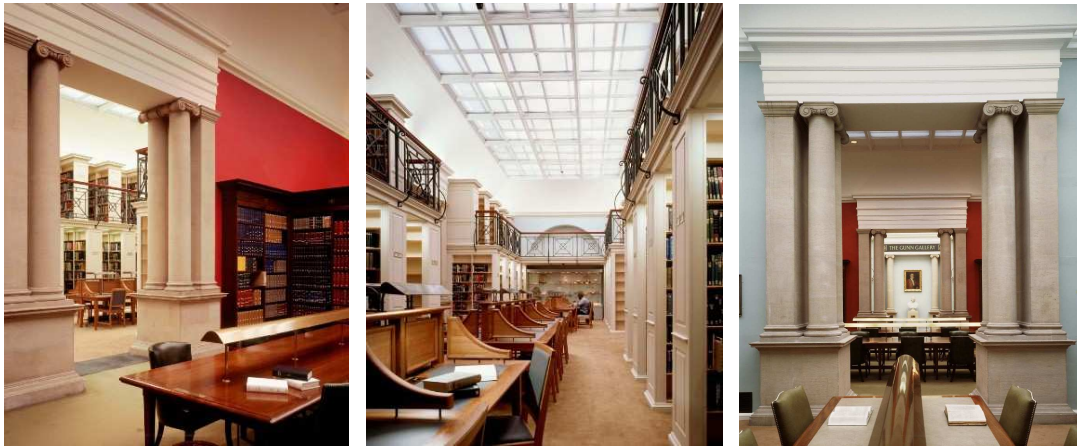


NEWS RELEASE

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The stunning library extension at Peterhouse, Cambridge, designed by Freeland Rees Roberts Architects. Images to be credited to Peter Cook

Freeland Rees Roberts Architects Win David Urwin Design Award for Peterhouse Library, Cambridge

Freeland Rees Roberts Architects have announced that the £1.4m library extension at Peterhouse, Cambridge, designed by the Cambridge-based practice, has won a David Urwin Design Award 2008 under the category '*The Best Conservation, Alteration or Extension of an Existing Building.*' The Awards ceremony took place last Thursday, 10th April at the Cambridge Forum for the Construction Industry's annual dinner at King's College.

In 1984 the Museum was reclaimed by Peterhouse from the University, which had rented it from the College for a hundred years, and converted into the College Library. The Peterhouse Ward Library extension, the Gunn Gallery, is a conservation scheme consisting of the conversion of a former unused and derelict gallery (forming part of the old Museum) into a stunning, new student library facility. It was the old Central Gallery of the Museum, which lies between



what is now the Ward Library Reading Room and the Lubbock Room, adjacent to the college theatre.

Tristan Rees Roberts, Director of Freeland Rees Roberts Architects said: "We are delighted that this scheme has won a David Urwin Award which is a prestigious, local and annual architecture competition. The project was challenging as there were planning constraints, namely the buildings being Grade II listed. However, our alterations were well supported by the Conservation Officer. Removing the pediments of two doors to create a mezzanine was slightly contentious and we were asked to retain the Victorian hoisting gear for the heavy classical statues which now create an amusing intrusion into the Computer Room. Another challenge included organising the excavation of tons of soil from below the Ward Library to create new College storage facilities and, finally, completely to redecorate the original Ward Library. "

Martin Golding, the Ward Librarian at Peterhouse, commented: "We are extremely pleased with the Gunn Gallery, which has fulfilled our hopes in every way. Freeland Rees Roberts Architects' brief involved bringing the derelict space into the service of the Ward Library, by opening up the formerly blocked portico that led from the existing Reading Room. The Gallery measured some 60' x 22', and, like the existing Library rooms, was ideally suited for library use, being top-lit by continuous glass panels along the entire length of the roof. The Ward Library needed to house 20,000 books and 20 readers with up to 10 computer spaces, and the conversion has done so triumphantly. "

Work on the conversion of the former Museum began in June 2004 and the new library was officially opened in November 2005.

In 2006, Freeland Rees Roberts Architects were awarded a David Urwin Commendation for a Victorian eco-townhouse in Cambridge for '*The Most Efficient & Sustainable Building*'. The Commendation was awarded for upgrading the Victorian house in a sustainable way in a conservation area in the heart of Cambridge. In 2005 the practice also secured a Commendation for Cambridge



City Council's state of the art 'merry-go-round' public conveniences on Parker's Piece, Cambridge.

The award-winning library scheme was also shortlisted last year for a national RIBA Award.

Ends

Notes to the Editor

1. Images of the stunning Library extension are available on request. For images, interview, photo or film opportunity, please contact Carri Crook, Carisma Communications, on 01842 815910 or email carri@carismacommunications.co.uk.
2. The David Urwin Awards aim to honour the finest building projects for the city. They were established in 1989 as a memorial to the former City Planning Officer, David Urwin and are sponsored and presented annually by Cambridge City Council in association with the Cambridge Forum for the Construction Industry and the Cambridge Evening News.
3. In 1880 Champneys converted what had been a row of brick warehouses adjacent to the river, into the Museum of Classical Archaeology to be leased to the University of Cambridge by Peterhouse. He created a series of top lit classical galleries linked through grand porticos to create a glorious sequence of spaces.
4. Freeland Rees Roberts Architects' design expertise incorporates all aspects of architecture - new buildings, alterations, extensions, conservation and interior and furniture design for commercial, government, domestic/private and institutional clients. The practice serves several major educational, university, college and school bodies as well as a significant number of ecclesiastical institutions. www.frrarchitects.co.uk.
5. Freeland Rees Roberts have also designed Libraries for Trinity Hall, Cambridge (Jerwood Library); Pembroke College, Cambridge (Extension to the Waterhouse Building); Lambeth Palace; Lucy Cavendish, Cambridge and King's College.
6. For further information on Peterhouse, please contact Senior Bursar, Richard Grigson on 01223 338214 or email bursar@pet.cam.ac.uk.