



## NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

23 June 2006

### **Temple Bar Secures National RIBA Conservation Commendation 2006**

The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA East) has announced today that the ancient monument and Grade I listed building, Temple Bar, has been awarded the prestigious, national RIBA Conservation Commendation which forms part of the RIBA Awards 2006. The Temple Bar scheme was submitted for the RIBA Award 2006 by the City of London Department of Technical Services with Temple Bar's Historic Buildings Architects, Freeland Rees Roberts who are Cambridge-based RIBA members.

RIBA Conservation Awards were introduced last year to reward schemes that preserve UK's architectural history. The RIBA Conservation Awards, in association with The Rooflight Company, recognise the best examples of practice in the field and to demonstrate the RIBA's continued commitment to conservation of buildings in the UK. RIBA Conservation Commendations are also intended to focus public attention on excellent conservation work in their local area and are given to buildings that have high architectural standards and make a substantial contribution to the local environment.


The grand Temple Bar plan involved the relocation of the ancient monument back to its home in London and rebuilding it as a gateway to the central piazza at



the Paternoster Square redevelopment by November 2004, a scheme which would provide over 70,000 square metres of offices, restaurants and cafes.

The long term relocation and conservation project reveals the meticulous planning, logistical detail, painstaking research and sensitive conservation work which took place behind the scenes. The dismantling and relocation took just 15 months to complete.

The historic building was dismantled, stone by stone, ensuring minimal damage and then rebuilt in its birthplace, the Square Mile. This unique conservation exercise resulted in only 1% of original stonework having to be replaced. Throughout the project, it was essential for the Historic Buildings Architect to negotiate with English Heritage on all conservation related issues and to work closely with the Cathedral Works Organisation (CWO) on the cleaning, restoration and repair of the Portland stonework.

The RIBA Awards (including the RIBA Conservation Awards) will be presented this evening, Friday 23 June, at a dinner in London at the Hilton Hotel, held during Architecture Week 2006 (16-25 June). 54 buildings across the UK will receive RIBA Awards, and 8 in the rest of the EU will receive RIBA European Awards. The RIBA Conservation Award winners will be competing with the other winners for The RIBA Stirling Prize in association with The Architects' Journal , which Channel 4 will televise for the seventh year running on Saturday 14 October 2006.

Jack Pringle, President of the RIBA said yesterday:

“Good conservation requires excellent skills in design and judgement. These five awarded schemes display those qualities beautifully in very different ways. I am delighted that the Rooflight Company is extending its sponsorship of the RIBA Conservation Awards for a further year. Conservation continues to have a high profile in the building profession and the Rooflight Company's commitment to



excellence in this field is well-recognised.”

Peter King RIBA, founder and chairman of the Rooflight Company added:

“We are very happy to support the RIBA in the promotion of excellent design in conservation projects. We at the Rooflight Company are equally interested in contemporary architecture and have recently designed rooflights for such high profile architects as Will Alsop and Zaha Hadid.”

Henry Freeland, Director of Freeland Rees Roberts Architects is a leading conservation specialist and Architect and Surveyor to the Fabric of Norwich Cathedral and Guildford Cathedral. He became Architect to Temple Bar in 1983 and went on to spend over 20 years on this major conservation and relocation project. He is Temple Bar’s Historic Buildings Architect.

Mr Freeland commented: “I am delighted that this unique monument was both shortlisted for an RIBA Award and awarded a Conservation Commendation. It is very much part of the nation’s architectural heritage and history. The dismantling of such an historic building, stone by stone, ensuring minimal damage and then relocating the monument was an extraordinary and unique conservation challenge for the entire team involved. We were delighted that we were able to conserve the original condition of the majority of the ancient monument’s stonework.”

Alderman Robert Finch, the former Lord Mayor of the City of London said: “This is believed to be the first time in history that an ancient monument has been moved twice - firstly from Fleet Street to Theobald's Park in Hertfordshire and secondly, from Hertfordshire back to the City. It is also reported to be the first time a Grade I listed building has been dismantled and rebuilt in a new location.”

Louise Todd, Regional Director of RIBA East commented: "There is a greater recognition for conservation work with the best examples being recognized by the RIBA Conservation Awards. Temple Bar’s conservation and relocation were



a remarkable achievement. We congratulate The City of London, CWO, the entire project team and our local RIBA members, Freeland Rees Roberts Architects on achieving this conservation accolade. I am delighted that Freeland Rees Roberts Architects have achieved two Conservation accolades this year.”

Another scheme in Cambridge, Peterhouse Ward Library, also designed by Freeland Rees Roberts Architects, has also been awarded an RIBA Conservation Commendation.

Ends

#### Notes to the Editor

1. Sir Christopher Wren's Temple Bar (1) marked the gateway to the City of London for 200 years, defining the boundary between the City of London and the City of Westminster. Originally built in 1672, it is the only surviving gateway of the original eight. In 1878 Temple Bar was removed from Fleet Street to enable the roadway to be widened and relocated at Theobald's Park, Cheshunt to form a grand entrance and gateway to a country estate belonging to Sir Henry and Lady Meux. In November 2004, the Grade I listed building and scheduled monument was officially returned by the Lord Mayor of the City of London, Alderman Robert Finch to Paternoster Square. (1.) Although no documents survive to prove Sir Christopher Wren designed Temple Bar, Wren's son provided evidence in the form of the original drawings for the work he retained.
2. The project was funded by the City of London Corporation and by donations from the Temple Bar Trust and several Livery Companies.
3. The Project Team involved in the relocation of Temple Bar were:  
Client: City of London Corporation  
Sir Hugh Wontner  
Temple Bar Trust  
Alderman Robert Finch, the Lord Mayor of the City of London  
Main Contractor: CWO  
Andrew Paterson, City of London Corporation Department of Technical Services,  
Supervisor of the project  
Historic Buildings Architects: Freeland Rees Roberts  
Quantity Surveyor: Davis Langdon of Cambridge  
Engineer: Babbie Group  
Planning Supervisors: Johnson Mather  
English Heritage  
Furniture Supplier: Luke Hughes
4. For further information on RIBA Awards, please contact Caz Facey, RIBA on 0207 307 3715 or email [caz.facey@inst.riba.org](mailto:caz.facey@inst.riba.org).



5. For images of Temple Bar in Hertfordshire and Paternoster Square or for interviews or photo opportunity, please contact Carri Crook, Carisma Communications on 01842 811313 or email [info@carismacommunications.com](mailto:info@carismacommunications.com).
6. For further information from The City of London Corporation, Please contact Fiona Milligan on 020 7332 3451 or email [fiona.milligan@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:fiona.milligan@cityoflondon.gov.uk).
7. Images are to be credited to John Harris, Harris Digital Productions.
8. RIBA Awards. The buildings are judged in the first instance by shortlisting panels in each region, who visit schemes individually and meet to produce a list of buildings to be visited in detail by the region's jury. Each regional jury is made up of a regional representative who is usually the chair of the shortlisting panel, lay assessors from various disciplines and the jury chair, who is a nationally renowned architect. They visit the shortlisted projects, talking to clients and users and assessing design excellence irrespective of style, size or complexity of the project. The jury changes every year. Each of the chairs of the regional awards juries meets with the RIBA Awards Group to make recommendations and confirm the final decision on whether a building receives an award. The winners of the RIBA Awards 2006 will be announced at a gala dinner at the London Hilton on 23 June 2006 at the start of Architecture Week 2006 (16-25th June). Shortlists of buildings from the RIBA Awards are visited and judged for further awards, including the RIBA Stirling Prize. The winning buildings will be competing with the other RIBA Award winners for the prestigious RIBA Stirling Prize in association with The Architects' Journal.
9. For a full story on the architectural and conservation input into the Temple Bar project, contact Henry Freeland, Director, Freeland Rees Roberts Architects, 25 City Road, Cambridge CB1 1DP, Telephone 01223 366555, email [hf@frrarchitects.co.uk](mailto:hf@frrarchitects.co.uk), [www.frrarchitects.co.uk](http://www.frrarchitects.co.uk).
10. The editor is kindly requested to acknowledge Harris Digital Productions for their support in providing copy and facts relating to the recording of this historic project. [www.thetemplebar.info](http://www.thetemplebar.info).