

E-mail Message

From: [Gavin Stamp](#) [REDACTED]
To: [Pound, Victoria](#) [REDACTED]
Cc:
Sent: 16/03/2015 at 12:26
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Subject: HIGHGATE CEMETERY

Re: proposed new mausoleum at Highgate Cemetery: application number: 2015/1013/P

To: Victoria Pound.

I write in support of the design by Craig Hamilton for a new mausoleum in Highgate Cemetery.

Craig is a friend, but he has become one because I consider to be the only one of the so-called New Classicists who has real talent and originality. Unlike some of the other "traditionalist" architects, he does not just reproduce Palladio or perhaps Soane in a stiff, pedantic manner; he really understands and engages with the Classical language of architecture and draws inspiration from a wide range of sources, from the Greek and Romans to 20th-century masters of Classical architecture like Plecnik and Lutyens. In consequence, he produces designs which are truly original, but just happen to be in a style against which some older and blinkered modernist architects have a silly prejudice. Craig also knows how to build and to build well, as his new mausoleum at Kensal Green Cemetery confirms. An essay in the Classical manner is surely highly appropriate at Highgate, and there are many earlier examples of a monumental mausoleum in the cemetery. His proposed design is in the abstracted Classical manner which flourished in the early decades of the 20th century and has American overtones which, in this case, is relevant. I very much hope this design will receive planning permission. The mausoleum will surely enhance the cemetery as well as being a welcome and thoroughly sympathetic contribution of our own time to the tradition of funereal architecture.

Professor Gavin Stamp, Hon FRI AS, Hon FRI BA, FSA.

from
Gavin Stamp

