

Art Workers' Guild Building

6 Queen Square
London
WC1N 3AT

Refurbishment of Second Floor Office

Design and Access Statement,
and Heritage Statement

January 2017



PH/5861

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Design

Introduction

6 Queen Square is an early eighteenth century townhouse on the west side of Queen Square in Bloomsbury, and is listed Grade II*. The Art Workers' Guild (AWG) own the building and occupy the basement, ground and first floors, using the rooms for their members and hiring out the rear hall and two meeting rooms. The AWG is a body of more than 350 artists, craftspeople and architects, working at the highest levels of excellence in their professions.

The second, third and fourth floors of the building are leased by the AWG to provide revenue. ADAM Architecture lease the second floor office, which is the subject of this statement and associated listed building consent application.



The Art Workers' Guild building at 6 Queen Square

ADAM Architecture is one of the leading practitioners of traditional and progressive architecture and contextual urbanism in Europe, and have a wide range of experience with the refurbishment of listed buildings.

Use

The second floor of the building remains as a self-contained office.

Proposals

The proposals are the general refurbishment of the second floor office space currently occupied by ADAM Architecture for their continued use. ADAM Architecture are long standing tenants of the AWG and have a close working and professional relationship which they wish to maintain for the long term.

Refer to drawing 5861 03 'Existing Photographs' for photographs of the office interior and refer to drawing 5861 02 'Office Plan – Existing' for the layout of the existing office.

The refurbishment work is as follows:

- The replacement of the existing modern kitchen and WC enclosures with a new kitchen and WC
- Upgrading the existing electrical and plumbing installations
- The replacement of the existing modern boiler cupboard with a new boiler cupboard
- The replacement of the existing modern studio shelving with new studio shelving
- New painting and decorating throughout
- The replacement of the existing modern carpet tiles with new carpet finishes
- The replacement of the existing freestanding desks
- The replacement of the existing modern surface-mounted window and door ironmongery

There are no works to the outside of the building.

The agent believes that none of the works described above will have a direct impact on the fabric of the Heritage Asset.

Access

Access to the second floor office remains as existing.

Heritage

Significance of the asset

The AWG's building at 6 Queen Square is listed Grade II*, the full description is as follows:

IoE Number: 477821

*Location: NUMBER 6 AND ATTACHED RAILINGS, 6 QUEEN SQUARE (west side)
CAMDEN TOWN, CAMDEN, GREATER LONDON*

Photographer: Ms Frances Ottaway

Date Photographed: 03 February 2006

Date listed: 24 October 1951

Date of last amendment: 11 January 1999

*Grade II**

CAMDEN TQ3081NW QUEEN SQUARE 798-1/100/1360 (West side) 24/10/51 No.6 and attached railings GV II Terraced house with purpose-built meeting hall, in use as the headquarters of the Art-Workers' Guild. c1713, refronted later C18. c1914 alterations and additions by FW Troup for the Art-Workers' Guild. Darkened multi-coloured stock brick with evidence of tuck pointing. Slated mansard roof with dormer. EXTERIOR: 4 storeys, attic and basement. 3 windows. Wooden doorcase with sunk panels to pilasters carrying entablature with dentil cornice, rectangular patterned fanlight and panelled door; threshold with the monogram of the Art-Workers' Guild executed in white marble. Gauged red brick flat arches to recessed sashes. Plain stucco band at 1st floor level; stone cornice at 3rd floor level. Stone capped parapet. Original lead rainwater head and pipe. Rear elevation original with elongated windows. INTERIOR: retains its original plan form throughout with fielded panelling, 6-panel doors, moulded cornices and dado rails, fireplaces and good stairs with twisted balusters and column newels. Entrance hall with 2 arch-headed niches and cornice of thick mouldings. Rear projecting wing, probably originally withdrawing rooms, has elegant decorative woodwork. 1st floor front room with Regency plasterwork. Top storey flat by FW Troup, with fireplace and kitchen cabinets; Troup also designed the meeting hall to the rear. Meeting hall: single storey with red brick entrance; above the doorway, a segmental-arched stone aedicule, containing a decorative lead plaque with the gilded initials AWG set within gilded oak leaf sprays above the date 1914. INTERIOR: panelled walls with a low picture rail below a broad frieze. Above the frieze, oval architraved niches containing busts of the Guild masters by Frampton, Bayes and WS Frith. The hall is lit by a large hipped roof light, with dormers, supported on deep ceiling beams around which the deep dentil cornice extends. Bolection-moulded oak chimney-piece. SUBSIDIARY FEATURES: attached cast-iron railings with torch flambe finials to area. HISTORICAL NOTE: Martin Folkes, President of the Royal Society and of the Society of Antiquaries lived at No.6 until 1763 and at No.7 until 1765. Later in the C19 the building partly entered into commercial use with Robert Ackermann's lithograph and colour-printing business located in premises at the rear until 1913 when they were demolished. In this year the lease was purchased by the Art-Workers' Guild, a society of painters, sculptors and architects which had been set up in 1884 by pupils of Norman Shaw, prominent amongst whom were Gerald Horsley and Mervyn*

Macartney. (Jackson N: F W Troup Architect 1859-1941: London: -1985: 108; The Builder: 15 February 1918: London: 110).

The second floor office is approximately 800 square feet and is accessed from the main staircase in the building. The office has a small self-contained kitchen and WC enclosure to the rear. The walls generally are painted timber panelling with a painter timber cornice, and the ceilings are painted plaster. The office has an existing carpet on plywood floor that sits above the floorboards of the original floor, which provides a level floor and a convenient route for building services.

The windows are 6 over 6 sliding sash windows with single glazing, and the internal doors are generally 6 panelled painted timber doors.

Refer to drawing 5861 26 'Existing Photographs' for photographs of the office interior.

Impact of the proposed works

The proposed works are carefully considered and will have no adverse impact on the historic fabric in the office or the heritage asset itself. All new work will be scribed around the historic fabric, and will be fully reversible.

Statement of justification

The justifications for each of the proposals are below:

The replacement of the existing kitchen and WC enclosures with a new kitchen and WC.

The existing kitchen and WC enclosures are generally of poor quality and require to be replaced, refer to the photographs in drawing 5861 26 'Existing Photographs'. The new kitchen and WC are in the same location as the existing, and the existing water supplies and waste drainage will not need to be relocated. The new partition wall and new timber suspended ceilings will be scribed around the existing cornice and panelled walls.

Upgrading the existing electrical and plumbing installations

The existing electrical installation will be upgraded primarily by running new cabling in the existing floor void to new electrical floor boxes and running new cables in the new kitchen and WC wall partitions. The plumbing to the replacement kitchen and WC will be connected to the existing water supplies and drainage. The existing gas boiler and flue will be retained. The existing radiators will be retained.

The replacement of the existing boiler cupboard with a new boiler cupboard

The existing boiler cupboard is a recent cupboard of no merit drawing, refer to drawing 5861 26 'Existing Photographs'. This will be replaced with a new boiler cupboard in a more appropriate painted panelled timber design.

The replacement of the existing studio shelving with new studio shelving

The existing modern studio shelving from 2004 is of poor quality and is of no historic significance (refer to drawing 5861 26 'Existing Photographs'). The new studio shelving has been designed to be more appropriate for an listed Georgian building and will provide additional areas for much needed storage – refer to drawing 5861 11 'Studio Shelving'.

New painting and decorating throughout

The office has not been redecorated for at least 12 years and new painting and decorating throughout is required. The new paint will be applied on top of the existing surfaces allowing any existing historic paint to remain.

The replacement of the existing carpet tiles

The existing carpet tiles are in need of replacement and will be replaced with a better quality broadloom carpet that is applied to the existing ply subfloor.

The replacement of the existing freestanding desks

The existing freestanding desks will be replaced with new desks that suit the new layout of the studio.

The replacement of the existing modern surface-mounted window and door ironmongery

The existing sash window fastener and sash lifts are poor quality modern fittings, refer to drawing 5861 26 'Existing Photographs'. These will be replaced with good quality and more appropriate brass fasteners and sash lifts that are made in the UK by from Croft Architectural Hardware Ltd. The sash window pulleys will remain as existing.

The three older paneled doors in the office reference D1, D2 and D3, have mismatching brass door knob fittings from around the mid-twentieth century that are in a poor condition. These door knobs will be replaced with matching reeded spherical brass knobs made by Samuel Heath & Sons. The existing modern Euro cylinder locks with thumb turns to allow escape in an emergency will be retained.

Summary

The second floor office has not been refurbished for more than 10 years, and the proposed refurbishment will greatly improve the standard of accommodation for the company of architects that have a long-term lease with the AWG. The utilitarian kitchen and WC enclosures, and shelving and cupboards, all of which are non-original and constructed in the last fifteen years, will be replaced with similar enclosures, shelving and cupboards that are much better quality and more in keeping with the Georgian interior of the office. All of the new work will be scribed around the existing historic fabric, and has been designed to be fully reversible.