



St Giles - 6, 7, 9 & 10 Denmark Street
Front elevation treatment

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Introduction

The following document has been prepared to support the individual applications for the street façade treatment to four of the remaining late 16th Century townhouses to the south of Denmark Street, WC2H. The houses are currently undergoing full refurbishment in accordance with Listed Building Consents -

- 2012/6864/L
- 2012/6865/L
- 2012/6867/L
- 2012/6868/L

Ian Chalk Architects have been appointed as the architects to deliver the buildings on site and Cord Contracting as the Contractor. As part of the consents, works have been granted to repair the front elevations and reinstate six-over-six sash windows to each building.

ICA have now reviewed the proposals in detail and wish to implement a holistic approach to the façade restoration of the four buildings and paint treatment

of the key architectural features. This requires further approval beyond the original consents.

This report outlines these further details, assessing the current streetscape, reviewing the historic street appearance and proposing paint treatments and finishes to improve the reading of the individual buildings and enhance their setting within the terrace.



Denmark Street, southern terrace, 2014

Existing & Historic Streetscape

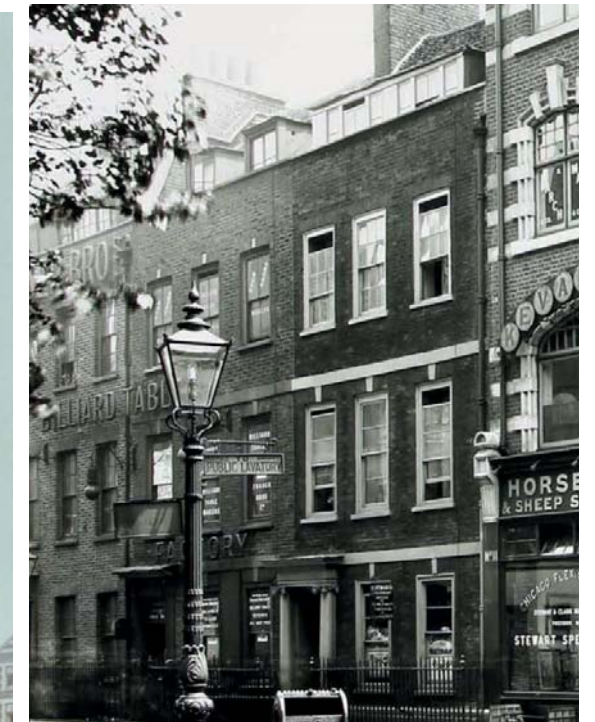
The existing terrace of houses on the south side of Denmark Street has retained much of the original character from its first development. There has been a loss of a number of townhouses, notably replaced during the 1920s with ashlar faced commercial buildings. Despite this, the terrace has retained the overall homogeneity and rhythm of an early Georgian street, with window layout, and details such as continuous string courses and parapet lines providing a characterful streetscape.

The refurbishment of the buildings will reinstate some lost detail and enhance the streetscape, reintroducing six-over-six sash windows to four or the townhouses and removing a later unsympathetic mansard roof to no. 10 Denmark Street. The consented works do not however consider the Ground Floor façade treatment or the paint colours of the architectural features of the townhouses.

The images right show the southern terrace in 1900 and 1908. The Ground Floors were defined by wrought-iron railings and more predominantly domestic scale front doors with punctured windows. The windows have been all but lost with the exception of no. 6 Denmark Street and the railings have been removed throughout. Whilst it is not felt appropriate to reintroduce railings and Ground Floor windows, bringing some consistency back to the Ground Floors would be beneficial.



Denmark Street, southern terrace, 1908, The London Picture Archive, Collage



Denmark Street, nos. 8-10 Denmark Street circa 1900, Historic England

No. 6 has a defined rendered base to the First Floor string band - the use of a smooth render with datum line, helps to define the lower floor from the upper floor and we feel this approach could be formally adopted to nos. 7, 9 & 10.

The current paint scheme along the southern terrace is one of architectural detail (windows, keystones and string courses) being picked out in white. We feel that this confuses the horizontal reading of the string bands with the vertical delineation of each townhouse. The images above show that, historically, the window treatment was more varied with darker and lighter paint shades, which helps with defining each building - the image from 1908 shows that the string courses were not stark white, but more likely a softer buff/lime render colour.

With the four buildings being refurbished together, we feel that there is an opportunity to create a unity between the houses, whilst introducing specific colour palettes to each house to help define the reading and individuality of each house.

In addition to the colour palettes generally, the application to no. 10 Denmark Street looks at the paint treatment to the brickwork. The front façade appears to have undergone extensive modifications in the past, including the loss of the entire Ground Floor detailing such as the porticoed entrance; the upper brickwork has also been over-painted. The photograph right shows that the window surrounds have been rusticated in the past and the shop front has been adapted. We have explored removing the paintwork, however, the attempts at removal have proved unsuccessful with multiple layers of finish and poor quality brick facings beneath. This document therefore proposes retaining the paint finish but providing a greater contrast to help the reading of the string course and other details to strengthen the relationship with the other houses along the southern terrace



No. 10 Denmark Street, paint removal test area using Peelaway, September 2017



No. 10 Denmark Street, 1951,
The London Picture Archive, Collage

Proposals

The image adjacent shows the proposed streetscape of the southern terrace and includes the six-over-six sashes, dormer windows and pitched roofs repaired as consented.

The image shows the following further proposals:

- String courses, cills and keystones are to be given a unifying treatment
- Ground Floor surrounds are to be lime rendered and painted to help the grounding of each building and reunify the street level
- The upper windows and openings are to be painted in varying sympathetic colours to help define each house as a separate address
- The upper painted brickwork to no. 10 Denmark Street is to be painted in a darker neutral tone to help the reading as part of the terrace of townhouses



Southern terrace showing proposed facade treatment to nos. 6, 7, 9 & 10 Denmark Street



House with gauged red brick detailing and six-over-six sash windows



Early Georgian era house, Spitalfields



Front façade no. 17 Fournier Street, Spitalfields, built 1720s



Terrace of townhouses on Wilkes Street, Spitalfields, built 1721-22

Precedent approach

The images above show buildings of a similar period, painted in similar tones to those proposed within this application. The image far right also shows a terrace of houses in Wilkes Street, Spitalfields, built in the 1720s and painted in various colours. The use of differing colours helps identify each house within the terrace whilst the rhythm and detailing provide a unity and balance to the street. This has been used as the basis for the colour strategy to the southern terrace of Denmark Street



7 Denmark Street, July 2017



6 Denmark Street, Proposed

Proposed colour palette

Paint - Exterior masonry paint - Skimming Stone No.241 by Farrow & Ball or similar approved



Paint - Exterior eggshell paint - Green Smoke No. 47 by Farrow & Ball or similar approved



Paint - Exterior masonry paint - Studio Green No.93 by Farrow & Ball or similar approved



Paint - Exterior eggshell paint - Railings No. 31 by Farrow & Ball or similar approved



6 Denmark Street

The colour palette for 6 Denmark Street, references the use of dark green that has been used for the Ground Floor. The windows are to be painted tonally similar, with the front door painted to match. The Ground Floor render is to be repainted in a lighter buff colour to help the reading of the front door architrave and the punctured windows. The palette can be seen above:



9 Denmark Street, July 2017



9 Denmark Street, Proposed

Proposed colour palette

- Paint - Exterior masonry paint - Skimming Stone No.241 by Farrow & Ball or similar approved
- Paint - Exterior eggshell paint - Inchyra Blue No.289 by Farrow & Ball or similar approved
- Paint - Exterior masonry paint - Inchyra Blue No.289 by Farrow & Ball or similar approved
- Paint - Exterior eggshell paint - Railings No. 31 by Farrow & Ball or similar approved

9 Denmark Street

The colour palette for 7 Denmark Street, references the dark blue/green that has been used for the Ground Floor front door and architrave. The windows are to be painted tonally similar, with the front door repainted to match. The shutters at Ground Floor are also be repainted and the canopy removed. The string band between Ground and First is to be reintroduced and the Ground Floor render is to be repainted in a light buff colour to match the string courses and keystones. The palette can be seen above:



9 Denmark Street, July 2017



9 Denmark Street, Proposed

Proposed colour palette

- Paint - Exterior masonry paint - Skimming Stone No.241 by Farrow & Ball or similar approved
- Paint - Exterior eggshell paint - Charleston Gray No.243 by Farrow & Ball or similar approved
- Paint - Exterior eggshell paint - Tanner's Brown No.255 by Farrow & Ball or similar approved
- Paint - Exterior eggshell paint - Railings No.31 by Farrow & Ball or similar approved

9 Denmark Street

The colour palette for 9 Denmark Street, references the buff/mid-grey colours of the former Giaconda shop surround. The windows are to be painted in a taupe colour with the front door surround to be repainted to match. The darker front door colour will be retained, being repainted in a dark brown/black. The string band between Ground and First is to be reintroduced and the Ground Floor rendered and repainted in a light buff colour to match the string courses and keystones. The palette can be seen above:



10 Denmark Street, July 2017

10 Denmark Street

The colour palette for 10 Denmark Street has been designed to help the reading of the façade and its detailing. The existing palette consists of brickwork, masonry and windows all in an off white. This erodes the relationship with the other townhouses. The proposals reintroduce the string band between Ground and First and a render surround to the shop front - the shopfront signage is reduced in scale and prominence to be more inkeeping with the other buildings. The surround is to be painted in a light buff colour to match the string courses, cills and keystones. The brickwork, windows and residential door are to be painted in a mid-grey - the grey has been chosen to pick up the blue/plum colours of the original brick façade. Other colours for the brickwork were considered and are presented overleaf - we felt that the attempts to mimic a red/brown brick were unsuccessful and that a neutral palette was more honest to the modifications that have occurred to the building. The palette can be seen above:

Proposed colour palette

Paint - Exterior masonry paint - Skimming Stone No.241 by Farrow & Ball or similar approved



Paint - Exterior eggshell paint - Brassica No.271 by Farrow & Ball or similar approved



Paint - Exterior eggshell paint - Mahogany No.255 by Farrow & Ball or similar approved



Paint - Exterior eggshell paint - Railings No.31 by Farrow & Ball or similar approved



Paint - Exterior masonry paint - Brassica No.271 by Farrow & Ball or similar approved



10 Denmark Street, Proposed



Red/brown paint colour - dark



Red/brown - light



Green/grey

10 Denmark Street - Alternative colours considered

We have considered a number of colour options for the repainted façade of 10 Denmark Street - red/brown tones were first mocked up, responding to the original facing brick of the upper façade. We felt that these attempts to mimic the original brick were unsuccessful and detrimental to the elevation. We felt that more neutral grey tones were a better solution, allowing the original detailing to be read and provide a good contrast with the expressed string course, cills and keystones.

We looked at green/greys as well as bluer greys. The final proposal is for a mid blue/grey that picks up on the plum tones in the original brick and the aged sooting of the other townhouses.



Blue/grey



9 Denmark Street
Existing facing brick tones