



## **CRAIG HAMILTON ARCHITECTS**

### **A NEW MAUSOLEUM AT HIGHGATE CEMETERY**

#### **Design and Access Statement**

**June 2019**

**Craig Hamilton Architects Ltd**

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## 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this document is to describe the design approach taken for a new mausoleum to be located within the West Cemetery of Highgate Cemetery in North London.
- 1.2 Craig Hamilton Architects are a specialist firm of architects with extensive experience of the design of monuments and chapels and who also have experience of designing two other mausoleums, including one other mausoleum at Highgate Cemetery, see figure 1.
- 1.3 The Friends of Highgate Cemetery Trust have set aside this previously undeveloped site, in an area that was previously a cutting, for a mausoleum and wish to have constructed a mausoleum which is designed and built to the highest possible standards, using appropriate materials. The Trust have confirmed their full support for the design that is presented in this document. They feel that it will enhance its immediate setting and that the construction of a building of this quality in the early 21st century continues the tradition of well designed and built mausoleums within the cemetery. Many fine examples of historic mausolea exist within the cemetery and these are shown in figures 2, 3 and 4. Several of these are very substantial in size and are certainly much larger than the proposed mausoleum.
- 1.4 This document sets out the design context into which the new mausoleum is to be placed and then describes the detailed design approach that has been taken, including the selection of materials to be used in its construction.

## 2.0 The Design Context

- 2.1 As can be seen from the site plan (see figure 5) the previously undeveloped plot, set aside by the Trust for a new mausoleum, adjoins a curving path which connects the West Cemetery main entrance forecourt and gates to the higher parts of the West Cemetery. Photographs of the site are shown in figures 6-8.
- 2.2 The plot has been carefully selected so that it does not impact on any other existing burials. The area was previously a bank forming a steep-sided cutting. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century it is understood that this cutting was further excavated to create a set-back bank, thereby forming the grassed area which follows the same levels as the adjoining path. The south-west boundary of the plot is the path. The north-east boundary is cut into a sloping bank and the other two plot boundaries are partially within the adjoining sloping banks as well.
- 2.3 Opposite the plot, immediately to the south-east, are a series of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century memorials and gravestones. Some are modest in scale and others more ambitious.
- 2.4 There are no burials within the plot area. Neither are there any records of there ever having been burials on either side of the plot.
- 2.5 The bank to the north-east of the plot has trees and shrubbery creating a high backdrop. On the south-east side of the path, adjoining the plot, in between and behind the burials on that side of the path, is further vegetation and high trees. The plot is therefore well screened from long views.

- 2.6 To the north-west of the plot are a row of 19<sup>th</sup> century small mausoleums cut in to the bank, see figure 9. These, though modest in scale, are refined and sophisticated in their detailing. These present themselves as very simple temple like fronts facing the adjoining path, see figure 10. This is a form which is closely followed in the proposals for the new mausoleum in this application.
- 2.7 The new mausoleum has been orientated such that it is perpendicular to the adjoining path and therefore follows exactly the same pattern and orientation as the mausoleums described in 2.6, which are also set perpendicular to the path and set into the bank.
- 2.8 The Friends of Highgate Cemetery Trust agree that the new mausoleum will have no negative impact on any of the Listed buildings, as this plot falls outside of the curtilage of the Listed buildings and that its presence would in fact enhance the current setting in which it is to be placed. The new building will add drama to this enclosed area of the cemetery in the same way that other existing memorials and mausoleums add drama and focus to other parts of the cemetery.

### 3.0 The Design Approach

#### 3.1 The Plan:

- 3.1.1 The form of the mausoleum is in an open temple set perpendicular to the path and cut into the bank. The structure proposed is not an enclosed mausoleum. The form of the building is instead an open-fronted temple, with two sides and a back, and with double sarcophagi stacked one above each other either side of a central area, which has a seat. This form of memorial/mausoleum is one which has been used traditionally in various forms. There are several examples of enclosed temple-like mausoleums at Highgate and one of these is shown in figure 11. An open-fronted temple mausoleum will be a new form for Highgate Cemetery, but historical examples elsewhere are shown in figures 12 and 13.
- 3.1.2 Two Doric stone columns (based on the Delian Doric Order) support a simplified Delian Doric entablature and pediment. Pilasters in antis, immediately behind each of the two columns, become continuous with the side and back walls.

#### 3.2 The Elevations:

- 3.2.1 The south-west elevation is the primary elevation and is perpendicular to the path. The proportioning of the temple front has been carefully considered with the inter-columniation (distance between the columns) being 5.5 times the diameter of the columns themselves at their bases. This dimension of 5.5diameters is repeated in the overall height of the columns themselves. This proportional relationship is shown in figure 14.

The enclosing 'interior' walls of the temple viewed from the south-east have stylised, stiff fabric drapes which hang down on each of the interior walls as symbolic drapes honouring the dead interred within the enclosure of the open-fronted temple.

- 3.2.2 The south-east and north-west elevations are the side elevations of the temple and are partially ‘buried’ within the sloping bank. This will give the temple the appearance of being embedded in the natural landscaped bank and somewhat like a Romantic ruin. This notion is completely in sympathy with the Romantic nature of the West Cemetery as a whole.
- 3.2.3 The rear façade, or the north-east façade, is really just a pediment with some part of the entablature visible above the upper bank line. Here the detailing which will only be seen through the trees at the upper level, has been very much simplified, with no overhang to the cornice and pediment profiles. The notion of a “buried temple” is best appreciated on this façade.

### 3.3 Materials:

- 3.3.1 The entire mausoleum and the four sarcophagi will be constructed out of natural stone. The form of construction to be employed is massive loadbearing natural stonemasonry, with a central cavity which will control water ingress. The monumental natural stone roof and ceiling to the temple will be supported by hidden waterproof reinforced concrete and tanking membranes. The use of natural stone throughout, with no other visible external material, will give the building its monumentality and noble qualities.
- 3.3.2 The exterior will be constructed out of natural stone laid in hydraulic lime-mortar, with fine mortar joints. This includes the plinth, paving, the two paired sarcophagi and the columns, walls, pediment and ceiling of the temple structure, as well as the seat.

### 3.4 Design References:

- 3.4.1 As mentioned previously, there are no directly related mausolea or memorials within the cemetery which are of the open-fronted temple type that is proposed in this application. However, this is a traditional mausoleum form which has been used in the past in other cemeteries in the United Kingdom and elsewhere. Two examples of this type of mausolea/memorials are illustrated in figures 12 and 15; these are within the Kensal Green Cemetery in London, which is of a comparable date to Highgate Cemetery. Figure 15 illustrates an exotic, abstract version of the “open temple” type with caryatids supporting a stone roof covering a stone sarcophagus. A further example shown in figure 13 of this type of open-fronted temple mausoleum is taken from a cemetery in Rome, showing an early 20<sup>th</sup> century example of this type.
- 3.4.2 The architectural language employed is that of the Greek Classical world with the Delian Order used. This is a form of the Doric Order which was developed on the island of Delos in Antiquity. It is distinguished by its use of fluting only at the top and base of the column shaft.

3.4.3 The interpretation of the Greek Classical detailing, however, is a refined and simplified reinterpretation of the Order and in this respect the design owes much more to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century masters of the Classical language, including Sir Edwin Lutyens in the United Kingdom and John Russell Pope in the United States of America.

#### 4.0 Consideration of Metropolitan Open Land:

As illustrated throughout this Design and Access Statement, considerable care has been given to the design of the mausoleum/memorial as a sensitive enhancement to Highgate Cemetery, with due consideration also having been given to its position within Metropolitan Open Land. The proposed mausoleum will be wholly related to the cemetery function. The sensitivity with which the mausoleum has been designed to sit within the existing historic cemetery building context and the surrounding area demonstrates that care has been taken to preserve the open aspect of the land. It is therefore our belief that the proposal takes account of both the National Planning Policy Framework and the London Plan with regard to Metropolitan Open Land.

#### 5.0 Access

Vehicular and pedestrian access is available right up to the entrance steps up to the mausoleum. There are no Building Regulation requirements for buildings of this nature to have level access.

#### 6.0 Conclusion

It is hoped that the care and considerable thought that has gone into the design of this mausoleum/memorial will be appreciated from the documents and the design drawings provided. The Friends of the Highgate Cemetery Trust are enthusiastic and supportive of the design and feel that it will contribute to the continuity and tradition of the fine quality monuments within the Cemetery. It is very much hoped, therefore, that the planning authority will be able to give their support to this project.

APPENDIX 1: ILLUSTRATIONS AND PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE SITE



Figure 1: Recently completed mausoleum within Highgate Cemetery, designed by Craig Hamilton Architects



Figure 2: The Beer Mausoleum, Highgate Cemetery

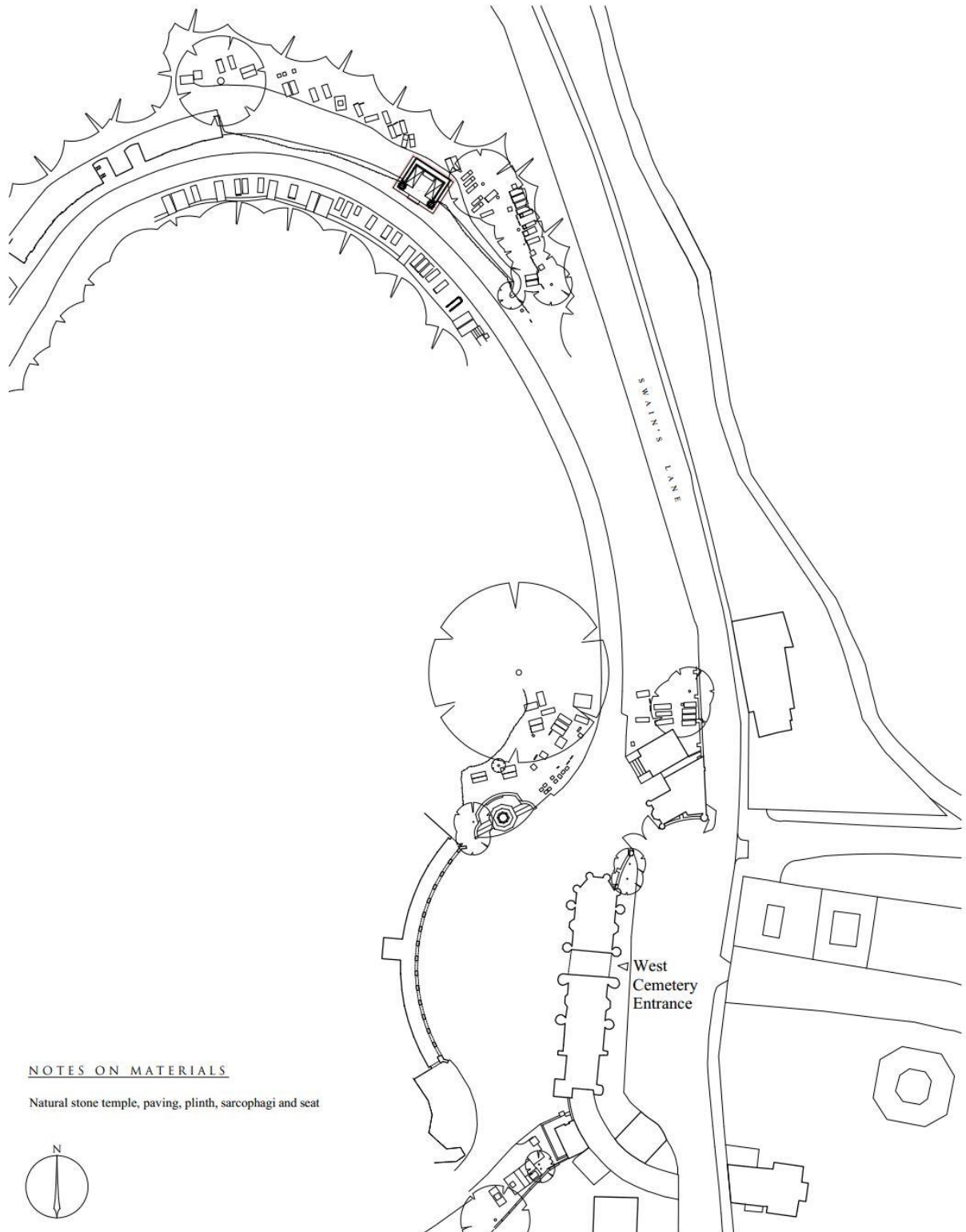




Figure 3: The Cheylesmore Mausoleum, Highgate Cemetery



Figure 4: The Corey-Wright Mausoleum, Highgate Cemetery



NOTES ON MATERIALS

Natural stone temple, paving, plinth, sarcophagi and seat



PLANNING

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PROJECT:	Highgate Mausoleum
DRAWING TITLE:	Location Plan
DRAWING NO:	AD00
DATE:	June 2019
REVISION:	-
SCALE:	1:500 @ A3

REV: | DATE | NOTES

CHECK ALL DIMENSIONS CAREFULLY ON SITE AND REPORT ANY DISCREPANCIES  
DO NOT SCALE FROM THIS DRAWING (EXCEPT PLANNING DRAWINGS)

Figure 5: Location Plan





Figure 6: The site: grass area on the right looking north-west.

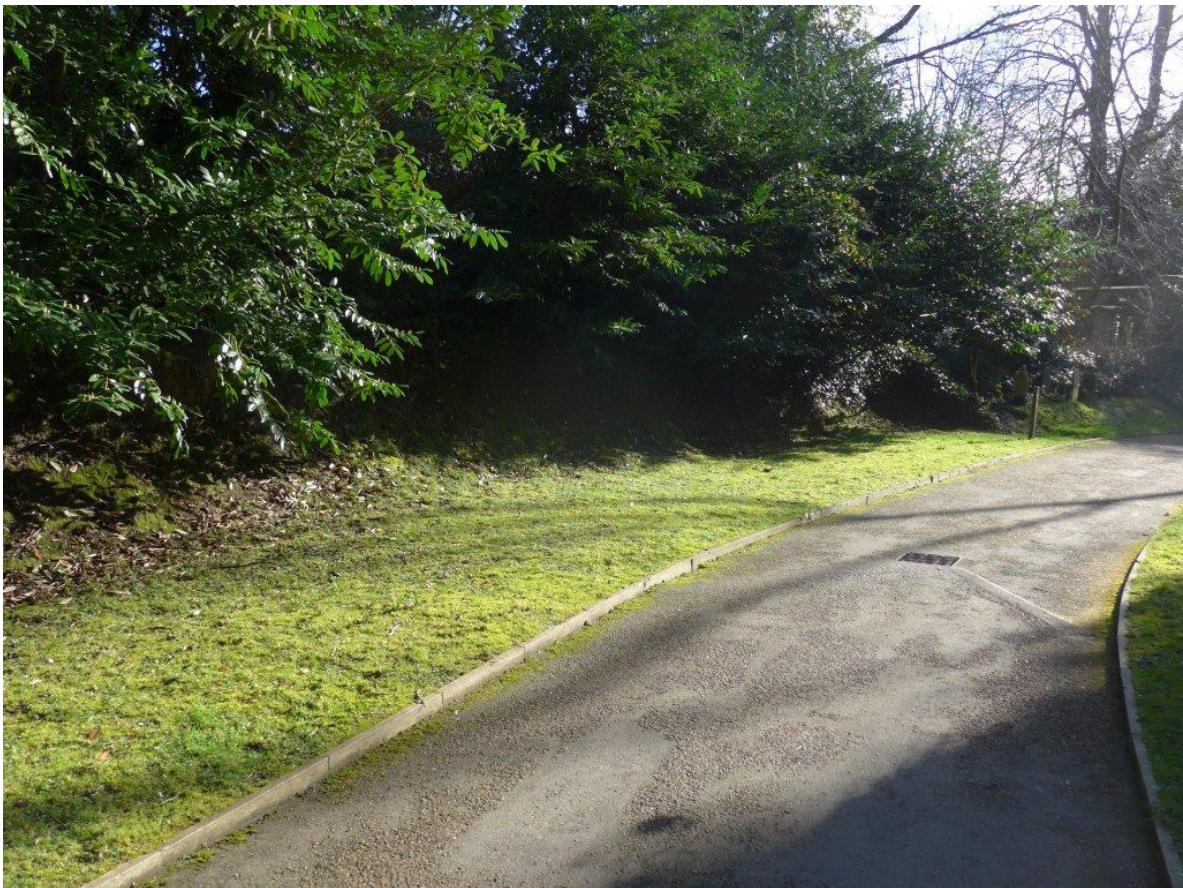


Figure 7: The site, on the left, seen from the north-west.





Figure 8: View from the site looking north-west toward the row of 19<sup>th</sup> C mausolea.



Figure 9: Row of 19<sup>th</sup> C mausolea north-west of the site.





Figure 10: One of the adjoining 19<sup>th</sup> C mausolea: a simple open-fronted temple type.



Figure 11: 19<sup>th</sup> C enclosed temple mausoleum form shown above the colonnade.

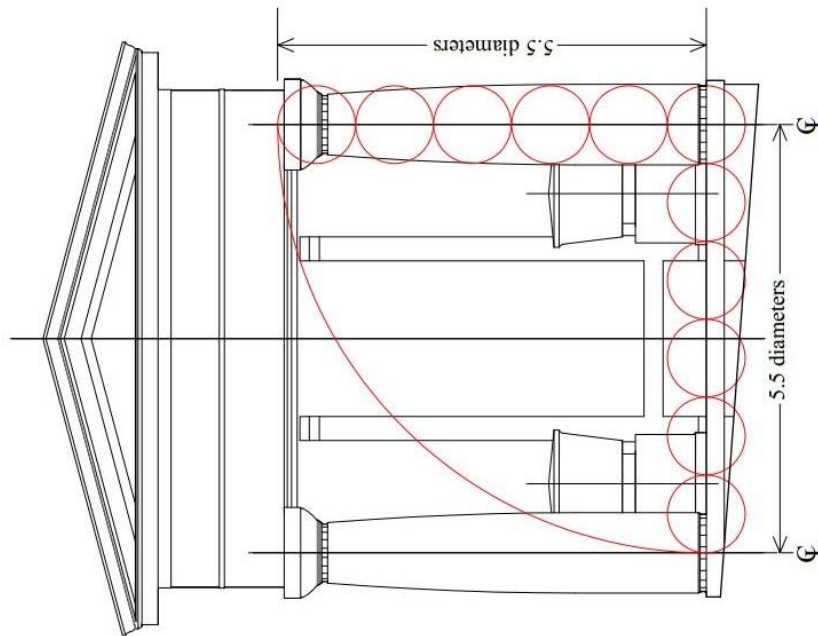




Figure 12: Kensal Green Cemetery: Open-fronted temple type memorial.



Figure 13: Early 20<sup>th</sup> C simplified open-fronted temple type mausoleum in Rome.



NOTES ON MATERIALS

Natural stone temple, paving, plinth, sarcophagi and seat

1:500

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PLANNING

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PROJECT: Highgate Mausoleum  
 DRAWING TITLE: Proportion Diagram  
 DRAWING NO: AD08  
 DATE: June 2019  
 REVISION: -  
 SCALE: 1:500 @ A3

Figure 14: Drawing AD08 Proportion Diagram





Figure 15: Kensal Green Cemetery memorial.