

The Elms – Images of existing



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On behalf of SIAW

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1. IMAGES OF THE EXISTING - Exterior

From the main original gates and the driveway, the first part of the building visible is the South side of the swimming pool building and the landscape around it. This was the addition built, in 1998, sympathetically to the original main building, although a different type of brick bond and mortar. The three gables defining this extension are an accurate replica of the existing gables, defining the dominant character of the building, a Dutch flavour.



The side elevation has a long blank brick wall with an accent entrance on the axis, marked by a Dutch style gable. The pitched roof replicates that on the main building, in matching Welsh slate. Walking along towards the main entrance, the turret and the main building come into focus. In the 1930's old photo a pavilion was seen in this location, pointing at the historic justification for the extension.



The front West elevation presents a very well-preserved original building which is two storeys high with accents of 3 storeys in the centre and the ends. The Dutch gables define the taller parts of the building, creating symmetry around the front entrance, while introducing a dynamic with the verticality and the rhythm, wrapping around the corner. To the right side of the composition, a turret introduces a corner accent, an element of dynamism and takes the viewer to the side of the building. The turret defines the original footprint of the building, with a strong corner creating a landmark. From this point, the building was extended laterally in 1997 with a volume perpendicular to the main building and a ground floor articulation with intricate glazing, forming a loggia corridor link to the new swimming pool extension. The glazing of the articulation and that of the swimming pool was directly inspired from the original windows which are very distinct, influenced by Jacobean style windows with leaded geometric pattern panes.

The vertical bay windows subdivide and break the horizontality while the chimneys extend the verticality, punctuating the ridge articulations. The projecting stucco cornice wraps around the building, defining the horizontality.

The whole composition is slightly asymmetrical, emanating the distinct intention of George Devey (1820-86) of conveying a dialogue between the Picturesque and the Medieval feel, keeping the scale domestic while creating grandeur, carefully related to the natural settings, a distinct contribution defining the English Architecture of the 19th Century.

It is delightful to see this building so well preserved and all the additions beautifully amalgamated. Our proposal is based on this concept of preserving the feel of authenticity while expanding further by introducing new elements of carefully integrated, technologically advanced, bespoke new components, in keeping with the organic growth of a medieval composition, responding to the natural surroundings, connecting the inside to the outside.

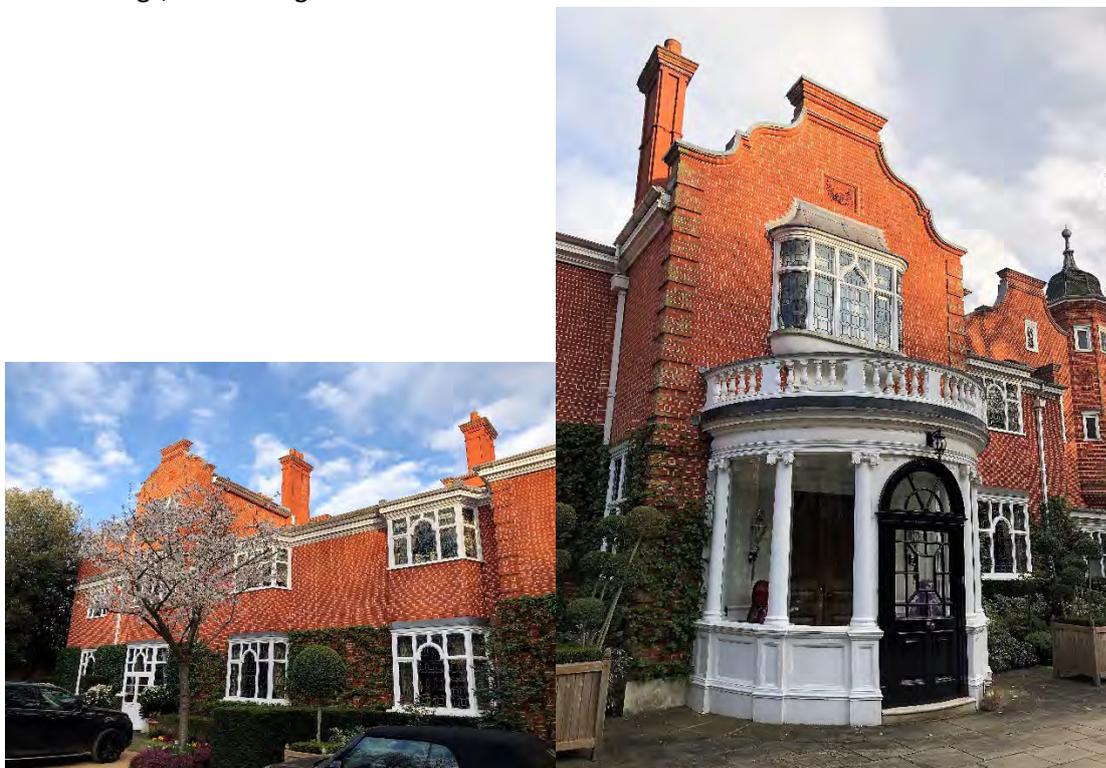


Figure 1 - Main Entrance, front elevation



The Picturesque juxtaposition of styles, create a sense of historic continuity.

The front entrance is marked by the intricately Dutch gable, in red brick with curved stone coping profile. The main entrance seems to be have been added as a lodgia but is part of the original composition. It is a cylindrical drum in white stucco with new classic colonnade elements with a crown parapet , creating a feel of important entrance but keeping the scale of a country house. The symetry of the central bay continues vertically with a projecting bay window with curved sided. These are the only circular elements in the whole composition of the front elevation, taken to the corner where the octagonal turret creates the transition with the side elevation, as well as a landmark element, like an observation tower enjoying the far reaching views from the top of the hill.



The turret articulates the front elevation with the side elevation. The loggia connects the house at ground level with the swimming pool. The staircase behind the turret connects the first floor master bedroom directly to the swimming pool area. Our proposal is to improve that connection.



The extension cornice replicates the original on the first floor. The “colonnade” provides a visual stylistic continuation with the pilasters as seen on the front entrance “drum”. The single clear glazing is set in timber frames similar to the original frames of the windows on the ground floor but without leaded panels, defining the distinction between old and new.





The South extension built in 1998, housing the swimming pool house and the gym. The end of the terrace has a fountain trough which will define the end of the proposed infinity pool.



The garden end gable of the swimming pool with a side bay connecting the swimming pool building to the higher terraces of the house. The window frames emulate the original window frames style and subdivisions but with contemporary single glazing and timber beading.

The landscape connecting the swimming pool area to the terraces leading to the main garden.



On the rear Eastern elevation the house has three dominant gables of double height bay windows and a long loggia, all connected through the terrace with landscaped bays defined by pleached trees and tiers of topiary hedges, stepping down to the garden, leading towards the woodland beyond.





The middle double bay relates to the feel of the original first house, with a large Jacobean style window. The room behind this window is a double height reception room with a viewing gallery on the West side. The window has panels of leaded glass in geometric pattern, which is repeated throughout the house in various but similar designs.





The last bay on the rear elevation defines the Northern end of the house, where the extension built in 1998 it houses the family kitchen, at ground level.



The open loggia with the lattice ogee Arabic arches creates a transition between the inside outside space, providing shelter with an interrupted view of the garden. Each terrace bay is designed as an external room, with topiary, spayed trees, perennials and water features.



The visual connection inside – outside dominates the rear elevation





2. IMAGES OF THE EXISTING – Interior

SWIMMING POOL



The existing swimming pool facing the main garden, South-East, towards the landscaped terraces, leading to the valley with a pond and the woodland beyond.



The ceiling is to be replaced by a double curved glazed roof and the doors will be modified to become an automated, retractable door, separating the internal from the external pool through a "lock" basin.



The side bay window visually connecting to the terrace at the rear of the house. This is the location for the new staircase leading to the proposed roof terrace.

GYM / STUDIO



On the main elevation South corner, the gym with a double height room will be replaced by a family – games room. The existing window will be preserved but the new roof will have a double curved profile in section, with a flat top section, to match the rest of the roof above the swimming pool.

KITCHEN



The existing kitchen with the South-East window to be connected to the new kitchen extension.

The window will be modified by adapting the frames of the central 3 bays into an opening, to link to the new kitchen extension via a glazed bridge.

