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St. Andrew's Church

Client | St Andrew Holborn Church Foundation

Location | Holborn, London

Architect | Dae Wha Kang Design

Package Value | £1.6m

Duration | 31 weeks

Untouched by both the Reformation and the 1666 Great Fire, by the late 17th century the Church was nonetheless deemed in need of renovation. This task fell to Sir Christopher Wren who rebuilt the Church on roughly the same ground as its medieval predecessor and was finished in 1687.

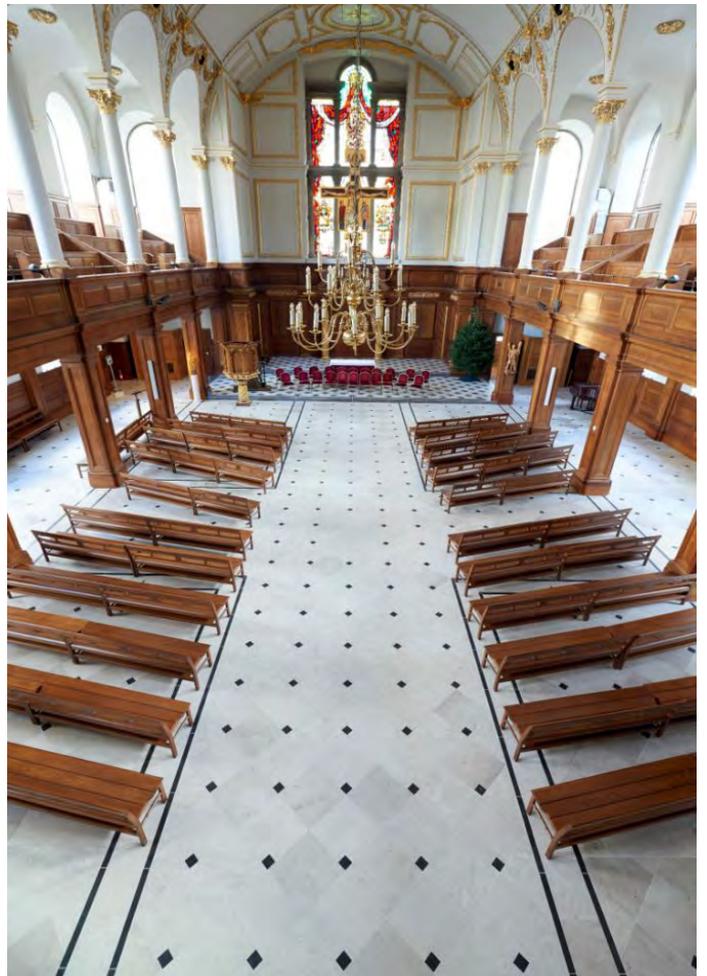
Like many of London's churches, St Andrew Holborn was reduced to ruins during World War II and the job of rebuilding it fell to the distinguished ecclesiastical architects Seely and Paget. Their work was completed in 1961 and the church was reconsecrated as non-parochial Guild Church.



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Today, Rt Revd Jonathan Baker, Bishop of Fulham's vision was to create a space that has heightened spiritual quality while still providing flexibility for the varied events that take place within the church.

The project encompassed most of the interior spaces and included; a new baptistery chapel; opening out of the tower; new stone flooring to the main nave including wood paneling treatments and internal decorations; a new throne supporting the tabernacle; the creation of the Lady Chapel to the NE corner of the church and interior alterations to the toilets and vestibules.



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Tower Design

The main work developed an asymmetrical ramp and steps that replaced the existing, temporary structure opening up the west entrance.

The scheme introduced an equal access ramp that runs up the outside edge of the tower with the stairs following its curve, providing level access to the Baptistry and creating an open space with a minimum of steps and disruption.

We used Hopton Wood and Stanhope Famp for the patterning of the stone floor.



Baptistry

The baptistry opens directly off the west tower entrance and is the most accessible place of prayer in the church. The space was converted into a baptistry chapel with the Foundling Hospital font being the main focal point.

The font will be lit up from within and a new raising cover will be introduced. Water from a spring, discovered at the west end of the crypt, will be brought up from below the church and used for ceremonies.

The walls were finished in lime plaster.



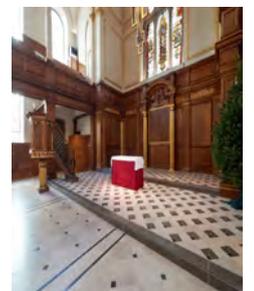
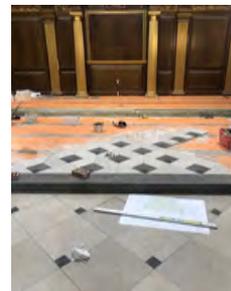
Main Nave & Sanctuary

The scheme for the nave and sanctuary followed the historical accounts of Wren's building describing a church painted in a palette of whites and stone colours.

Throughout the nave the new stone floor mirrors the baptistry using Hopton and Famp, but laid with a different design, drawing the eye to the east end of the church and reinstating a sense of order and direction.

Interior decorations, oak wainscoting to the panels and gilding were also undertaken. An extensive M&E package included the creation of a new lighting system and air quality monitoring was installed.

For the sanctuary, a new throne supporting a tabernacle for the blessed sacrament and a monstrance provides focus for the altar space. The stone flooring was laid with Hopton and Famp, with the introduction of Anglesey Grey to the design.



Lady Chapel

The figure of the Virgin Mary was relocated to a small side chapel in the north aisle of the church. Intricately carved screens provide privacy to facilitate quiet prayer while maintaining openness to the main church.

The new reredos was created in perforated bronze to frame the statue with metal facets reflecting sparkling candlelight and daylight coming in from the window. Wren was known for astronomy and the nine concentric rings in the screen relate to nine planets and nine circles of heaven.

