



FEILDEN FOWLES

PRESS ENQUIRIES

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PRESS RELEASE

THE NEW DINING HALL, HOMERTON COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

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Feilden Fowles' design for a new dining hall for Homerton College, University of Cambridge, has been awarded planning permission. The development will create a new dining hall, buttry area, kitchens and associated staff facilities for the university's largest and youngest college, which celebrated its 250th anniversary in 2018, receiving its Royal Charter to become a full college in 2010.

Homerton College is located to the south of the historic centre of Cambridge. It occupies significant and mature grounds which encompass a large lawn area, an orchard, and sports pitches. The dining hall development is located on the northern edge of the site, at the western end of a run of existing buildings, sitting adjacent to the Grade II-listed Ibberson Building, constructed in 1914 in the Arts and Crafts style. The new hall responds to the challenge of relating to its four, very different fringes: the College grounds, the Ibberson Building, the street, and teaching facilities to the west. It has therefore been conceived as a building in the round. The basic organisational diagram brings guests together into the buttry at the heart of the building. This is an informal gathering space that forms an anteroom to the 'main event' – the Dining Hall. The positioning and orientation of the new building also allow the hall to be opened up to expansive views over the grounds, in contrast to many traditional collegiate dining halls, which are often very enclosed at ground level.

Feilden Fowles was appointed by Homerton College in 2017 following a design competition. From this early concept stage onwards, the project has sought to balance and harmonise the practical and functional demands of the College's brief for new catering and dining facilities, with social and experiential qualities. The new building creates uplifting and celebratory spaces that will play a key role in the ceremonial events of traditional college life. Equally, the design celebrates the spaces in-between - window seats, niches and courtyard gardens – aiming to create a building that is also comfortable, sociable and familiar to students for whom Homerton is home during their studies.

The new hall builds on conversations between the various architectural styles already present on the site: Victorian, Gothic and Arts and Crafts. Externally, buttress-like fins soar upwards to express a Gothic sense of verticality, tapering to reveal a crown of clerestory glazing. This dramatic façade is formed from a characterful, hand-glazed faience which produces a shifting appearance throughout the day and over the change of seasons. Referencing traditional collegiate halls, the defining feature of the timber-lined interior will be an expressed timber frame butterfly truss, supporting a valley-shaped roof.

A rhythm of pigmented concrete columns defines a plinth to the hall, gaining depth at times to form seating niches and creating a colonnade on the east elevation, which embraces views back towards the College. The columns continue into the interior to define the double-height buttry space and adjacent servery, framing an entrance and reception to the north



on Harrison Drive. The kitchens and staff facilities located at the north of the building draw more directly from the rich brick and tile detailing of the neighbouring Ibberson Building. The generous arrangement of kitchen and staff facilities ensures natural light and views to the landscape are maintained, even from preparation and wash-up areas, prioritising the wellbeing of the catering team.

The building will harness the earth’s energy through the use of an extensive ground source heat pump array, providing heating and cooling to the interiors. Building services engineers Max Fordham have created a bespoke framework of sustainability targets for the project. This includes targets for the building’s fabric and energy and water usage, and also looks beyond this to include the sourcing of food, waste management and positive behavioural impacts.

Professor Geoff Ward, Principal of Homerton College, said:

“I am delighted that we are working with Feilden Fowles on a new dining hall. This is the most important building project undertaken in Homerton’s grounds for 150 years, and will last for at least the next 150.”

Edmund Fowles, Director, Feilden Fowles, said:

“Feilden Fowles is delighted to have won planning permission for this important new addition to Homerton College. The new dining hall celebrates the integrity and inherent beauty of materials and the craftsmanship of construction, alluding to the social and design principles of the Arts and Crafts movement, as reflected in the handsome Ibberson Building. We are very excited to be progressing what we hope will be a transformative building for Homerton College, an Arts and Crafts building for the 21st century.”

NOTES TO EDITORS

Name of project	The New Dining Hall
Address	Homerton College, Hills Road, Cambridge CB2 8PH
Site area	3000m ² (approx.)
Proposed GIA	1750m ²
Client	Homerton College
Architect	Feilden Fowles
Project Architect	Eleanor Hedley
Building Contractor	TBC
Structural Engineer	Peter Laidler, Structure Workshop
Quantity Surveyor	Tim Harwood, Bremner Partnership
Services Engineer	Carl Brookes, Max Fordham
Project Manager	Nick Bryant, Ingleton Wood Martindales
Acoustic Engineer	Josh Rodell, Max Fordham
Sustainability Engineer	Hero Bennett, Max Fordham
Civil Engineer	John Bowstead, Peter Dann
Landscape Architect	Jack Marshall, SEED
Visualisations	Feilden Fowles
Model photos	Feilden Fowles

**Feilden Fowles**

Feilden Fowles is an award-winning London-based architecture practice, founded in 2009 by Fergus Feilden and Edmund Fowles. The practice specialises in delivering socially and environmentally sustainable buildings across a variety of sectors, and aims to make architecture that is rich in character and distinct in identity. The projects often interpret historic, cultural or vernacular references to generate clear concepts with a legible diagram. Structural integrity and tectonic expression drive the detailed design process to deliver buildings that are at once robust and well-built. Current commissions include the Fraternity Project at Carlisle Cathedral; the ongoing strategic masterplan for Ralph Allen School, Bath; and student accommodation at Green Templeton College, University of Oxford. Built works to date include arts and cultural buildings, educational projects, heritage, workplace and residential. Examples include The Weston visitor centre and gallery at Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Wakefield; Charlie Bigham's Food Production Campus, Somerset; The Lee Centre, a £1.75 million Applied Learning Centre at Ralph Allen School in Bath; the Fitzjames Centre, Hazlegrove School; and Waterloo City Farm, where the practice's new, award-winning studio is located.

The work of the practice has been recognised with a number of awards, most recently, a 2019 RIBA National Award, RIBA Yorkshire Client of the Year and RIBA Yorkshire Building of the Year for The Weston, Yorkshire Sculpture Park; 2018 RIBA South West Building of the Year for Charlie Bigham's Food Production Campus; 2018 RIBA London Award and a Commendation in the New London Awards Mayor's Prize 2018 for Waterloo City Farm; 2017 RIBA London Awards and 2017 Wood Awards for Feilden Fowles' Studio; 2014 RIBA National Awards and 2015 Civic Trust Awards for The Lee Centre, Ralph Allen School. The practice received the inaugural Young Architect Award in the American Institute of Architects (AIA) UK Excellence in Design Awards in 2015 and BD's Young Architect of the Year Award 2016.

www.feildenfowles.com



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