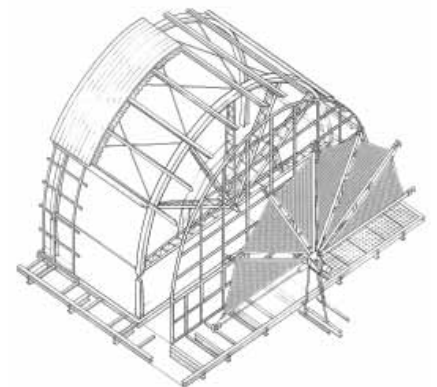


Thames Wharf Studios



Place/Date
London, England 1984 - 1989

Client
Marco Goldschmied, Richard Rogers, John Young

Architect
Richard Rogers Partnership
Structural Engineer
Anthony Hunt Associates/Ove Arup and Partners
Services Engineer
Rosser and Russell/Ove Arup and Partners
Quantity Surveyor
GA Hanscomb Partnership
Roof Extension
with Lifschutz Davidson Ltd
Landscape Architect
Georgie Wolton

Planning Consultant
Montagu Evans
Main Contractor
Woolf Construction Ltd/Tarmac Cubitts

The relocation of the RRP offices at Thames Wharf, Hammersmith, in west London, was significant in several ways – as a gesture towards the regeneration of London's riverside and as evidence of the practice's commitment to the re-use of worthwhile old buildings. The site was a redundant industrial complex, containing some good early 20th-century warehouses but cluttered with oil tanks and other temporary structures and completely inaccessible to the public.

The strategy was to divide the site between a new-build residential scheme and a development of offices, studios and light-industrial space housed in the existing warehouses, one block of which was earmarked as office space for the practice. The garden courtyard forms the centrepiece of the scheme – an attractive public space linked to a riverside walkway. The River Café, run by Rogers' wife Ruth and her partner Rose Gray, enjoys views across the garden to the river beyond.

The building occupied by the practice dates from the 1950s – it has been extended upwards with a spectacular lightweight rooftop structure designed by the practice in association with architects Lifschutz Davidson. A double-height entrance lobby is the other key intervention, creating an informal gallery for key architectural models. A recent addition has been a new mezzanine kitchen above the reception area – providing home-made lunches for the RRP staff and popular as an informal meeting place throughout the day.

The conversion of the warehouses is unfussy and economical, with existing features retained wherever possible and new elements designed to a frankly industrial aesthetic and painted in primary colours.



Awards

RIBA Regional Award
1994

Civic Trust Award - Commendation
1989

Structural Steel Design Award, Certificate of Merit
1984