

# Press Release

**For Immediate Release:**

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## **Public space at the heart of St Martin-in-the-Fields re-opens**

The public route at the heart of Eric Parry Architects' £36 million Renewal of St Martin-in-the-Fields will officially re-open on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October. Church Path, which links Charing Cross Station and Adelaide Street to St Martin's Place, has been substantially widened as part of the scheme and provides access to two striking architectural additions.

A glass pavilion, visible from Trafalgar Square, provides a fully accessible entrance to the new spaces which have been created below. These house many activities vital to the life of St Martin's including The Bishop Ho Ming Wah Chinese Community Centre, a new purpose-built music rehearsal room, the Dick Sheppard Chapel, and community meeting rooms and exhibition spaces as well as the award-winning Café and Shop in the Crypt.

A light-well brings daylight and ventilation to the new spaces below ground, and from its base gives a magnificent view of the restored church spire. Engraved around the light-well is a specially commissioned poem from the Poet Laureate, Andrew Motion.

Eric Parry of Eric Parry Architects said:

"The widening of Church Path and the placing of an entrance pavilion and a lightwell transforms the public realm between the church and the north range reflecting the openness and accessibility that characterise the extraordinary work that the community of St Martin-in-the-Fields offers London."

The official opening ceremony was conducted by the Lord Mayor of Westminster, Louise Hyams, who said:

"I am thrilled that the renovation of St Martin's is now complete and that this beautiful church has been restored to its former glory in its prominent location adjacent to Trafalgar Square. It is also excellent that a delightful open space for all to enjoy has been created next to the Church with a magnificent glass entrance lobby that leads down in to the wonderful new facilities underneath".

**-Ends-**

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**Notes to Editors:**

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Eric Parry Architects is an established and award-winning practice with a growing portfolio of notable work.

Current projects include Aldermanbury Square in the City of London and the most significant renewal project currently being undertaken in London, the restoration and redevelopment of the historic St Martin-in-the-Fields Church in Trafalgar Square. The practice has recently been appointed to design a new recital hall for Wells Cathedral School, Somerset – the UK's leading specialist music school.

The practice undertakes a broad range of work, varied in scope and scale. It has won numerous awards, including an RIBA Award for Bedford Music School in 2007, an RIBA Award and an AIA Design Excellence Award in 2003 for the design of the office building at 30 Finsbury Square, London, which was also short-listed for the prestigious Stirling Prize in the same year. The Spa at the Mandarin Oriental, Hyde Park was awarded Best Leisure Design at the FX International Interior Design Awards in 2001 and Foundress Court at Pembroke College, Cambridge University, won an RIBA Award in 1998.

The practice is based in Finsbury, London, and employs over 50 staff. EPA also has an office in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, where the practice has designed a number of residential schemes.

Eric Parry has a key involvement in all projects, particularly in their design development stages. He is keenly interested in the bridges between theory, practice, space and society.

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