

Press Release

For Immediate Release:

ERIC PARRY DISCUSSES HIS VISION FOR ST MARTIN'S

"Making a Difference: a new perspective"

Wednesday 2 July 2008, 6.30pm, St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, WC1

As part of the London Festival of Architecture programme, Eric Parry will share his vision for the restoration of this iconic London landmark, now nearing completion.

The architectural brief called for a master plan that would unify the whole site, resolve spatial difficulties and create a series of uplifting spaces flexible enough to accommodate a range of activities now and in the future. Parry's design breathes new life into St Martin's, bringing a sense of openness and accessibility that enhances and emphasises its architectural qualities, practically, spiritually and socially.

The renewal has connected all of the different elements of the site, creating and framing a space to nurture and sustain the community. The spaces below ground, including a new rehearsal space, a large parish hall, office and administration facilities, a new shop and an enlarged café, now dramatically improve visitor and community facilities. In addition, the conservation works to the church, designed by James Gibbs, have removed later Victorian additions and returned the interior to its 18th-century glory.

A new entrance pavilion, providing access to a new foyer and the crypt below, is located at the western end of a widened Church Path linking St Martin's Place and Adelaide Street. Constructed of a crafted glass wall, it responds sensitively to its immediate architectural context. A lightwell sited at the eastern end of the same pedestrian walkway will bring daylight deep into the new below-ground spaces. Additionally, the scheme rationalizes and extends the Grade II* listed Nash terrace to the north of the church, housing The Connection at St Martin's, the charity supporting London's homeless, while the re-configured churchyard has created a tranquil area for contemplation and reflection right in the heart of London.

Making a Difference: a new perspective is open to the public and tickets are free, although those attending will be encouraged to make a donation to the Renewal fund. Tickets are available from the St Martin-in-the-Fields box office on 020 7766 1100 and more information on the event can be found at the London Festival of Architecture's website www.lfa2008.org.

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Notes to Editors:

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.

<http://www.ericparryarchitects.co.uk/>

London Festival of Architecture

London Festival of Architecture 2008 will be one of the world's major celebrations of architecture and the built environment. London's landscape will be transformed during the spectacular month-long festival, which will include over 500 events for visitors as well as architecture professionals. Organised in association with Design for London, events including exhibitions, architect-designed pavilions, film-screenings will take place at national cultural institutions like the British Museum and the Victoria and Albert Museum, high profile outdoor public spaces, and places of architectural interest across the capital.
