



## Camden Building Control

Experts in entertainment venues



### The Roundhouse Theatre, Chalk Farm Road, NW1

#### Summary of the work

The Roundhouse underwent an extensive refurbishment to bring it back into use as a performance space, studios and creative centre.

This Grade II\* listed building was built in 1846 as a steam engine repair shed however its use didn't last long and was soon used as a warehouse. In 1964 it became home to Centre 42, providing a cutting edge performance arts venue that provided the stage to some now legendary performers.



The Centre closed in 1983 and laid empty until the building was bought in 1996 and the Roundhouse Trust set up with the aim to revitalise the building and bring it back to life. The Roundhouse now boasts an amazing performance space with adjustable seating, lighting and sound to accommodate numerous sized productions. The original drum shaped building was retained with the addition of a new wing to accommodate the box office, foyer, café and offices.

Careful restoration of the building was required although some major improvements were undertaken specifically to the roof to improve its structural stability, sound insulation and thermal efficiency.

To do this a new floating roof was added to the top of the existing structure bearing down onto the brick drum. This roof is filled with acoustic panelling and covered in slate to create an acoustic and structural roof. This new structure also supports the numerous gantries, lifts, access nets and curtains required to make the performance space work.

The original roof lights have been reinstated allowing daylight to flood into the performance space. These, along with the central lantern, can be easily blacked out when required altering the atmosphere in the central performance space.

The vaulted undercroft has also been transformed into an educational and 'hang out' space. At its heart is the hub, a circular performance area that is surrounded by radial arches and corridors leading to numerous recording and studio facilities for use by young people and artists.

This spectacular refurbishment demonstrates how listed buildings can be significantly improved in line with building regulations without affecting their historical significance.



## The architect's perspective



John McAslan, Chair of John McAslan and Partners, said: "Built in 1846 as a steam engine repair shed, this remarkable building later became a warehouse for Gilbey's Gin. From the 1960s, it was used as an alternative arts venue, hosting performances by Pink Floyd, Jimi Hendrix, and Peter Brook's avant-garde theatrical group.

"The practice's multiple award-winning transformation of the Grade II\* listed structure required a fusion of architectural skill, historical respect and the visionary determination of private and public funders. The practice led a multi-disciplinary team which repaired the existing main fabric, re-programmed sections of the building, modernised the auditorium, increased audience capacity and extended the building's functional range."



## About Camden Building Control



The Camden Building Control team are highly experienced, covering all forms of buildings due to the diversity of property in Camden. The team have the expertise to help overcome any challenges from residential to commercial to iconic Grade 1 listed heritage sites. As members of the Local Authority Building Control (LABC) the team can carry out all your Building Control work, anywhere in the country under the LABC Partner Authority Scheme. Contact us for more details of the Partner Authority Scheme.

We can also carry out: access audits, fire risk assessments, SAP/EPC calculations, acoustic testing, air pressure testing and many more discretionary services.

## Contact us

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