

Other News



Grove House, Oxford Literary house gets a 'green' make-over

Sir George Forrest, Graham Greene and the family of Cardinal Newman, were all previous owners of an early 19th C house which has been made more environmentally sustainable by BGS.

The brief called for the renovation of two linked properties (one timber frame, the other solid brickwork) to become as environmentally sustainable as possible. The house has been insulated as far as listed status would allow, and has a biomass boiler, a rainwater harvesting system and a 'whole house' heat recovery system.



Keble College, Oxford Butterfield's interiors are being brought back to life

A second phase of refurbishment work at Keble College is due to start on site in October, after the successful completion of phase one. As retained college architects, BGS is undertaking a range of works to William Butterfield's Grade 1 listed buildings. Phase two will create contemporary en-suite bathrooms and restore much of the interior fabric of the buildings to their original state. Designs for furniture and light fittings are being developed.



Stockmore Street, Oxford

A new, mixed-use development consisting of nine apartments and commercial office space, located just off the Cowley Road was completed this spring.

The design successfully responds to the landlocked nature of the site, and unlocked it's development potential whilst respecting the tight planning constraints.



University of Georgia, North Oxford Conservation Area Student house returned to former glory

The University of Georgia have long enjoyed a fruitful relationship with the University of Oxford. Students from the USA live in this new £1.3 million residential development while studying within Oxford's collegiate system.

104 Banbury Road is an unusually large north Oxford house (1100m²) which had been converted into a warren of bedsits and flats. BGS were commissioned to return the house to its former glory, providing space for up to 40 students. The building was handed over in September 2007 ahead of programme and below budget.

The total time between purchase and occupation was just over 12 months. The client's representatives from Georgia only visited the building once during the construction phase — but the site meeting lasted all week.

New Staff

Contributing to the successful growth of the business, BGS has recently employed David Bonta, Mojdeh Moasser, Matthias Veldboer, Beatriz Leon, and Sonja Schellenberg in the Oxford office and Alicja Tarkowska, Elisa Fabbri and Peggy See in our London Office.

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Berman Guedes Stretton

Newsletter • Summer • 2008



We are pleased to announce our success in winning a national RIBA open design competition, as well as two national awards.

We hope you find this Summer newsletter of interest and share our pleasure at having the quality of our work recognised nationally. As always we would be pleased to assist in developing ideas for any opportunities you may have. E-mail bruce.cockburn@bgsarchitects.co.uk

Cheltenham Art Gallery

BGS has been appointed to design a major extension to Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum, after winning the RIBA competition from a field of 77 national and international practices.

The proposed extension links a Georgian terrace building to the flamboyant 19th century original gallery. A key idea was the appreciation of the gallery as a public space with a route through the building at ground floor level to Cheltenham's oldest building — the medieval St Mary's Church. It also provides an informal exhibition space, a shop and a cafe, which will spill out onto the street. This approach to the ground floor brings the city into play and makes the gallery accessible and open.

The jury panel said:

"The scheme possessed clarity of vision and an uncomplicated consistency that gave the design a simple elegance and logic."

Work will start on site in summer 2009.

Recent Competition Wins

Grand Design wins RIBA Ibstock Downland Prize 2007

BGS was selected as one of the five winners of the prestigious RIBA Ibstock Downland Prize 2007. The prize was awarded for BGS's sympathetic renovation and partial rebuilding of Beard Mill, a Grade II listed water mill in Stanton Harcourt, Oxfordshire. The mill, a beautiful stone barn and millrace in a picturesque setting, now houses additional family space, guest accommodation and a state of the art ultrasound clinic. Beard Mill was recently selected as one of six finalists out of sixty entries in the Grand Designs Awards restoration category.



The Mailing Shed wins RIBA South Conservation Award 2008

BGS has won another coveted RIBA award for the conversion of an early 20th century industrial building to form new, high quality office space. At over 1000 square metres the building is part of Oxford University Press' (OUP) main Grade II listed buildings on Walton Street. Originally used as a printing works and storage space, the requirement was to create a modern, open plan office space together with meeting rooms for 110 staff. The new offices have been designed as one large, open space to maximise the visual impact of the existing structure and create a light and airy working environment. OUP were keen to adopt an ecologically sound approach, thus high levels of insulation and an energy efficient heating and ventilation system have been installed.



Recent Commissions

Queen Mary College, London
BGS wins another framework agreement

BGS has won a framework agreement with the Queen Mary College in London. This is in addition to framework agreements that BGS has with the University of Birmingham, Imperial College London, the Natural History Museum, the University of Warwick and the Paradigm Housing Group.

Project News

Natural History Museum, London
Framework with the Natural History Museum continues to evolve

BGS has been appointed to look at two projects within the new Darwin Centre 2 project, now under construction.

The first is a redesign of some external courtyard and science-side approaches to the building and the second is the fit-out for a new home for their treasured Sir Joseph Banks and Sir Hans Sloane entomological and botanical collections.



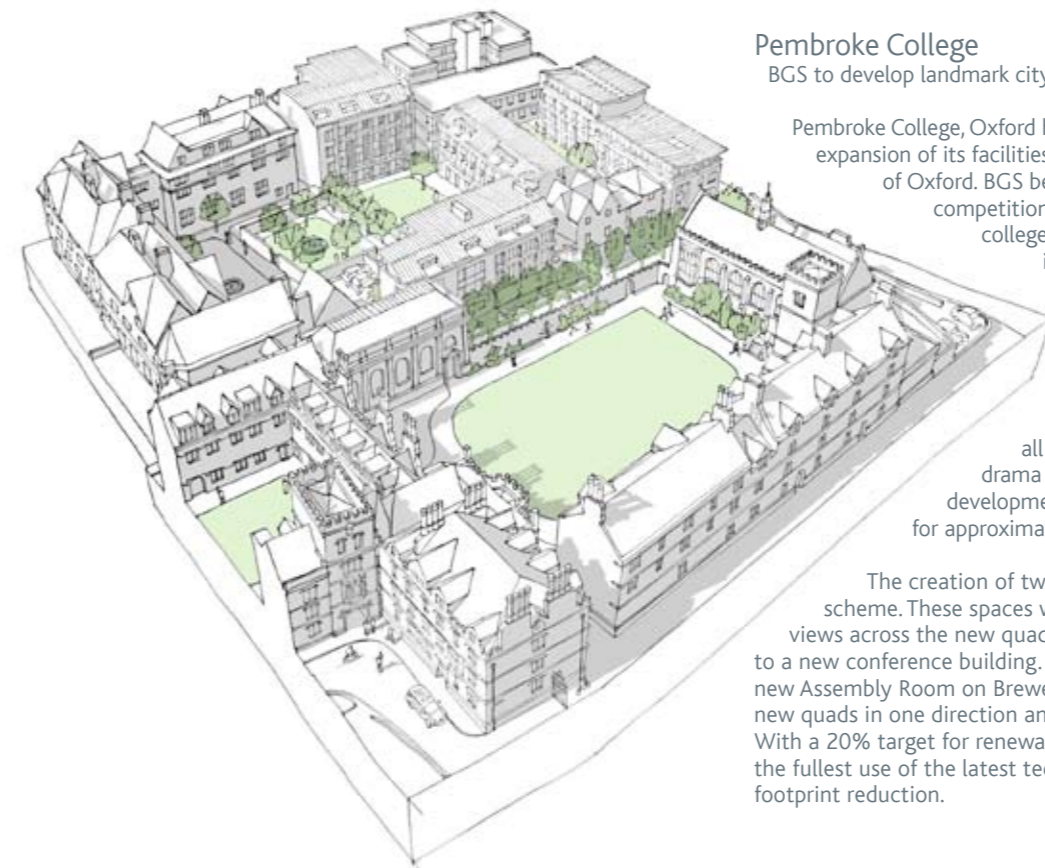
The Queen's College, Oxford
New kitchen and dining room facilities will expose Hawksmore window

Listed building consent has been granted for the new kitchen and Fellows dining facilities at The Queen's College in Oxford.

This complex project involves the creation of a new facility at the heart of the College. Extensive excavation and underpinning work, a new basement and a new dining room, will expose an arched window by Hawksmoor, currently obscured inside a kitchen store. Tenders have been received within the project budget and work will start in August 2008.



Fellows Dining Room, Queens College



Pembroke College
BGS to develop landmark city centre site

Pembroke College, Oxford has appointed BGS to design a major expansion of its facilities in and around its main site in the heart of Oxford. BGS beat nationally renowned architects in a competition. The scheme will be one of the largest college developments in the city. The project involves a number of new buildings on land immediately adjacent to the College together with the refurbishment of an existing listed building. These buildings will be developed to provide a large multi-purpose auditorium and fully equipped seminar and teaching rooms – all with flexibility of use for lectures, music, drama and conference facilities. In addition the development will provide residential accommodation for approximately 100 students and academics.

The creation of two new landscaped quads is central to the scheme. These spaces will give legibility to the site by opening up views across the new quads from Sir Edwyn Lutyan's Campion Hall to a new conference building. Coherency will be further enhanced by a new Assembly Room on Brewer Street, which will give views across the new quads in one direction and the existing Chapel Quad in the other. With a 20% target for renewable energy, the new facilities will make the fullest use of the latest techniques in energy efficiency and carbon footprint reduction.



Eynsham Hall, West Oxfordshire
BGS help the Cathedral Group to re-invent Eynsham Hall

Planning permission has been obtained for an extension to Grade II listed Eynsham Hall in Oxfordshire, to provide a new wedding and conference venue following a master planning exercise in 2006. The Hall is owned by the Cathedral Group Plc., and the project will include a new 80 bedroom wing. This will realise the client's vision to re-invent the Hall as a high quality venue and create a stimulating and contemporary hotel.



Imperial College, London
Cutting-edge structural design used to create more floor space

BGS has recently completed the refurbishment of three floors of Imperial College London's 1960s Sheffield Building – a project which forms part of the ongoing framework contract that BGS has with the University. The brief was to create flexible office accommodation and maximize space. BGS has responded with a design solution that employs innovative structural principles with a low environmental impact.

Dr Chris Towler, Director of Project Management at Imperial College said:

"Berman Guedes Stretton has made excellent use of what was originally unusable space. We can now bring together some thirteen support service departments, originally spread about and poorly linked. Now they are all together in one administration building. The BGS team's ability to take complex briefings from lots of different groups with differing requirements was also admirable."