



A PLACE OF WONDER AND ENCHANTMENT

Restoration has reinstated St. Martin in the Bull Ring as a focus of Birmingham civic life.

This 800 year old Grade II* listed church, re built in the 1870s, was, until completion in 2003, blackened by atmospheric pollution, damaged by war and attacked by dry rot. Falling masonry made the building unsafe and sadly the richness and original beauty of its intricate features were lost after years of neglect.

APEC Architects were responsible for the restoration of St Martin in the Bull Ring and the reinstatement of the building in its rightful position as the ancient parish Church of Birmingham, reconnected once more with it's mother city. The existing prestigious site came

back into visual focus after the partial closure of the notorious ring road, the re-establishment of the original historic road pattern and not to mention the development of the new Bull Ring Shopping centre with the much acclaimed neighboring Selfridges building. APEC sensitively approached the task in three phases:

Phase One Reordering of the church interior.

APEC felt that emphasis in the brief should be on the celebration of the richness of the interior, it's imposing spaces and intricate details. Cleaning of the coffee coloured stone interior revealed the astonishing pink midland sandstone beneath, a feature in great need of highlighting. Improved access, liturgical re-ordering and the instalment of new artefacts of bespoke quality, contributed to the achievement of APEC's desired vision; an improved, de-cluttered and more flexible space

within the Victorian shell, admired and recognised once more as 'the people's church'.

Phases Two and Three External fabric repair and improvement with the extension and upgrading of the social wing

A thorough tendering stage was completed to find skilled contractors capable of carefully revealing the huge wealth of detail beneath the grime. APEC ensured that a strong trust developed between the client, design team and contractor.

Significant constraints of the project included the PCC's need for the building to remain open, for worship during the works and the issue that Church owned no land outside of the building's footprint on which to extend. Once again, the sensitivity and co-operation of the design team allowed for a successful end result.

"It's a place of wonder and enchantment, the people's church, restored to the centre of the city and serving the people of Birmingham in many different ways."

“...APEC Architects have carried out an excellent and painstaking restoration of St Martin’s in the Bullring, and the key architectural success of the entire development is the relationship between the old church and the new Selfridge’s glittering and curvaceous facade”.

Ben Flatman, RIBA Journal Issue 2, No.7, Autumn 2003



ST MARTIN’S CHURCH IN THE BULLRING

Restoration and development of St Martin’s Church
(grade II* listed)

Phase One:

- Internal cleaning and re-ordering
- Baptistry with specially commissioned font, display and liturgical furniture.
- Comprehensive rewiring, new lighting and provision for audio visual aids.
- Phase 1 completed in 2000.

Phases Two and Three:

- Fabric conservation of the whole exterior including major masonry repairs and replacements.
- Extension and renovation of 1950s hall wing including arts cafe, community rooms and accommodation for health & healing service
- Second and third phases completed in August 2003

- Total restoration scheme cost approximately £5m.
- Funded by various different agencies, including the Heritage Lottery Fund

CLIENT

PCC of St Martin in the Bull Ring

DESIGN TEAM

APEC Architects	Architects/ Lead Consultant
William Sapcote and Sons	Main Contractor
The Davidson Partnership	Quantity Surveyor, CDM
Hancock Wheeldon & Ascough	Structural Engineer
Cudd Bentley	M+E Consultants

Numerous other consultants were involved in the project.
Contact APEC Architects for further information if required.



The Entrance Facade - St Martins Arts Cafe