

# The Isokon Gallery

Scheme address: The Isokon Gallery, Lawn Road, London NW3 2XD

Architect: Avanti Architects (John Allan & Fiona Lamb), with Magnus Englund & Gjöril Reinecke

Graphic designers: Tom de Gay & Sol Kawage

Developer: The Isokon Gallery Trust

Client/owner: The Isokon Gallery Trust

Completed: July 2014

Scheme description: The Isokon gallery, created within the former garage of the Isokon apartments, is a new public exhibition venue presenting the multi-faceted story of the building and its origins. The Isokon, opened in 1934, was a pioneering experiment in urban living and became home to many distinguished residents, including Walter Gropius, Marcel Breuer and Agatha Christie.

The gallery comprises a series of free-standing full height screens, with further wall-mounted displays in a coordinated graphic design. The exhibition is presented in a sequence of linked themes, with period furniture exhibits, historical memorabilia, a large-scale model and two facsimile Isokon rooms using original fittings salvaged from the building rescue project undertaken by Notting Hill Housing and Avanti Architects in 2004. The space includes a small seminar area and gift shop offering related items and books, the proceeds helping to support the gallery, which is a registered charity and staffed by National Trust volunteers.

Panel comments: *"The Gallery has used a former garage space to evoke the story of the Isokon flats in terms of the materials – laminated and formed timber – and personal witnesses to the aspirations of this experiment in modernist design which also sought new ways of shared living. The gallery as an artefact itself inspires as well as informs: its quality a reminder of the aim of modernism to make high quality design as widely available as possible."*

