

# Mount Pleasant Studios

Scheme address: Mount Pleasant, Holborn, WC1X  
Architect: Peter Barber Architects  
Developer: Camden Council  
Client/owner: Camden Council  
Completed: July 2014  
Scheme description:

Mount Pleasant Studios is a state of the art homeless facility laid out around a beautiful suntrap courtyard in Holborn. The project provides residential accommodation for 52 people. There are a small number of single occupancy 'move on' apartments as well as accommodation for residents with mobility problems. Training, counselling rooms, a health centre, day rooms and a laundry are all arranged around the courtyard which is in a sense the social heart of the building. Staff areas and light, bright and welcoming reception areas have pleasant views out over the street and into the garden.

Buildings are constructed in a mixture of new brick, reclaimed brick and white render, all evident in the buildings surrounding the site. Materials are combined as a kind of patchwork which reveal the building's history and the changes they have undergone.

The hostel forms an important part of Camden Council's community investment programme, a 15 year plan to invest in schools, homes and community facilities including much-needed provision for homeless people. This is in line with the government's 'Places of Change' and 'Homelessness Change' programme.

Panel comments:

*"By retaining the varied character of the original groups of buildings on the site – their scale, brick types, window forms – the scheme has created new external spaces of exceptional quality which offer residents respect and a humane environment to live in."*



Photo Credit: © Morley von Sternberg