

Phoenix Garden Community Building

Scheme address: The Phoenix Garden, 21 Stacey Street, WC2
Architect: Office Sian Architecture + Design
Client/Landowner: The Phoenix Garden Trust
Scheme description: The Phoenix Garden Community Building replaces storage sheds and concrete hard-standing to provide a venue for a multitude of uses; from providing WC facilities for visitors to the garden, to allowing space for school visits and community, events and even weddings.

High quality materials were proposed to create a robust building, suited to the nature of a busy inner-city location, and to the needs of a client who maintains the garden throughout the year. The palette of brick with oak panelling reflects the existing materials of the garden and its boundaries and the limestone lettering above makes reference to the nearby St Giles Church.

The judges' view:

The judges praised the ambition of the project demonstrated by the fragment of the oversized arch: a small project that speaks to the scale of the city. The tiny monumentalism on the corner of the site was seen as the right urban move, very theatrical in the way that it captures the view of the spire of St Giles Church. The architectural language, material and details are clear, simple and restrained. It meets the brief for a building that requires low care and maintenance but is attractive as an events space that can support the garden financially. Above all it is a building that brings the garden into focus and makes it permanent.

