



Norwich Cathedral Hostry Main Entrance

Hopkins Architects

Founder, Sir Michael Hopkins is one of the leading international practitioners of high-tech architecture. Through his continuous re-evaluation of design solutions and his contribution to the debate about the delicate relationship between modernity and tradition he has developed into one of the most sensitive exponents in Northern Europe of architectural practice in both historic centres and the landscape.

The work of the Practice is characterised by a sophisticated use of glass and steel in residential

and industrial buildings that followed the principles of the radical modernists and as well as being in the forefront of technology.

In the mid Eighties Hopkins changed emphasis onto what he called the 'updating of the traditional materials'. This influenced the second generation of his projects such as the Mound Stand, Lord's Cricket Ground in London, the Queen's Building, Emmanuel College in Cambridge, the Jubilee Campus, University of Nottingham and above all Portcullis House, the building for the British

Parliament in London.

For Hopkins, progress is no longer a break with the past but rather an act of continuity where he deftly and intelligently integrates traditional elements such as stone and wood, with advanced and environmentally responsible technology.

Hopkins Architects work has been internationally recognised through many awards and prizes over the last 34 years.

Norwich Cathedral Refectory & Hostry Design

In essence, the Design Brief for the Norwich Cathedral Hostry and Refectory buildings was to bring history to vivid life by creating 21st century versions of the original Medieval refectory and hostry in a way that emphasised the Benedictine ethos of outreach, hospitality and education. The design had to preserve the historic remains of the original buildings, ensure full disabled access, and contribute to a reanimation of the Cloistered site as a whole. The new Hostry and Refectory are believed to constitute the single most extensive addition to an English Medieval cathedral since the Reformation. The creation of a new entrance to the Medieval library in the Upper Cloister has allowed a significant expansion and improvement of the library facilities.

The pressure to achieve these aims was rooted in the fact that Norwich Cathedral was one of the first Cathedrals in England to provide visitor facilities in the 1970s. But its shop, WCs, exhibition space and small café were rather basic, and when

visitor numbers began to surge in the mid-1990s, the Dean and Chapter faced a pressing need to expand and improve visitor facilities, and create a place of assembly for the Cathedral community and choir.

The Visitors Centre comprises of two separate buildings positioned on the historic sites of the Pilgrims Hostry (Guest Hall) and Monk's Refectory respectively; the function and form of these buildings closely replicates the historic Hostry and Refectory and, in doing so, makes more legible the monastic structure of the Cathedral complex. As part of this project plans were also formed to reorganise the Cathedral's library and upper cloister spaces.

The new developments take advantage of the existing walls where possible, in order to make only a modest impact on the volumes of the Cathedral complex, and so the structure and construction of the buildings relates directly to the

archaeological history of the site.

The new wall of both the Hostry and Refectory are built up off the ancient flint walls in Ancaster limestone to mark the archaeology of old and new, while the new structure stands very close to, but independent of, the Medieval remains.

The structural materials palette is dominated by solid oak, with fine steel-tipped finger-props holding the sand-cast lead roof, whose very stiff diaphragm is formed using glulam beams, steel purlins and plywood sheathing. All of the roof and first floor loads are carried down a grid of filched oak columns into minimal pad foundations. The only other steel in the buildings is for cross-bracing in the end walls, and in architectural metalwork. The other key structural materials were local limestone for walls, and oak for soffit linings, and louvres.

Norwich Cathedral Refectory & Hostry Restoration

The Visitors Centre comprises of two separate buildings positioned on the historic sites of the Pilgrims Hostry (Guest Hall) and Monk's Refectory respectively; the function and form of these buildings closely replicates the historic Hostry and Refectory and, in doing so, makes more legible the monastic structure of the Cathedral complex. The new developments closely restore the original forms and functions of the medieval Hostry and Refectory, taking advantage of the existing walls

where possible, in order to make only a modest impact on the volumes of the Cathedral complex, and so the structure and construction of the buildings relates directly to the archaeological history of the site.

Transforming the Locutory formed part of the brief for the Hostry project, located between the Cathedral Nave and the Hostry site. It was converted from its previous function as the

Cathedral Shop to an exhibition space showing interpretive films depicting the life and the cathedral and surrounding area.

The design of the Visitors centre, conceived by Hopkins architects was brought into reality with the aid of the Cathedral Architect – Freeland Rees Roberts, the Cathedral Archaeologist – Dr Roland Harris and the stone masons – Rattee and Kett.

Awards

- 2004 RIBA Award
- 2004 Wood Award, Gold Award
- 2004 BD Architect of the Year Award (Leisure category)
- 2005 Royal Fine Art Commission, Building of the Year (shortlisted)

- 2005 Civic Trust Award
- 2005 Structural Heritage Award
- 2010 RIBA Regional Award
- 2010 Stone Award

**Area**  
Refectory: 991m/sq Hostry: 1078m/sq  
Total: 2069m/sq

**Construction Cost**  
Hostry and Refectory joint cost: £12.5m

Consultants

**Client**  
The Dean and Chapter of Norwich Cathedral

**Architect**  
Refectory and Hostry: Hopkins Architects Ltd  
**Cathedral Architect (Cathedral Fabric)**  
Refectory and Hostry: Freeland Rees Roberts

**Cathedral Archaeologist**  
Refectory: Norfolk Archaeological Unit  
Hostry: Dr Roland Harris

**Structural & Civil Engineer**  
Refectory: Buro Happold  
Hostry: Buro Happold with Philip Cooper

**Services Engineer and Specialist Lighting Design**  
Refectory: Buro Happold  
Hostry: Aecom (Formerly Faber Maunsell)

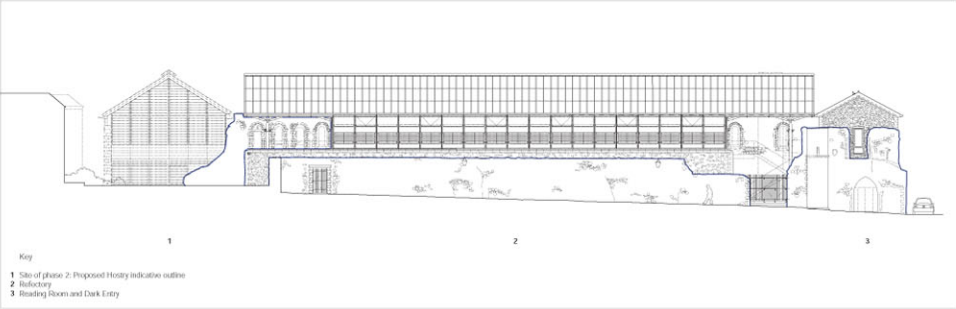
**Project Manager**  
Refectory: Gardiner Theobald Management Services  
Hostry: Malcolm Reading Consultants

**Quantity Surveyor**  
Refectory and Hostry: Davis Langdon LLP

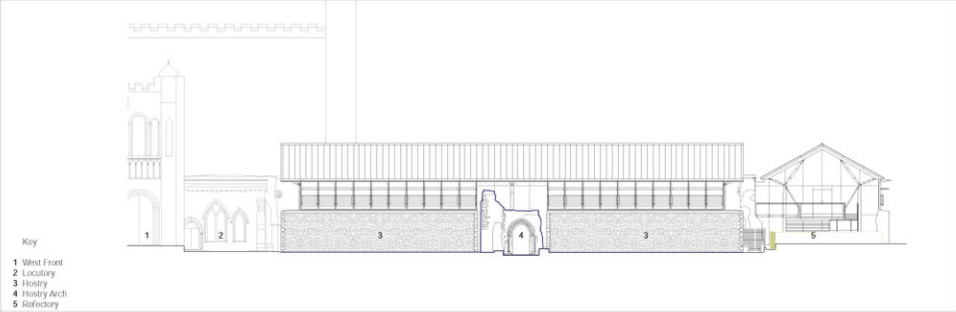
**Fire Consultant**  
Refectory and Hostry: Buro Happold FEDRA

**Acoustic Consultant**  
Refectory: Arup Acoustics  
Hostry: Sandy Brown Associates

**CDM Planning Co-ordinator**  
PFB Construction Management Services Ltd



Norwich Cathedral Refectory South Elevation



Norwich Cathedral Hostry West Elevation



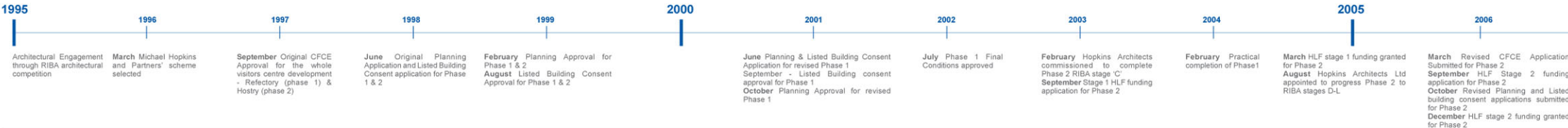
CGI perspective showing Hostry & Refectory



Norwich Cathedral Refectory Site



Norwich Cathedral Hostry Site







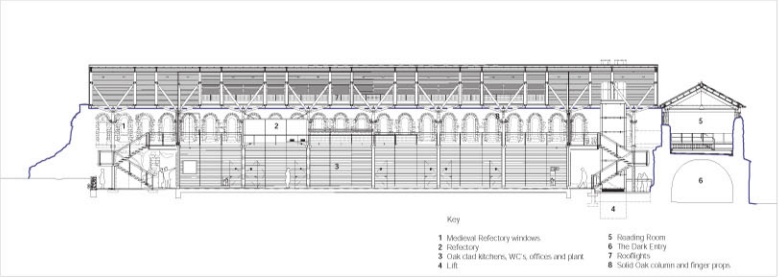
Norwich Cathedral Refectory



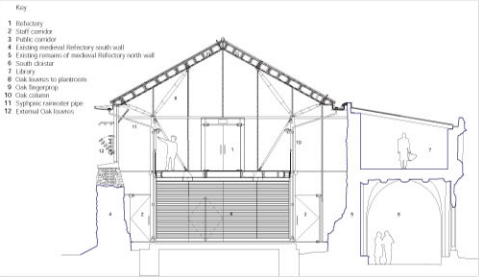
Norwich Cathedral Hostry



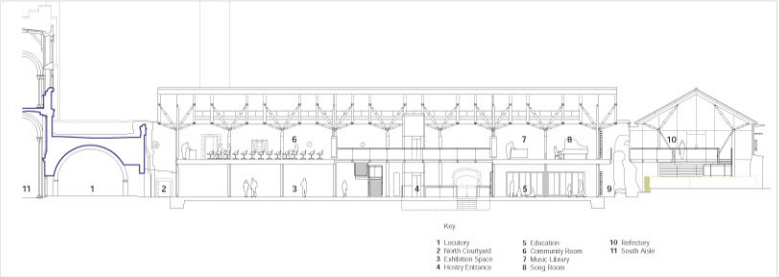
Norwich Cathedral Hostry Entrance Detail



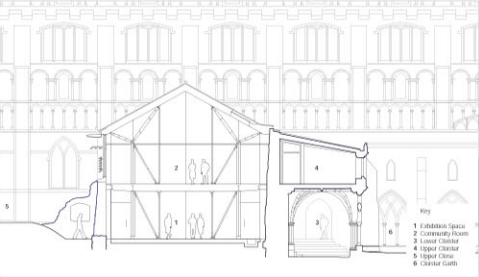
Norwich Cathedral Refectory Long Section



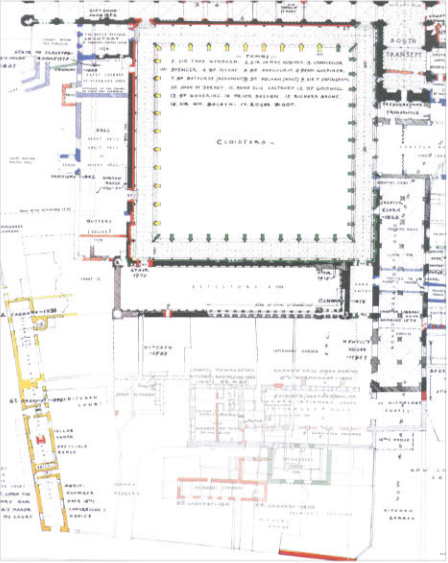
Norwich Cathedral Refectory Cross Section



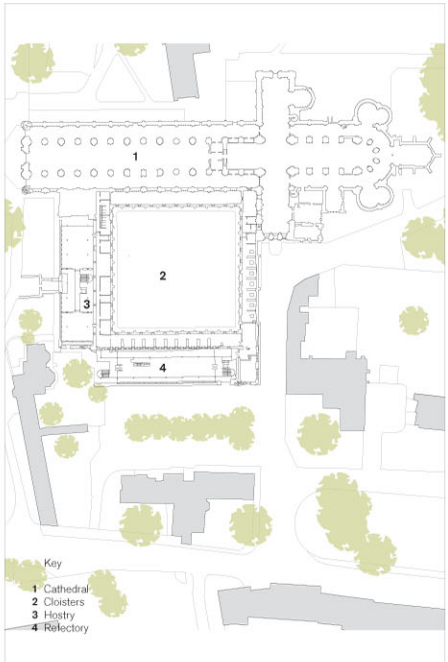
Norwich Cathedral Hostry Long Section



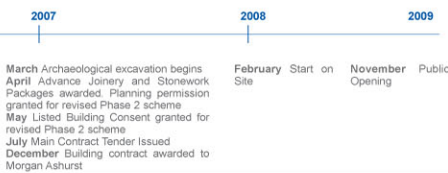
Norwich Cathedral Hostry Cross Section



Norwich Cathedral Archeological Survey



Site plan



Norwich Cathedral Refectory