

St Anne's Cathedral, Leeds



Client: HBOS/Clerical Medical & Leeds Diocesan Curia
Contractor: Bovis Lend Lease
Project Manager: St. James Securities
Structural Engineer: White Young Green
Quantity Surveyor: Cyril Sweett Ltd
Contract Value: £1.2 million

Project Completed: 2003

Awards: City of Leeds Architecture & Lighting – Best New Building

An award-winning extension to the Grade II* Listed St. Anne's Cathedral. The new building is designed to link a variety of uses in adjacent Church buildings, whilst providing additional facilities and access. High quality materials match the existing Art Nouveau building, and the design compliments the historic setting with contemporary architectural expression.

London Office

11-29 Fashion Street
London E1 6PZ

t +44 (0)207 426 3630
f +44 (0)207 426 3631
london@dlgarchitects.com

Leeds Office

One Brewery Wharf Waterloo Street
Leeds LS10 1GX

t +44 (0)113 247 1222
f +44 (0)113 220 4520
leeds@dlgarchitects.com

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The extension is built on three levels to include new basement, ground and first floors, constructed with a structural steel frame for ease and speed of erection, also maximising available spans with glulam trusses to create flexible interior spaces.

An extension to the Grade II* Listed St Anne's Roman Catholic Cathedral in the centre of Leeds was undertaken as part of an overall mixed use retail and leisure development, The Light, in Leeds city centre.

The building makes use of a redundant plot of land owned by the Cathedral, previously used for surface car parking, which had become isolated by surrounding re-development and access roads which turned the existing Cathedral site into a traffic island. The building was commissioned to make full use of the site, by providing parking, toilets, flexible meeting rooms and conference hall facilities, as well as an exhibition space and external public space linked to the adjacent development.

The outside of the building is faced with natural stone quarried from the same deposit as the original Cathedral building in 1904, and is detailed to reflect the existing Art Nouveau Cathedral, but expressed architecturally as an honest modern addition. New steel frame windows are inserted within the stone openings to maximise daylight in the key areas, and the roof is constructed with traditional rolled lead to reflect adjacent flat roof areas of the existing building.

The interior spaces function in a variety of ways, providing a much needed link building with toilet facilities for use by the Cathedral worshippers, as well as linking the existing Cathedral and adjacent Cathedral House which provides accommodation for the clergy, allowing free circulation between the two existing buildings. New stair and lift access is integrated from the existing basement Choir Room to all other areas of the main Cathedral and adjacent buildings. The end result is an efficient building with a multitude of uses linked to various aspects of the Cathedral, which affords the Cathedral commercial and public event opportunities, and has facilitated an increased profile for the Cathedral within the city of Leeds.
