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23 February 2017

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Region: United Kingdom
More: Feilden Fowles Architects, Piercy & Company, University, Hospice, Housing, Mixed-use, Commercial, AECOM, 7N Architects, Lyndon Goode Architects, Pollard Thomas Edwards, CF Møller, Squire and Partners

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London's abuzz with start-up spaces, a new children's hospice is planned in a nature reserve and Glasgow University is having a huge expansion

There's a lot going on in London, with regeneration of former industrial sites figuring heavily this week. If you haven't heard of the concept of 'pro-working' until now, consider yourself duly informed. Piercy & Company's new Camden development for office space provider Fora mixes commercial let with hotel to create something that's as much an event space as it is a workplace.

Lyndon Goode's residential development in Fish Island will be also providing start-up spaces for the artists and hipsters of London's East End, while out on the Essex fringes Swan Housing Association will be clearing a failed 1970s centre to place its own HQ within a new retail development. In Barnet, meanwhile, a much-needed children's hospice is being perfectly positioned in a nature reserve to provide a peaceful setting for its important work.

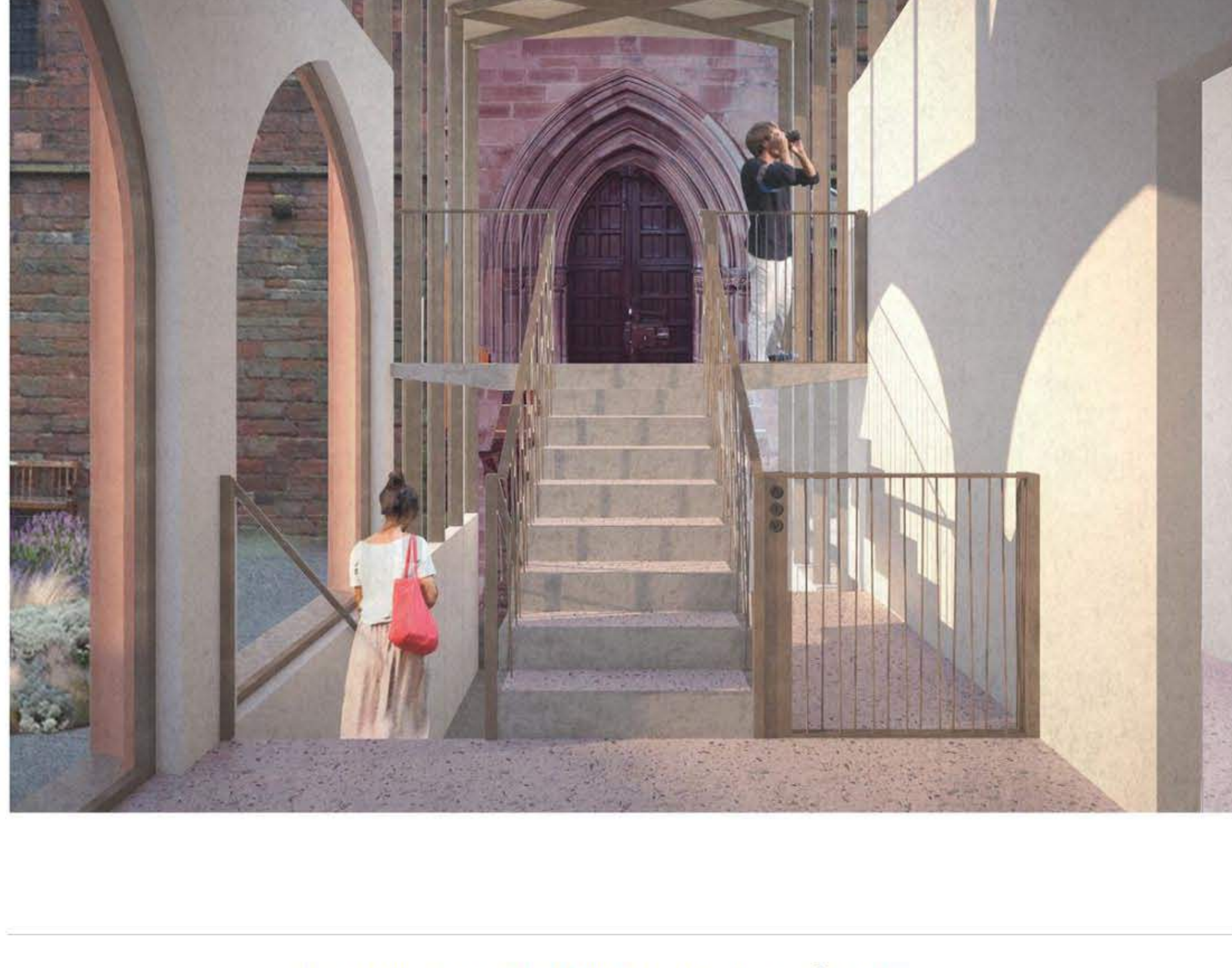
Beyond the capital, Glasgow University is having a massive campus built as part of an even bigger £1bn regeneration of an old infirmary site in Kelvingrove. And, on a much smaller scale, books are the order of the day in Carlisle, where the cathedral's former refectory turned library is gaining a new extension by Feilden Fowles that reads as a palimpsest of its own 15th century arches. Less gothic novel than novel gothic.



THE FRATRY PROJECT, CARLISLE

Client: Carlisle Cathedral
Architect: Feilden Fowles
Total area: Existing 650m² New build 185m²
Planning authority: Carlisle City Council
Planning ref: 16/0722

In what represents 'the most significant physical intervention on the cathedral site for 150 years', this £3.4M project (with a Heritage Lottery Fund grant of £2M) is both a refurbishment and extension of the grade I listed Fraternity, which was built in the 1500s as the monastery refectory. It now houses one of the largest cathedral collections of 17th-18th century books in the country.



A new, single storey, entrance building to the north west of the Fraternity will replace the long disappeared West Range while the Fraternity Hall will be refurbished for exhibitions and events. A link structure and the refurbishment of the undercroft for teaching and learning activities completes the scheme.

Feilden Fowles' building, which will also define a new cloister space, has been inspired by the dropped arch on the western gable of the Fraternity, creating arched forms within a fine rectilinear frame. The formal approach looks slightly counterintuitive, but the firm say the combination of the two geometries will create subtle shadows across the facade throughout the day.



GILMOREHILL CAMPUS, UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW

Client: University of Glasgow
Architect: AECOM & 7N Architects
Total area: 85,000m² (total scheme 2Mm²)
Planning authority: Glasgow City Council
Planning ref: 16/01208/DC

The permission in principle for this huge masterplan provides a framework for significant expansion of the university's campus on the site of the former Glasgow Western Infirmary in the West End of the city. The aim is to provide learning, teaching and research spaces in a new mixed-use quarter, which, the architects say, 'will integrate the historic core of the campus with the neighbourhoods to the west and form a new frontage to Kelvingrove Park to the south.'



NOAH'S ARK HOSPICE, BARNET, LONDON

Client: Noah's Ark Hospice
Architect: Squire & Partners
Total area: 2,240m²
Planning authority: London Borough of Barnet
Planning ref: 16/5151/FUL

This new facility, providing on-site care and support for children with life-limiting or life-threatening conditions and their families, will be the only children's hospice serving central and north London and Hertsmere. Noah's Ark currently supports around 150 children and their families both at home and in the community, but this new facility will help bring that figure up to 450.



The brief sought an inspiring space for palliative care, allowing young people and families to connect with others in a similar situation, while allowing the children to be just that and not patients. To that end, the proposal sits in a 3ha nature reserve, providing interaction with the landscape not just for the kids and their families but workers and visitors too.

It is effectively a cruciform of two wings with a short central spine separating them. Within the wings are the more private hospice rooms looking out to the landscape. The wings connect back to the spine, which acts as a barn-like entrance and 'light-filled, vaulted hall', with common social spaces under its timber pitched roof.

While Noah's Ark chief executive Ru Watkins is pleased with the decision, he caveats it, saying 'We believe that, given the paucity of land available for such schemes, this will prove to be the last hospice built in London.'

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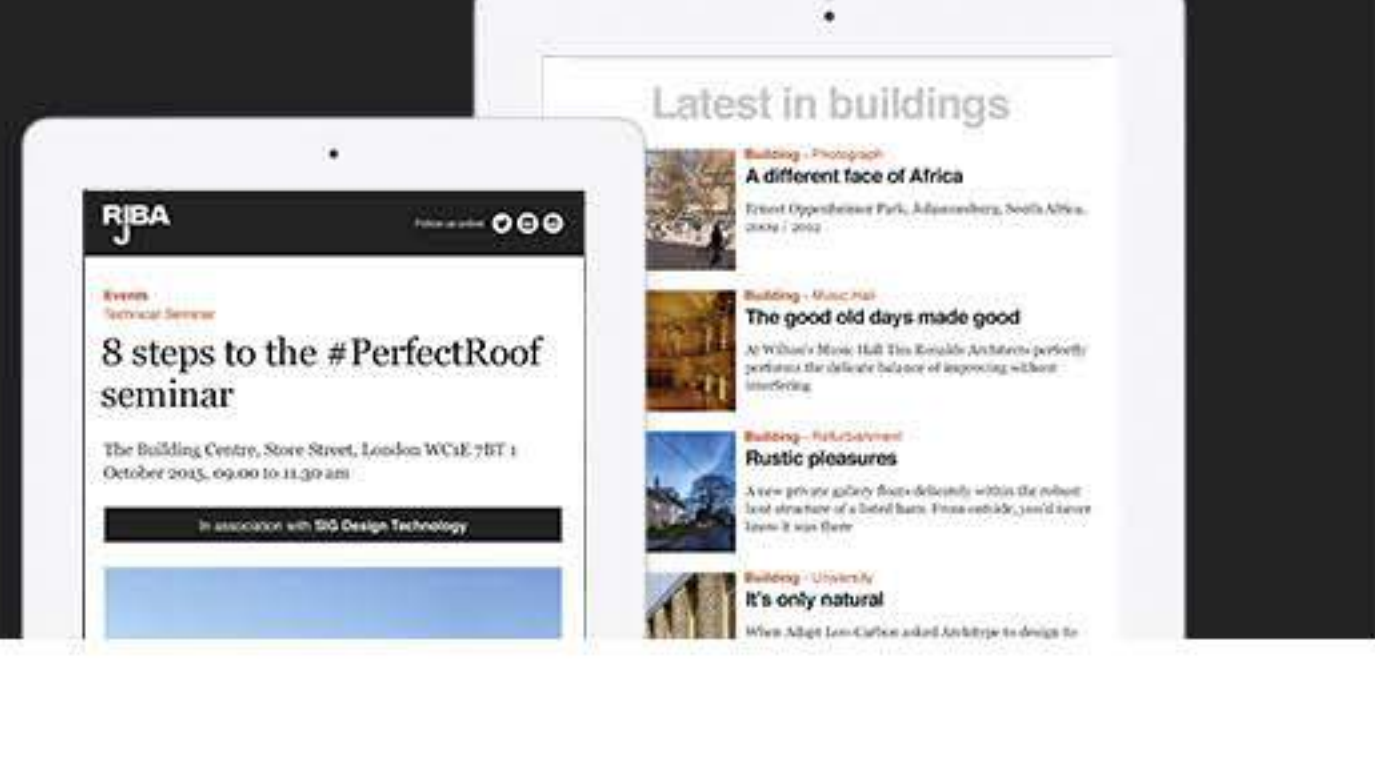
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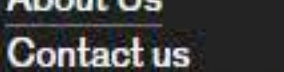
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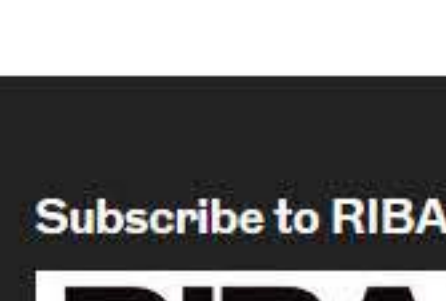
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