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Dreams for a sustainable future.

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“The right direction to take is to try to be responsible users of the resources at our disposal and find solutions for the future. Acting from the roots, socially and politically.”

ÁLVARO CATALÁN DE OCÓN





GRANGE HALL, LONDON

Nissen Richards Studio, London

Design brief and aim

To redesign a former historical school into nine residential dwellings.

How this was accomplished

The project is readapted from a West Hackney National School and is locally listed as one of the only two ecclesiastical buildings that survive in the Parish of West Hackney, London. The original school was constructed in 1837 for the newly-formed West Hackney Parish, which included the St. James' Church, rectory and burial ground. The school was discontinued in the 1960s and was occupied by an engineering component merchant for thirty-five years until it was purchased by the client in 2013.

photography :: jim stephenson and alexis hamilton



As the building occupies a prominent location on the corner of Evering Road and Leswin Road in Stoke Newington, London, it holds significant townscape value. The firm found it in a state of disrepair as it was no longer watertight, and more neglect could have turned the heritage spot into a dangerous structure.

The Grange Hall, which occupies 1000 sq. m., is an example of late Georgian architecture. The firm has retained the original footprint and layout using existing doorways with individual homes built around the existing entrances. Architectural features including rubbed brick lintels, stone copings and stepped brick coursings are retained and refurbished. The existing A-frame roof structures within the main spaces are adapted and retained to provide central features.



BEFORE



Existing windows are retained along the frontage and new two-storey-high glazed openings along the main longitudinal elevations are punched between the existing masonry piers. New angled dormer windows which resemble the existing dormers, are inserted into the large roofscapes, reusing previously concealed spaces. Terraces, balconies, gates and fences are reimagined in the new context.

