



Testimonial for Hetreed Ross, Architects

The project at the Herschel Museum of Astronomy was completed in June 2011. The brief was to create a small, single storey extension at the rear of the Georgian townhouse which could be used primarily to accommodate temporary exhibitions. We felt that Hetreed Ross were able to take this idea and turn it into a design which successfully blended the old with the new while providing a contrast between the existing historic fabric and a purpose-built contemporary space. We stated that the new building would be used to house unique and valuable museum objects and had to meet the very high standards of security that would be necessary to accommodate them. Environmental considerations were also high on the list.

We are very pleased with the end result and from the outset were impressed with the way Hetreed Ross handled the project and listened to us and interpreted the brief. Their approach is very professional and we appreciate their ability to discuss ideas and keep in close communication over wider aspects of the project as well as the detail. Due to the requirement imposed by the Museums Libraries & Archives Council regarding security and collections care, it was necessary for the architects to provide a number of details and make some adjustments while the build was in progress which they did with no difficulty.

We were very relieved that Hetreed Ross handled the planning and listed building consents and the whole process appeared to go very smoothly with no major obstacles as did the tendering and dealing with contractors. Their administration of the contract was also seamless.

The design of the new space is attractive and aesthetically pleasing, giving a sense of space and light with showcases which compliment the design and subtly blend into the overall scheme.

Although the gallery has only recently been opened we are receiving very positive feedback from visitors who are generally impressed by the sense of space and the quality of the design which lends itself to temporary exhibitions of quality and interest.

We have experienced no problems following the completion of the work but are assured that if any do arise they will be dealt with promptly by the design team.

Hetreed Ross came highly recommended to the Trustees of the Herschel Museum and we would have no hesitation in recommending them to colleagues in the heritage and museum world.

Debbie James, Curator