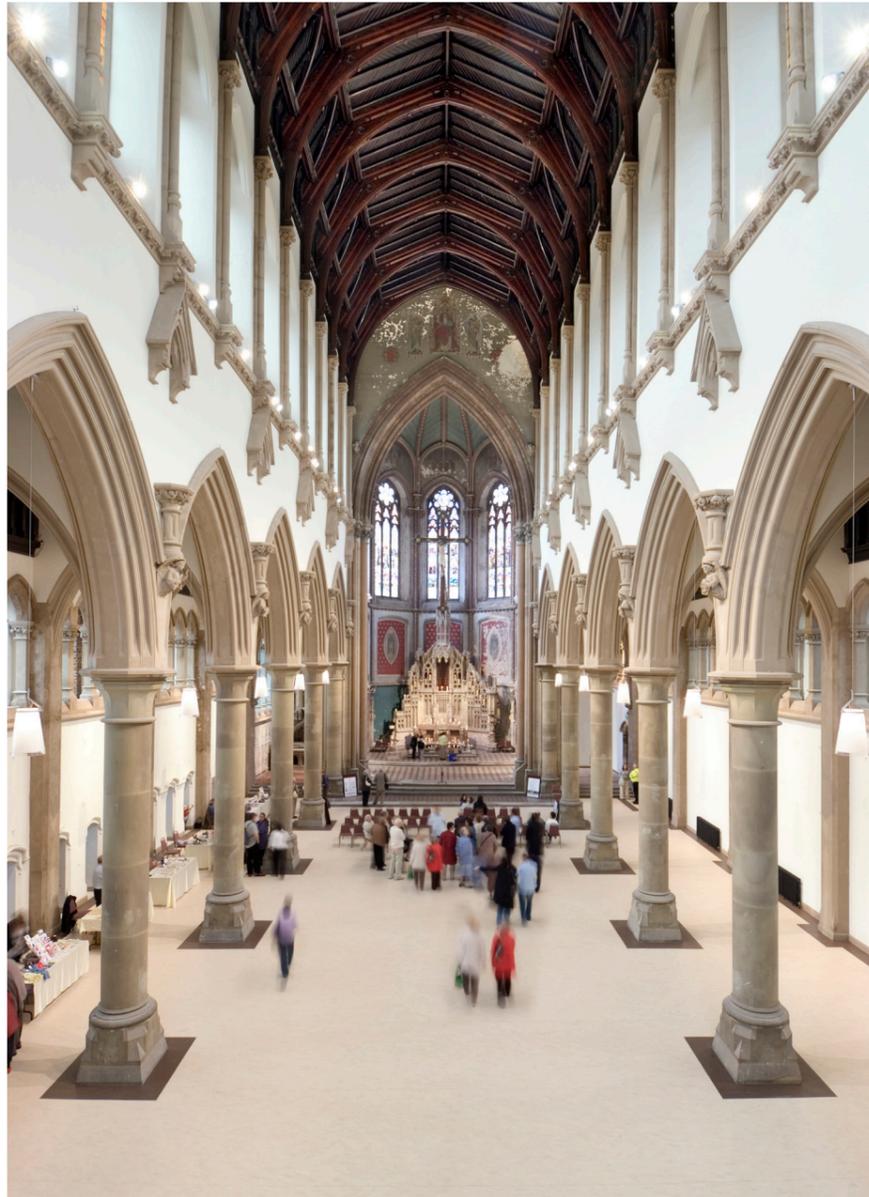


MONASTERY OF ST. FRANCIS & GORTON, MANCHESTER



LOCATION: MANCHESTER

COMPLETION: 2007

VALUE: £6.5M

SIZE: 2,700M²

SERVICE: ARCHITECTURE, CONSERVATION, LANDSCAPE

SECTOR: ARTS & CULTURE

CLIENT: THE MONASTERY OF ST. FRANCIS & GORTON TRUST

CONTRACTOR: WILLIAM ANELAY LIMITED

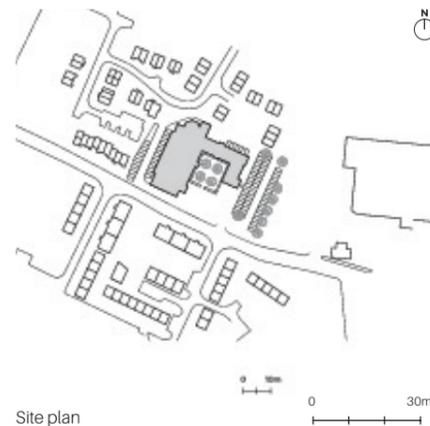
STRUCTURES: ATKINS

SERVICES: RW GREGORY AND PARTNERS

COST CONSULTANT: DAVIS LANGDON

LISTING: GRADE II*

AWARDS:
 2009 RICS NW BUILDING OF THE YEAR
 2009 RICS NATIONAL CONSERVATION AWARD COMMENDATION
 2008 CIVIC TRUST COMMENDATION



Site plan

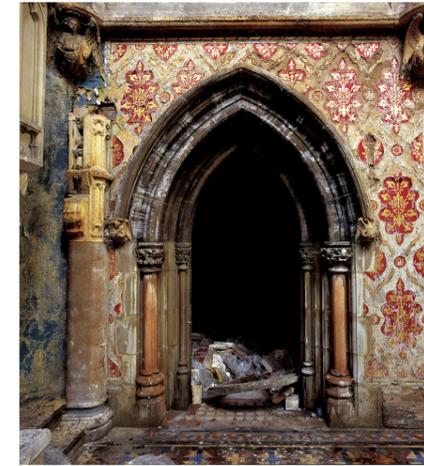
"... The dedication of Austin-Smith:Lord has been one of the main factors that has enabled our project to survive."

Elaine Griffiths, Project Director, Monastery of St Francis & Gorton Trust



The Grade II* Listed Church and Friary of St Francis, designed by the acclaimed Victorian architect, Edward Pugin, for the Franciscan Order, was listed by the World Monuments Fund as one of the 'Hundred Most Endangered Monuments' in the world. Austin-Smith:Lord was appointed as architects, conservation architects and landscape designers for the project which restored and extended the near derelict building.

The restored Monastery building now houses a commercially run visitor, conference and events centre incorporating an education and training suite. It was completed in 2007 and has been the recipient of many awards including a Civic Trust Commendation.



Elevation



Plan

0 10m

Located in Gorton, a predominantly residential area of East Manchester, the listed Monastery is one of the most important Catholic Church buildings in the country and an essential part of the life of the local community for 100 years.

We worked with the Monastery's Trust to articulate the new and old, creating new uses for a building of international significance as well as developing a number of community uses within the whole site in order to create viable opportunities for the redevelopment of the wider area.

Now known as the 'The Pugin Centre', permanent and temporary exhibitions are catered for, with the first permanent exhibition on the life and works of Edward Pugin in the Church itself.

Throughout the project, we undertook 'appropriate conservation'; the approach was practical and sustainable, but sensitive to the building's historic value. The existing fabric was retained, expressed and conserved, where necessary.

New elements were minimal - the majority of project was restoration and conservation - but any new insertions were made distinct and detailed in a contemporary way. Where possible, all repair work was carried out to match existing fabric and new work used natural, sustainable material.

The refurbished Monastery has continued to trade successfully and expand its reputation as one of the Northwest's premier event venues. It has established a strong brand, based on the unique quality of its architecture. Due to the beautifully restored and highly flexible space, the Monastery is often fully booked for months ahead, proving an economic driver for the area.

The Monastery has made a significant contribution to the potential for long-term regeneration of the area and there are active plans for a further phase of a wider development scheme.