

THE GREAT PAGODA, KEW GARDENS, LONDON



LOCATION: KEW, LONDON

CLIENT: HISTORIC ROYAL PALACES

COMPLETION: 2018

VALUE: £5M

SIZE: 200M²

SERVICE: CONSERVATION, ARCHITECTURE

SECTOR: ARTS & CULTURE

CONTRACTOR: BLUE SKY BUILDING

LANDSCAPE: AUSTIN-SMITH:LORD

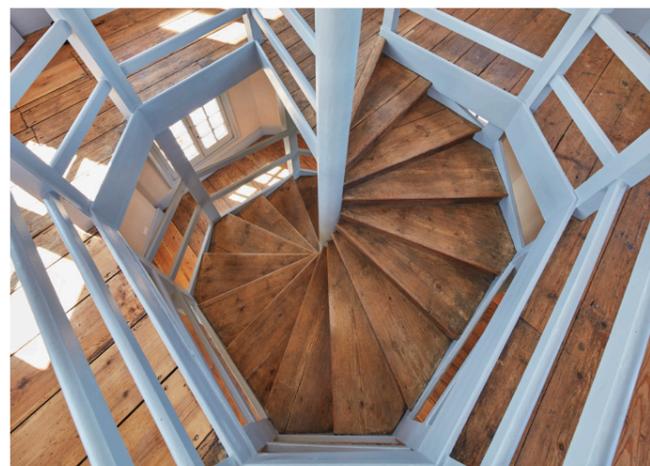
STRUCTURES: HOCKLEY & DAWSON

SERVICES: CHAPMAN & BDSP

COST CONSULTANT: MORHAM & BROTCHE LTD.

LISTING: GRADE I

AWARDS:
 2019 GEORGIAN GROUP AWARD
 2019 VE FORUM VISITOR EXPERIENCE AWARD
 2019 CONSTRUCTION EXCELLENCE SECBE AWARD
 2018 RICHMOND SOCIETY AWARD



Austin-Smith:Lord was appointed to undertake the design and sensitive execution of fabric repairs to the iconic, Grade I Listed Great Pagoda at Kew Gardens, London.

Austin-Smith:Lord's conservation accredited architects worked closely with the Historic Royal Palaces team to prepare proposals in keeping with this significant listed structure dating from 1761/62.

The process began in 2015 with early physical surveys recording the true condition of the historic fabric and using a drone to inspect higher sections of the external brickwork and copper roof. Extensive analysis concluded that the copper roof was original, dating from 1762.

A major element of this important conservation work was to return the iconic building back to its original splendour and to rediscover and replace the eighty dragons which have become synonymous with the Pagoda.

Historic Royal Palaces had already carried out a significant amount of historic research before the start of the project and identified the character and appearance of the original dragons from contemporary paintings. The dragons were recreated using 3D printing techniques and fixed to the building in the original locations on each roof hip using fixing methods we were able to detect from the roof construction.

The restored building now provides limited public access to the building and incorporates interpretation and education presentations.

The Great Pagoda was designed by Sir William Chambers for Princess Augusta. Chambers was her architect and tutor to her young son George who would later become King George III. Chambers created a series of architectural structures from around the world at Kew Gardens to create one of the most fashionable estates in England at the time.

