



POST-DEMOLITION & SALVAGE OF MATERIALS, SHOWING RETAINED FACADE



Royal Porcelain Works Worcester

The Royal Porcelain Works project developed a 3150sqm area within the redundant Royal Worcester Porcelain factory site. As a charity supporting educational, cultural, and community initiatives in the Worcester area, the Client's vision was to create an 'arts quarter' supporting and promoting arts and local business. The scheme comprises: performance and exhibition venue, café selling local produce, studio and gallery space, bookable meeting room, and public space for performances & markets, funded by the sale of a small amount of high-end residential accommodation.

The site had been extensively infilled as the factory grew, so the first challenge was identifying buildings of historic value, whether these could be retained, balanced with the viability of doing so. The built scheme, developed with local planning and conservation input, restored the Grade II Listed porcelain display hall, rebuilt the adjacent counting house, renovated the entrance lodge, and retained the iconic Severn Street facade, bringing the fabric up to Part L2B standard. Extensive archaeological recording of the remaining areas that were cleared took place, which was presented to the Museum of Royal Worcester for the archives.

Externally the retained buff and red brick facades scarred by alterations and inconsistent window replacement were cleaned & restored. The render to the hall was repaired and extended to signpost this landmark. The counting house was rebuilt in salvaged red bricks to match the condemned building, and a new foyer built to replace the mould/potting room, link the arts spaces, and address changes in level. The foyer is constructed with insitu concrete columns, glulam beams and glazed externally so there is clear separation between original & new buildings. Ancillary areas & the townhouses use a buff brick complementing the original brickwork, and a similar vertical elevation rhythm, but bonded in a contemporary style using stepped coursing. The slate-clad townhouse upper floor respects the adjacent roofscape scale.

The interior design of the public buildings draws on the history of the site. The iconic 'Worcester blue' was colour-matched and used throughout for coherence. The hall was restored taking inspiration from old photos, using the horizontal banding to define wall areas for different purposes, as the space works hard to accommodate uses from performance, to film, to exhibitions, to markets, to presentations. Original plate display mouldings were recreated, and the carpet design is bespoke, based on Royal Worcester designs and colours selected by the renowned Henry Sandon, the namesake of the refurbished hall.

The new foyer has a less formal, contemporary feel, with concrete, timber & glass contrasting with cleaned brickwork. The café and studio are refurbished spaces and therefore more industrial in concept, highlighting original brickwork, arched soffits and timber trusses. A bespoke tiled mural features Royal Worcester plate designs.

The pedestrianised public space unites this development with the Museum of Royal Worcester creating a meaningful destination in the city. The planting used is based on species seen in Royal Worcester designs. Access to the residential accommodation is separate and private, via a new opening from Severn Street.

