



As you may be aware, Marldon, an award-winning, specialist design and build partnership working across Central London, submitted a planning application in December 2019 to Tower Hamlets Council for the redevelopment of the vacant site at 55-56 Chamber Street, E1 8BL. The site includes a disused railway viaduct, which suffered bomb damage during World War II and was left in a near derelict state.

The redevelopment plans are for an apart-hotel (serviced apartments), and commercial business space focused on SMEs and start-ups alongside public realm improvements.

Whilst an application to list the bomb-damaged wall was rejected by Historic England, Marldon have always been of the view that, as far as possible, this should form part of the fabric of the new development, reflecting the rich past of this part of London in its future.

Since the application was submitted, Marldon have continued to work with the local authority to refine the proposals. In particular, this has focused on respecting the historic importance of the bomb-damaged wall and investigating the best way to ensure that the wall can be preserved within the development and opened up to greater public viewing. An initial proposal to relocate the memorial wall to the courtyard of the site, illuminating this and making it publicly accessible, gave rise to concern from within the local community that the wall would not withstand a relocation attempt. and it's location would not be obvious to passers by.

Taking the views of the community into consideration, Marldon looked in greater detail at the potential to retain the wall in situ. Due to the location of the wall and the original proposals, this has been a lengthy process to achieve a solution which creates a successful and attractive design which is acceptable to Tower Hamlets Council at the same time as retaining this piece of local history.



PROPOSED ELEVATION

We are delighted to now be able to reveal our amended design which proposes to retain part of the blast damaged wall in its current location and incorporate the wall as part of the proposed façade. The wall will be retained, which includes the corner stone quoins and approximately 6m of brickwork.

The retained wall will be framed with bronze coloured fins and canopy. In addition, memorial writings will be etched in the curtain walling glass next to the wall to provide a dedicated and permanent tribute to those East Enders and residents of Spitalfields who both died and survived the Blitz of World War Two.

About Marldon

Marldon are the developers, construction specialists and will be the operator of the proposed apart-hotel at Chamber Street.

Marldon have been involved in the local area for a number of years. As freeholder and operator of the neighbouring building at 31-33 Prescott Street, where the commercial space is fully let, we are long term investors in the area. Marldon's construction business model is to employ people long term and train them from apprentices or within the company, this provides opportunities for local people whilst creating successful trading links with other businesses over a project's lifetime and often beyond. As operators, Marldon will be looking to employ local people and support local businesses once the scheme is finished.

We are continuing to operate our construction sites during this difficult period, acting on government advice and implementing social distancing measures, PPE and sanitisation measures. Our focus at present is on the wellbeing of our staff and contractors and we are keeping our operations under regular review, taking on board government advice and the views of our employees.

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