

PRESS RELEASE – September 2009

# THE LONDON LIBRARY

## LONDON LIBRARY NEARING COMPLETION OF SECOND PHASE OF REDEVELOPMENT MASTERPLAN

The London Library, the world's largest independent lending library, is pleased to announce that Phase 2 of its most significant redevelopment in over a century is underway and due for completion in June 2010.

Phase 2 will successfully integrate the Phase 1 development of TS Eliot House, formerly known as Duchess House, linking the new extension in Mason's Yard with the original St James's Square, Grade II-listed building on five levels, and increasing the capacity of the Library by over 30% - vital, as the Library needs to find half-a-mile of new book shelving every three years just to accommodate the growing collection.

The new works, which began in July 2008, include key renovation features:

- The restoration and extension of the Art Room, removing the 1970s' false mezzanine floor and returning the natural light and double-height proportions of its original 1930s' construction
- The creation of a new entrance from Mason's Yard
- The refurbishment and reorganisation of the Library's Issue Hall
- 1.25km of new shelving
- 42 new readers' desks at various locations throughout the Library
- The conversion of the main building's central lightwell into a new additional reading area
- Specially designed storage and an improved consultation area for the Library's collection of The Times, which date from [add date]
- Significantly improved access in many areas of the library, including a new lift and accessible bathroom facilities

The cost of Phase 2 will be £8.75 million.

Haworth Tompkins architects have led the design team working with the Library to realise this next phase of the Trustees' masterplan. The Library remained open throughout Phase 2 work, adding complexity to an already challenging brief. Haworth Tompkins have also formed a unique partnership with the Turner Prize winning artist Martin Creed, who has picked an unusual space in the Library – the toilets – to turn into a bold, site-specific commission.

In a fitting gesture to close Phase 1, TS Eliot house was formally named in a ceremony attended by Mrs Valerie Eliot on Wednesday 11 June 2008. TS Eliot served as President of the London Library from 1952 until his death in 1965, and Mrs Eliot's magnificent donation of £2.5 million to the Development Fund constitutes one of the Library's single largest donations to date.

## PRESS RELEASE – September 2009

The largest donation to the Library to date has been of £3 million from the Monument Trust.

Sir Tom Stoppard, President of the London Library says:

"I am delighted to see such wonderful evidence of how our donors' support has been used and how we have delivered a magnificent asset for generations of readers and writers of the future. Achieving such a significant step in our masterplan reinvigorates me for the challenge ahead and makes me more determined than ever to raise the remaining £12m which will allow the Library to complete the two remaining phases and continue to flourish for at least another 168 years."

Inez Lynn, the tenth Librarian of the London Library, and the first woman to hold the post, says:

"The whole team have worked tirelessly to create and deliver a thoughtful and sustainable solution to the Library's perennial need for space, whilst taking care to ensure that the new wing merges seamlessly into the much loved existing London Library labyrinth".

Graham Haworth of Haworth Tompkins says:

"The library has an extraordinary atmosphere, easily dispelled by insensitive intervention. Our role has been to identify opportunities for radical modernisation without threatening the delicate ecology of the building or changing its unique appeal which is beloved by members and staff."

**For further information and images please contact Katie McCrory at Brunswick Arts on 020 7936 1271 or email: [kmccrory@brunswickgroup.com](mailto:kmccrory@brunswickgroup.com)**

### Editors Notes

#### Project team

Architect:	Haworth Tompkins
Construction Managers:	Mace
Structural Engineers:	Price and Myers LLP
Services Engineers:	Max Fordhams LLP
Access Consultants:	Babel Limited
Quantity Surveyors:	Gardiner & Theobald

#### Haworth Tompkins

Haworth Tompkins is an architectural company producing a wide range of bespoke buildings for specialist clients in the public, private and financial services sectors, manufacturing industry and the Arts, as well as for private individuals.

Founded in 1991, by architects Graham Haworth and Steve Tompkins, the practice has completed a diverse portfolio of work with notable success in buildings for the arts and social housing such as the Royal Court Theatre and Coin Street Housing, both multi award winning projects

Haworth Tompkins have published projects both nationally and internationally and have a growing international reputation for their design work; in 2007 they were short listed for the

PRESS RELEASE – September 2009

RIBA Stirling Prize and in 2008 were awarded an International Architecture Award by the Chicago Athenaeum. They were named Young Architects of the year at the 2001 Building Awards and Outstanding Young Architects of 2001 by the Royal Fine Arts Commission.

Current projects include the new Battersea North Site Campus for the Royal College of Art, The Haunch of Venison Gallery in Bond Street, Liverpool Everyman Theatre and Masterplan work for the National Theatre and regeneration of the London Library.

[www.haworthtompkins.com](http://www.haworthtompkins.com)

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For more information on Haworth Tompkins please contact Brian Yeats at Haworth Tompkins 020 7250 3225, [brian.yeats@haworthtompkins.com](mailto:brian.yeats@haworthtompkins.com)

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