

# The Whitechapel Gallery

Founded in 1901 by social reformers Canon Samuel Barnett and his wife Henrietta to bring “the finest art of the world to the people of the East End” Whitechapel Gallery’s first exhibition included the Pre-Raphaelites, Constable, Hogarth and Rubens and attracted over 200,000 local people.

The Gallery’s history is one of firsts: in 1939 Pablo Picasso’s *Guernica* had its first and only UK showing; in 1958 there was a major show for abstract expressionist Jackson Pollock and later David Hockney, Gilbert & George and Lucien Freud all exhibited here to great acclaim. For more that 100 years Whitechapel has remained a major destination at the heart of one of the most vibrant artistic communities in Europe.



## Expansion

Commencing in 2005 the Gallery embarked on the most exciting phase of its history to date with an ambitious £13M expansion to incorporate its next-door-neighbour building the former Passmore Edwards Library. The development has enabled the restoration and preservation of two historical and culturally important sites and made a significant contribution to the regeneration of East London.

Leading Belgian architects Robbrecht en Daem (with London practice Witherford Watson Mann) and in collaboration with leading artist Rachel Whiterad have designed one of the most exciting new cultural buildings in Europe

## Construction Design & Management

Very early in the Project, the Team committed to enabling a robust policy and approach to all health & safety matters.

A strategy statement was agreed and issued calling upon those involved to eliminate hazards through design; reduce risk from remaining hazards and to ensure that the right information got to the right people at the right time.

On-going design and construction challenges were numerous and all were discussed at the earliest opportunity.

A collaborative approach between team members ensured issues were considered and practical solutions were implemented in a timely manner.

