



Revitalising a piece of Norway in London

10 Palace Green

ICENI PROJECTS – CASE STUDY

Iceni Heritage was appointed, on behalf of Statsbygg (the Norwegian Government’s ‘Directorate of Public Construction and Property’), as Heritage Consultants for the refurbishment works at the Royal Norwegian Embassy, 10 Palace Green.

Our involvement included working closely with the project team, and the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea planning department, to provide valuable heritage related advice throughout the design process. This then informed the production of a Heritage Statement, in support of the full Planning and Listed Building Consent for the desired interventions. The works included the provision of enhanced living accommodation, necessary maintenance works, as well as unassisted access throughout the ground floor, both externally and internally.

Designed and constructed by Edward J May in 1905, 10 Palace Green had been subject to much intervention since it was erected upon the western portion of, what was historically, Kensington Palace Gardens. These changes in the twentieth century included the re-ordering of internal layout as a result of King Haakon leading the Norwegian government-in-exile here between 1940-45, as well as the building being adapted to accommodate the Norwegian Ambassador, as his London residence.

The Heritage Statement, therefore, focused on the concise historic research of the building and the surrounding context, which aimed to demonstrate a clear understanding and assessment of the significance of the fabric. As a result, this informed appropriate intervention whilst meeting the client’s requirements, and a full assessment of impact was completed. Working closely with the local Council, the works were fully supported, including the provision of unassisted access.

5 interesting facts about the project

1: WORLD WAR II

King Haakon VII (1872-1957) led the Norwegian government-in-exile from 10 Palace Green 1940-1945.

2: DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

The building was built, originally, for William Willett, the first promoter of Daylight Savings Time; a prodigious builder, the house is full of Edwardian Mod-Cons.

3: KENSINGTON PALACE CONNECTIONS

The land which 10, Palace Green sits upon was once included within the gardens of Kensington Palace.

4: FUNCTIONS

10 Palace Green holds many functions here throughout the year, inviting Royalty, and heroic figures such as Olympians and Para-Olympians.

5: DISABLED ACCESS

The works included the introduction of unassisted access across the ground floor of the Grade II listed building, both internally and externally.

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London: Da Vinci House, 44 Saffron Hill, London, EC1N 8FH

Manchester: This Is The Space, 68 Quay Street, Manchester, M3 3EJ

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