

PROJECT CASE STUDY

Restoration of The Arup – Sir
David Attenborough Building,
Cambridge





History of The Arup – Sir David Attenborough Building

The Arup - Sir David Attenborough Building, formerly the Arup Research and Development Building, boasts a rich history steeped in engineering innovation. Named after the esteemed engineer Sir Ove Arup, it was a hub for pioneering research, design, and sustainability. Later, recognizing Sir David Attenborough's remarkable conservation work, it was renamed, signifying a broader commitment to ecological preservation. This transformation signifies its shift from an engineering centre to a symbol of our collective duty to nurture our planet.

Located in Cambridge, the David Attenborough Building emerged in 2015 through a transformational project led by the Cambridge Conservation Initiative (CCI). Embracing a 'biophilic' design philosophy, it turned a former university building into a vibrant global conservation hub. Named after Sir David Attenborough, it now unites the Cambridge-based conservation community and houses the CCI Conservation Campus, along with the University of Cambridge's Charles Babbage Lecture Theatre, Whale Café, and the impressive Museum of Zoology, showcasing over 3 million specimens. Sustainability is at its core, with the André Hoffman Atrium featuring a towering living green wall. A bespoke sustainability framework was developed from the project's inception, ensuring the David Attenborough Building stands as a beacon of sustainable excellence.

RESTORATION THE ARUP – SIR DAVID ATTENBOROUGH BUILDING, CAMBRIDGE

Project Background

Concrete Renovations Ltd was entrusted with a vital mission at the Arup – Sir David Attenborough Building in Cambridge. Employed by Kiers, on the recommendation of Nicholas Hare Architects, we showcased our prowess. Our ingenious concrete repair system, honed over years, ensured discreet, sympathetic repairs on this Grade 2 listed gem. Additionally, our DOFF cleaning technology and vacuum recovery systems gently cleansed the building inside out, safeguarding its historical fabric. With a project value estimated at £30 million, this restoration not only preserved heritage but also housed the extended Zoology Museum and Babbage Lecture Theatre, alongside the Cambridge Conservation Initiative.

Techniques Used When Restoring

Retaining the building is the initial step in pioneering carbon management. Concrete Renovations Ltd has successful discrete repair techniques which have been employed in preserving listed structures, including Harvey Court, Fen Court, and the Cripps Building.

DOFF Cleaning Technology: Concrete Renovations Ltd took on the remarkable transformation of this Grade 2* listed building, catapulting it to the forefront of sustainability. Leveraging our cutting-edge DOFF Cleaning and vacuum technology, we delicately cleansed the entire concrete structure, simultaneously minimizing water waste.

Precise Colour Matching for Repairs: As part of our meticulous restoration process, Concrete Renovations Ltd ensured that all concrete repairs harmoniously blended with the original building's design. Our colour-matching expertise allowed us to seamlessly integrate modern repairs into the historical structure, preserving the architectural heritage.

Modernization of Expansion Joints: Additionally, Concrete Renovations Ltd replaced the aging expansion joints with modern counterparts. This essential upgrade not only enhanced the building's structural integrity but also contributed significantly to its overall rejuvenation, ensuring its enduring legacy.



Before

The before picture above of The Arup - Sir David Attenborough Building reveals a time when scaffolding enveloped its exterior like a cocoon, a symbol of its impending transformation. During the restoration, this scaffolding served as the architectural chrysalis, preserving the building's rich history while preparing it for a remarkable metamorphosis.



After

The after picture above of The Arup - Sir David Attenborough Building radiates timeless grandeur, showcasing the monumental transformation. Free from scaffolding, the building stands tall, a testament to its rich history and a beacon of renewed vitality. It embodies a harmonious blend of heritage and modern sustainability, radiating architectural brilliance.

PROJECT VALUE: ££600,000.00

RESTORATION THE ARUP – SIR DAVID ATTENBOROUGH BUILDING, CAMBRIDGE

Before/During Restoration



After Restoration



PROJECT VALUE: £600,000.00



The Arup – Sir David Attenborough Building Before & After

Concrete Renovations Ltd takes immense pride in the dedicated team that played a pivotal role in the restoration of The Arup - Sir David Attenborough Building. The project was not just an assignment; it was an opportunity to contribute to preserving history and promoting sustainable values. Our team's unwavering commitment and craftsmanship, coupled with their collaborative spirit, transformed a vision into reality. Their dedication to perfection and collaboration with the client led to a glowing testimonial, with the client stating that Concrete Renovations Ltd went "above and beyond to achieve the results we wanted." Their work stands as a testament to their expertise and commitment to preserving our architectural heritage while embracing sustainability.



SAVING HERITAGE & RESTORING BEAUTY

CONCRETE RENOVATIONS
LTD

ABOUT US

Originally conceived in 1984, Concrete Renovations Ltd are a UK based structural repair company with 30 years of experience in the repair and maintenance of concrete, stone and masonry buildings and structures.

OUR VALUES

Quality

Going above and beyond to carry out stonework, masonry and concrete renovations and repairs to the highest quality.

Consistency

Whether it is repair, restoration or installation, every job that is undertaken by Concrete Renovations Ltd is completed to exceptional consistency. Our expertly-trained team of concrete specialists take pride in a job well done.

Satisfaction

Many years' experience in all manner of projects, large and small, have enabled us to complete repairs, restoration and installation, as well as providing innovative solutions which keep customer satisfaction firmly in mind.

Our Services



Historic Repair



Concrete Defects



Plate Bonding



Stone Restoration

Contact us



01733 560362



sales@concreterenovations.co.uk



concreterenovations.co.uk