

Cultural Change

Paul Vick Architects wins UK 2019
Best Cultural Architecture Practice



Image: Royal Ordnance Depot, Northampton. Paul Vick architects have created a vision for the 22acre, grade 2* listed site including new visitor centre, retail, character workspace, fully accessible, low energy care home and living delivering economic, social and environmental value for the future and making the most of the historic assets is achieved through careful mixed use. The site is a former C19th arms, clothing store and barracks dating back to the Napoleonic era, The Grand Canal was extended through the centre of the site linking the Depot to Birmingham's munitions factories. The project has been awarded grants from Historic England and HLF and achieved a number of planning permissions. <http://paulvick.co.uk/#Projects>

What happens when we consciously change culture, and how does architecture help?

Culture is more than the object on a shelf. It is the glue of our day to day existence. Culture informs our office life, home lives, our public spaces, our museums, research and learning, our food, our spiritual and leisure spaces. It determines where we want to spend our time, what we want to study, how we want our lives to be shaped. It is a powerful tool, engaging and transformative, and is often formed unconsciously.

Today, child activist Greta Thunberg can call out young students on a strike against climate change. This is a cultural intervention, a moment when we can see culture changing based on a single powerful image. Public demand for action on the environmental agenda is increasingly vocal, ranging from 'Extinct' marches to the reports of the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, founded in 1988) and related studies which consider carbon emissions, energy security and resilience.

There are those who say that the golden threads of economic, social and environmental sustainability are incompatible. We don't believe this.

The statutory requirement of planning permission is increasingly requiring lower carbon usage and in some places zero carbon already. This is then already a market norm.

At Paul Vick architects, we have designed a number of low energy projects, new and refurbishment over the last 10+ years - retro-fitting, using new technologies, or undertaking a mix of both, depending on the project.

As well as the 'sticks' of public pressure and planning requirements, at our practice we start with the idea that **if you do not need it then do not build it**. This helps economically as well. Our questions are based on 'what is the need?'. The answers to this may be environmental, spatial or a response to a particular cultural approach which require imagination and ways of beautifully organising ideas, ourselves and both our literal and figurative structures.

This is one way architecture builds cultural change with you. Literally.
Please contact us if you would like to discuss your project ideas.

[Click here for the article](#)

Paul Vick architects are at the Museum
Association Annual Conference & Exhibition,
Brighton 03-05 Oct Stand 36. Come and visit us!

The theme for this year's conference is Sustainable
and Ethical Museums in a Globalised World.

[https://www.museumsassociation.org/conference/
conference-venue](https://www.museumsassociation.org/conference/conference-venue)

Visit us
03 - 04 Oct
Stand 36

**MUSEUMS
ASSOCIATION**



**Paul Vick Architects
Best Cultural Architecture Practice - UK**

Launched in 2015, each year the prestigious 2019 Architecture Awards recognise and acknowledge the outstanding works conducted by imaginative designers, engineers and visionaries, whose inspiring and memorable designs and structures enhance our horizons.

'Thank you to all our clients.' Paul Vick

Paul Vick Architects continues to bring you 100% planning permission record with new build, listed buildings and those in conservation areas giving you confidence your vision will succeed. This is a result of a particular approach to value enhancement.

See www.paulvick.co.uk/newsletters for more information or Contact us.

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Paul Vick Architects are Chartered RIBA architects.