

WHITECHAPEL HANDICRAFT LIBRARY

A MULTIFUNCTIONAL CENTRE FOR HANDICRAFT COMMUNITY

BRIEF

In response to the rapid development of handcraft industry in United Kingdom, this project aims to convert the existing Whitechapel Bell Foundry into an industrial library to serve the expanding handicraft community. Operated by the Crafts Council, the library will be an important base to facilitate the growth of the handicraft industry. Therefore, it will serve as a multifunctional centre for people:

1. To gather, to learn, to exchange and to work collaboratively

2. To serve as an informative and experiential centre

3. To support development of handicraft industry in UK as a base

4. To inspire visitors for stimulating creativity and imagination

SIX KEYWORDS

Inspiring: motivating people to explore new things
Collaborative: Bringing people to gain knowledge and work together
Well-organized: in terms of management and resources
Evolving: adapting changes from time to time
Diverse: offering a wide range of resources
Innovative: giving out new ideas

CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT

What are people looking for?



What can people find?



The Idea Centre

Extension: Mainly used for generating ideas through discussion, exhibition and research. It is named The Idea Centre in response to its primary function - giving out inspiration.

Outdoor Space

Extension: It is an open space for people to relax and release stress from studying and working. Also, it is suggested that outdoor space is a better option in Post-Covid World in order to avoid over-crowded in indoor space.

The 1980s Building

Existing building: Originally functioning as a warehouse, there are no partition walls in the building but only a platform at the centre, it provides a lot of space for the project. Also, it is located at the centre to connect remaining three parts of building, which is the space visitors would visit frequently.

Historic Foundry

Existing building: As a bell foundry for more than 300 years, the building was listed as Grade II* in order to preserve its historical value. Designs are focus on maintaining its original industrial features by restoring structures to a good and safe condition.

