

# Guildford Design Awards Nomination Form 2023

## Note:

Areas Autosize as required.

Seven Boxes require Completion.

Consider using WeTransfer <https://wetransfer.com/> if files get very large

Return to Peter Coleman [petercolemanarchitects@gmail.com](mailto:petercolemanarchitects@gmail.com)

<b>1) Address of Scheme</b> <i>(including postcode)</i>  The Guildhall High Street Guildford GU1 3EL	<b>2) Category of Project</b> <i>(Select from list at foot of form)</i>  Conservation Project
<b>3) Name of Client</b>  Guildford Borough Council	<b>4) Architect, Design Consultants or Artist</b>  Mark Graham MA MRICS Building Surveyor Assets & Property Team Guildford Borough Council  Cooper & Withycombe Ltd 2 Paris Parklands Railton Road Guildford, Surrey GU2 9JX
<b>5) Key Contact</b> <i>(Email address, phone number, etc.)</i>  Mark Graham MA MRICS Building Surveyor Assets & Property Team Guildford Borough Council Tel. 07901 518720 Email: <a href="mailto:Mark.Graham@guildford.gov.uk">Mark.Graham@guildford.gov.uk</a>	
Category of Project  <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• New Commercial Building</li><li>• New Public Building</li><li>• New Build - Individual House</li><li>• New Build - Multiple Housing – smaller projects up to 30 homes</li></ul>	

- New Build - Multiple Housing – larger projects 30 homes and over
- Conservation Project
- Regeneration Project including those involving an extension to an existing building.
- Public Realm including soft (landscape) and/or hard works
- Public Art

## **6) Brief description of the Project**

*(Include key features of the design, maximum 1-page A4)*

This project comprised the repair and redecoration of the front façade of the Guildhall, a Grade 1 listed building, including the octagonal bell tower and large clock that cantilevers out over the High Street. The building dates from the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries, with the front elevation having been rebuilt in 1683 when the clock was added.

One of the defining features of the project was the scaffolding required to provide the access necessary to undertake the work. The relatively fragile nature of the building meant that scaffolding could not bear upon it in the usual way. Instead, it was designed to be largely free standing, secured by large concrete counterweights at its base, with the only points of contact being within the bell tower. This was determined to be acceptable after careful study of the timber frame to ensure that the imposed loads could be safely transmitted down through the structure.

The scaffolding also provided access to the clock, which projects nearly halfway across the High Street and it's notable that the street remained open to both vehicles and pedestrians throughout the project.

The work itself comprised a mix of both typical and specialised repairs. The typical included relatively straightforward decorations, leadwork and timber repairs, the latter incorporating both resin repairs and splicing in of new timber depending upon the circumstances. Decorations utilised modern materials but not before testing was carried out to determine the presence of any lead paint. Whilst that might be expected in a building of this age, in practice the exterior has been redecorated many times in its life and it was shown that all traces of older coatings have long since been removed.

The more specialised work included repairs to original leaded light windows and iron fixtures, and the re-application of gilding to the clock face numerals. It was, however, discovered that some of the surrounding decorations are actually merely gold paint and were therefore renewed as such. All of this work was undertaken as sympathetically as possible using traditional craftspeople well versed in the necessary techniques.

Finally, the mechanism that drives the clock was also serviced. Whilst the visible parts of the clock are the originals from 1683, its mechanism is not. It is now driven by an electric motor via a long shaft concealed within its cantilevered support beam, which is connected to the hands by a series of bevel gears. Because of its location, access to these parts is extremely difficult and our records show that it was last serviced around ten years ago. It was, however, in remarkably good order and required only routine maintenance and lubrication.

This work, together with similar but less challenging refurbishment of the rear elevation that was undertaken beforehand, will continue to preserve this landmark building for the future of Guildford.

## 7) Photographs of the completed project













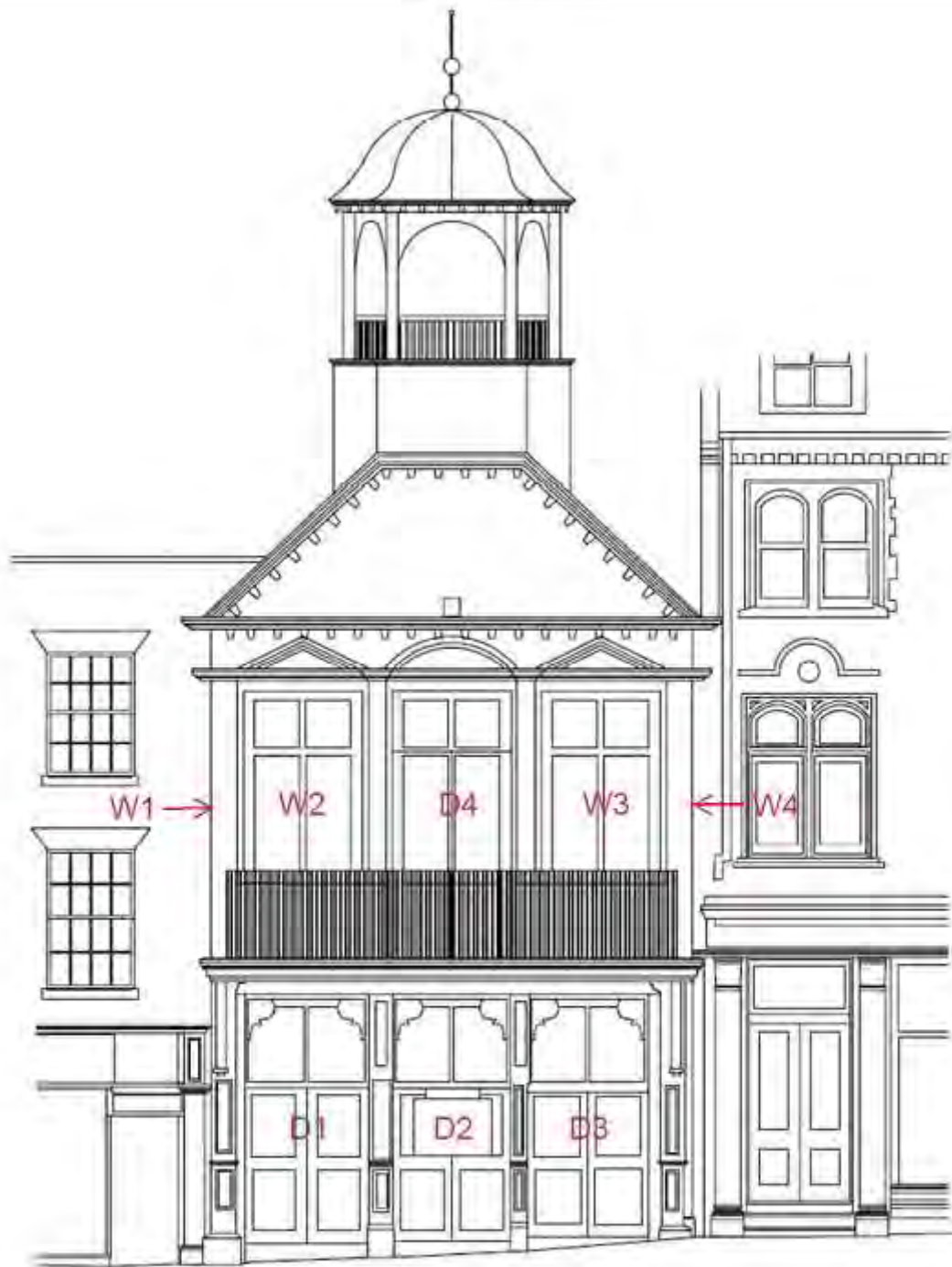






**8) Plans, Sections, elevations.**

*(Include or attach these to appropriately support your application)*



**Guildhall Front Elevation**

Drawing No. 2021/XRD/07