Seeing London’s Architecture

**Class code**
ARTH-UA 9674 - 001

**Instructor Details**
Emily Gee MA, Grad Dipl Cons (AA) dist, IHBC

E-mail: ejnggee@gmail.com
Telephone: 07976 - 238445 (mobile)

Office Hour: Thursdays, 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. Individual meetings with the Instructor can be arranged after classes on Thursdays, and will therefore coincide with the locations of the class each week.

**Class Details**
Fall 2013

Classes are held on Thursdays, starting at 2:00 p.m. and finishing at 5:00 p.m. 
_NB_ travel time will be _outside_ class times.

The first class will meet at NYU in London, 6 Bedford Square, and a few future classes will meet here in part for lectures; however, most future classes will be in different London locations as noted below.

**Prerequisites**
No prerequisites for this class, but basic drawing skills, map reading skills and visual awareness are all essential.

**Class Description**
This course is designed to work in three ways. First, it is an opportunity to learn about London’s architecture, art and history by physically exploring the city’s historic and modern built environment. Second, this class is an introduction to sketching and keeping a travel notebook, a fulfilling skill that any liberal arts student should experience. Third, and perhaps most important, this course teaches students how to ‘read’ a town or city. The ability to visually make sense of the built environment of this major capital should help in understanding the architecture of New York City and, of course, other towns and cities throughout the world. Our course will flow through London’s extraordinary and diverse environment, considering significant architectural developments from many periods, while learning to record and describe what we see. We will study the architectural vocabulary of London and learn how to accurately and elegantly depict buildings and places in both word and image.

**Desired Outcomes**
- To gain a good understanding of the architectural history and conservation history of London;
- To have an introduction to sketching and keeping a travel sketchbook and notebook;
- To learn to ‘read’ and record a city’s history, buildings and places, as well as its changing values over time. By understanding the historical development, materials and styles of the buildings in London one can begin to enjoy a sophisticated understanding of town and cities wherever one finds oneself in the world.

**Assessment Components**
The Programme:
Fourteen afternoon sessions of ‘field’ visits around London, which will include an introductory session at 6 Bedford Square and several further lectures as part of the class.

Location and Themes:
The field visits will focus on different areas of London and the city’s urban development from the Anglo-Saxon, Roman and Medieval periods through to the early twenty-first century, with an emphasis on the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. We will consider the themes of housing, transport, commerce and shopping, industry, open space development and religious, civic and cultural institutions as we visit, study and record diverse parts of this great city. We will make use of historic maps and will consider preservation and conservation issues as we go.

Course Requirements:
1) Students are expected to familiarise themselves with the broad circumstances of London’s architectural history and development. There are required reading assignments for each session included on the itinerary for individual sessions below, and further readings will be encouraged each week. Students are expected to complete all the required readings and be prepared to discuss these in class. Each week, students will be expected to present key points to their classmates.

2) Students will take a written 45 minute quiz on the required reading assignments and the buildings covered in our weekly visits.

3) Students are expected to keep sketchbooks containing assigned sketches of places and buildings visited during the course as well as related photographs, field notes and writings. The contents of the sketchbook will form a major element of each student’s grading. Please clearly write your name, the NYU office address and your telephone number on the inside front cover of the sketchbook. Additionally, each sketch should be initialled and dated.

The Instructor will collect and assess your sketchbooks mid-way through the course — at the end of Session 6 on Thursday, October 10th. Sketchbooks will be available for collection during the following week (the lecturer will let you know when they are ready) at 6 Bedford Square.

Sketchbooks should be handed to the Instructor for final assessment at the end of Session 14 on Thursday, December 5th. Both interim and end-of-term assessments will be an aggregate of the quality and breadth of coverage in your sketchbook, your progress in recording buildings and places and the presentation of these elements in your sketchbook. All required sketches must be finished, with an expectation that students will include additional sketches as well. This achievement will consider how you have developed the following aspects of recording:

- Visual representations in the form of sketches (elevations, perspectives and general views, plans and maps and details as assigned plus additional)
- Written annotations of relevant physical and historical facts that are discussed during the visits to different sites, which should include:
  - Name of building or place,
  - Date of building,
  - Name of architect, designer, client, and
  - Description: including scale, form, structure, materials, construction, etc.
- Written descriptions and notes of personal impressions of the places visited.

This course is interested in the development of skills in recording and not necessarily with artistic ability. Drawings should be supplemented with thoughtful observations and notes from required readings and discussions during the visits. The location and subject and a concise description should be noted for each sketch. Sketchbooks should include all drawings and notes from our field visits as well as additional loose sketches, annotated historic maps, clippings and photographs, etc.

4) All students will be required to write an essay of 2000 words length on a London building. Students should start thinking of a topic of interest early on and discuss this with the instructor. An outline of what is required will be provided and discussed in class. A written proposal is due in Session 9 on Thursday, October 31st. Essays must be handed to the Instructor for marking at the beginning of
Session 13 on Thursday, November 28th.

5) Each week’s field visit will include a walking tour / lecture on the buildings and area of our focus with assigned sketches for one or more periods in each class. Students are also expected to make short sketches and other notes as we travel together. **Students are expected to participate with observations and paying close attention** as much as they would in a seated seminar. Assessment of the sketchbook will consider the attention and engagement of the student and their application in recording during each class.

**Grading:**

- Session 6 (Thursday, October 10th): interim sketchbook review 1 – 10% of grade
- Session 8 (Thursday, October 24th): quiz – 20% of grade
- Session 13 (Thursday, November 28th): essay on London building due – 40% of grade
- Session 14 (Thursday, December 5th): final sketchbook review – 30% of grade

Failure to submit or fulfil any required course component results in failure of the class.

**Assessment Expectations**

**Grade A:** Excellent – a deep level of comprehension of London’s history and architecture, strong participation in class and thorough engagement with the content, sketching and note-taking throughout the term.

**Grade B:** Good – a good understanding of London’s history and architecture, good level of participation and a well-presented sketchbook with good notes.

**Grade C:** Average

**Grade D:** Below Average

**Grade F:** Failure

**Grade conversion**

NYU in London uses the following scale of numerical equivalents to letter grades:

- A=94-100
- A-=90-93
- B+=87-89
- B=84-86
- B-=80-83
- C+=77-79
- C=74-76
- C-=70-73
- D+=67-69
- D=65-66
- F=below 65

Where no specific numerical equivalent is assigned to a letter grade by the class teacher, the mid point of the range will be used in calculating the final class grade (except in the A range, where 95.5 will be used).
Grading Policy

NYU in London aims to have grading standards and results in all its courses similar to those that prevail at Washington Square.

Attendance Policy

NYUL has a strict policy about course attendance. **No unexcused absences are permitted.** While students should contact their class teachers to catch up on missed work, you should NOT approach them for excused absences.

Excused absences will usually only be considered for serious, unavoidable reasons such as personal ill–health or illness in the immediate family. Trivial or non-essential reasons for absence will not be considered.

Excused absences can only be considered if they are reported in accordance with guidelines which follow, and can only be obtained from the appropriate member of NYUL's staff.

**Please note that you will need to ensure that no make-up classes – or required excursions - have been organised before making any travel plans for the semester.** See also section 11.1 - Make up days.

**Absence reporting for an absence due to illness**

1. On the first day of absence due to illness you should report the details of your symptoms by e-mailing absences@nyu.ac.uk including details of: class(es) missed; professor; class time; and whether any work was due including exams. Or call free (from landline) 0800 316 0469 (option 2) to report your absences on the phone.

2. Generally a doctor’s note will be required to ensure you have sought treatment for the illness. Contact the Gower Street Health Centre on 0207 636 7628 to make an appointment, or use HTH general practitioners if you cannot get an appointment expediently at Gower Street.

3. At the end of your period of absence, you will need to complete an absence form online at [http://bit.ly/NuCl5K](http://bit.ly/NuCl5K). You will need to log in to NYU Home to access the form.

4. Finally you must arrange an appointment to speak to Nigel Freeman or Donna Drummond-Smart on your first day back at class. You must have completed the absence form before making your appointment.

Supporting documentation relating to absences must be submitted within one week of your return to class.

**Absence requests for non-illness reasons**

Absence requests for **non-illness** reasons must be discussed with the Academic Office prior to the date(s) in question – no excused absences for reasons other than illness can be applied retrospectively. Please come in and see us in Room 308, 6 Bedford Square, or e-mail us at academics@nyu.ac.uk.

**Further information regarding absences**

Each unexcused absence will be penalized by deducting 3% from the student’s final course mark. Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence.

Unexcused absences from exams are not permitted and will result in failure of the exam. If you are granted an excused absence from an examination (with authorisation, as above), your lecturer will decide how you will make-up the assessment component, if at all (by make-up examination, extra
coursework, viva voce (oral examination), or an increased weighting on an alternate assessment component, etc.).

NYUL also expects students to arrive to class promptly (both at the beginning and after any breaks) and to remain for the duration of the class. If timely attendance becomes a problem it is the prerogative of each instructor to deduct a mark or marks from the final grade of each late arrival and each early departure.

Please note that for classes involving a field trip or other external visit, transportation difficulties are never grounds for an excused absence. It is the student’s responsibility to arrive at an agreed meeting point in a punctual and timely fashion.

Please refer to the Student Handbook for full details of the policies relating to attendance. A copy is in your apartment and has been shared with you on Google Docs.

### Late Submission of Work

Written work due in class must be submitted during the class time to the professor. Late work should be submitted in person to a member of NYU London staff in the Academic Office (Room 308, 6 Bedford Square) during office hours (Mon – Fri, 10:30 – 17:30). Please also send an electronic copy to academics@nyu.ac.uk for submission to Turnitin.

Work submitted within 5 weekdays after the submission time without an agreed extension receives a penalty of 10 points on the 100 point scale.

Written work submitted more than 5 weekdays after the submission date without an agreed extension fails and is given a zero.

Please note end of semester essays must be submitted on time.

### Plagiarism Policy

Plagiarism: the presentation of another piece of work or words, ideas, judgements, images or data, in whole or in part, as though they were originally created by you for the assignment, whether intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes an act of plagiarism.

Please refer to the Student Handbook for full details of the plagiarism policy.

All students must submit an electronic copy of each piece of their written work to www.turnitin.com and hand in a printed copy with the digital receipt to their professor. Late submission of work rules apply to both the paper and electronic submission and failure to submit either copy of your work will result in automatic failure in the assignment and possible failure in the class.

### Electronic Submission

The Turnitin database will be searched for the purpose of comparison with other students’ work or with other pre-existing writing or publications, and other academic institutions may also search it.

In order for you to be able to submit your work onto the Turnitin website, you will need to set up an account:

1) Go onto the Turnitin website http://www.turnitin.com
2) Click ‘Create Account’ in the top right hand corner
3) Select user type of ‘student’
4) Enter your class ID & Turnitin class enrolment password (these will be e-mailed to you after the drop/add period, or contact academics@nyu.ac.uk if you have misplaced these).
5) Follow the online instructions to create your profile.

To submit your work for class, you will then need to:

1) Log in to the Turnitin website
2) Enter your class by clicking on the class name
3) Next to the piece of work you are submitting (please confirm the due date), click on the ‘submit’ icon
4) Enter the title of your piece of work
5) Browse for the file to upload from wherever you have saved it (USB drive, etc.), please ensure your work is in Word or PDF format, and click ‘submit’
6) Click ‘yes, submit’ to confirm you have selected the correct paper (or ‘no, go back’ to retry)
7) You will then have submitted your essay onto the Turnitin website.
8) **Please print your digital receipt and attach this to the hard copy of your paper before you submit it to your professor** (this digital receipt appears on the web site, immediately after you submit your paper and is also sent to your e-mail address). Please also note that when a paper is submitted to Turnitin all formatting, images, graphics, graphs, charts, and drawings are removed from the paper so that the program can read it accurately. Please do not print the paper in this form to submit to your lecturers, as it is obviously pretty difficult to read! You can still access the exact file you uploaded by clicking on the ‘file’ icon in the ‘content’ column.

Please also see the Late Submission of Work policy, above.

Students must retain an electronic copy of their work for one month after their grades are posted online on Albert and must supply an electronic copy of their work if requested to do so by NYU in London. **Not submitting a copy of a piece of work upon request will result in automatic failure in the assignment and possible failure in the class.** NYU in London may submit in an electronic form the work of any student to a database for use in the detection of plagiarism, without further prior notification to the student.

Penalties for confirmed cases of plagiarism are set out in the Student Handbook.

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**Required Text(s)**

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<tr>
<th>Reading pack:</th>
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<tr>
<td>- About half of the required reading is in a reading pack, which will provided on the first day of class. These readings are indicated with a [R] below. Readings are included in order and it is essential that you read these before each class and come prepared to discuss.</td>
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<tr>
<th>There are three required paperback texts, listed below, which students should purchase. These readings are indicated with a [T] below</th>
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**Supplemental Texts(s) (not required to**

| Additionally, there are a number of important books for further recommended reading available at the Senate House Library, which will aid in the development of essay ideas and supplement your own interests. You may choose to purchase some of these for your personal academic library and |

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purchase as copies are in NYU-L Library

reference, and used copies are often available in second-hand bookshops. Those with an asterisk are particularly recommended.

Volumes of *The Buildings of England* series. These are essential guides, with London divided into 7 volumes, including one devoted to the City Churches.


Volumes of *The Survey of London*. *First published in 1897, this is a major published record London parishes with detailed history and measured drawings. The most recent volume (2012) is Woolwich.*


*One of many good architectural dictionaries. Penguin’s and the Pevsner Architectural Guide’s Glossary are also very good.*


*An excellent overview of British Architecture up to the Victorian period.*


*Essential text for those interested*


*An inexpensive and useful guide to contemporary architecture.*

*Excellent reference book, recently revised


*Excellent monograph on this major architect and relevant to our field visits


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**Internet Research**

Useful web resources that students should consult for general knowledge and research for essay:
Additional Required Equipment

Materials
You must use a good quality, hard-backed sketchbook and pencils or fine tipped pens. These can be bought locally from a classic artist’s material shop just around the corner from NYU-L: L. Cornelissen and Son, 105 Great Russell Street, London, WC1B 3RY, tel. 020 7636 1045.

The recommended sketchbook is A4 (not A3, as this will not be allowed in the Soane Museum) with a minimum of 50 sheets of plain paper, 265mm by 210mm, 120 g/m² acid free cartridge paper. Your sketchbook should have hard or heavy stiff card-backed end covers, which will give much better support as you sketch. It is usually easier to work with one that is bound along its short side, or ‘landscape’, format. It is essential that you write your name, the NYU in London address and your telephone number on the inside cover. This sketchbook will form a very important part of your final assessment, as well as a unique record of your time in London, so you must not lose it.

You will also need: sketching pencils in densities of 2B, 4B, a pencil sharpener, an eraser, and some fine point drawing pens (nib sizes 02, 05 and 08 are recommended).

You will find it useful to have a camera to record buildings for your own use and learning, as well as for completing sketches after class.

Money for Travel
Don’t forget to bring enough money for Underground and bus fares (about £5.00 a class) and hot or cold drinks (about £3.00). In most cases you will be able to reach places and buildings that we will visit by the Underground or Docklands Light Railway, though there will be some days when busses and suburban trains will be used. Obtain a pay-as-you-go Oyster Card, which allows for efficient travel and provides a serious discount over cash fares. I have noted the closest station for most visits below.

London Street Atlas
The London A to Z is the standard pocket street atlas. You will need one to work out how to get to the start of each visit and for understanding the broader context of the locality - not to mention getting around London during your stay – get one to keep with you at all times. A good A-Z app is also now available for iPhones.

Clothing and shoes
The weather may not be good and you should check the weather report in advance to be prepared. Dress sensibly as we will be out of doors most of the time and wear comfortable shoes as we will be walking quite a lot. London’s damp climate can be deceiving: it may seem warm when you first step outside but will soon feel much colder when you are sketching, standing or sitting in an outdoor...
location for a few hours. Warm fleeces, down vests and hats are essential for staying warm and healthy in the colder parts of the term. You will also need a waterproof shell with hood to combine with these warm layers for rainy days. Fingerless gloves are a good idea for drawing and writing outside. Water is essential for hot days, and hot drinks for cold days.

Session 1

**Introduction** – lecture on London’s architectural development and introductory exercises on understanding, reading and recording buildings through sketching in Bedford Square.

**Meet:** at our NYU in London classroom, Bedford Square

**Readings:**
- [R] Illustrations from David Brock, English Heritage *The Resurvey Glossary*
- [R] Watson – *Artist’s Sketchbook* selected pages
- [R] list description for the buildings of Bedford Square
- [T] Summerson – *Georgian London* Ch. 1 Air View pp. 1-9; Ch. 5 The London House and its Builders pp. 49-68; Ch. 12 Great Estates 1 pp. 179-195

Session 2

**The Civic and Royal Capital** – Jewel Tower (visit arranged), Palace of Westminster and Whitehall, Banqueting House

**Meet:** at the Jewel Tower [Westminster & 5 mins walk]

**Readings:**
- [R] Summerson – *Architecture in Britain 1530-1830* Chapter 8 The Surveyorship of Inigo Jones pp. 119-139

**NB Gillian Darley lecture on Soane and St. Pancras at 7 p.m.**

Session 3

**Victoria & Albert Museum and architectural drawing** – special session looking at historic architectural drawings (visit arranged, 2:00) and considering how to apply to your own sketchbooks. Study and sketching of the V&A building and its architectural collections.

**Meet:** inside the main entrance to V&A Museum [South Kensington & 5 mins walk]

**Readings:**

Session 4

**Greenwich** – The Royal Park and its Roman and Saxon monuments, the Queen’s House (visit arranged) and Royal Naval College Buildings

**Meet:** at main entrance to the Cutty Sark for Maritime Greenwich

**Readings:**
- [R] Parks and Gardens Register entry for Greenwich Park
### Session 5

**American history in London buildings** – A special tour of the Benjamin Franklin House, a Georgian town house with special interiors, historic associations and interpretation programme (visit arranged, 2:00) then a brisk walk via statues and houses of important historic Americans to the US Embassy (Eero Saarinen, 1960)

**Meet**: outside 36 Craven Street ready to start at 2 [†Charing Cross & 5 mins walk, please check map ahead of time to not be late for start of visit]

**Readings**:
- [R] list description for US Embassy

### Session 6

**Valuing and Conserving London** – Lecture and discussion on the history of listing and conservation issues in London then sketching at Senate House, University of London

**Meet**: at our NYU in London classroom, Bedford Square

**Readings**:
- [R] Conservation timeline prepared by Emily Gee, English Heritage
- [R] Gavin Stamp – *Lost Victorian Britain: How the Twentieth Century Destroyed the Nineteenth Century’s Architectural Masterpieces* Introduction pp. 7-29

**** Interim Sketchbook review (10% of grade) – Hand in to Instructor at the end of class and you will be notified when they are ready to collect in Luke Harper’s office at 6 Bedford Square **

**NB Simon Bradley lecture on St. Pancras Station at 7 p.m.**

### Session 7

**Regent’s Park and RIBA** – The John Nash buildings of Regent’s Park then session at the RIBA Headquarters (Grey Wornum, 1935, Portland Place) to consider the architecture, see some Nash drawings, and learn about resources for your essays (visit arranged, 3:30).

**Meet**: at Gloucester Gate, the NE entrance to Regent’s Park [†Camden Town & 5 mins walk]

**Readings**:

### Session 8

**Living in London** – lecture on lodging houses in London and visit to a variety of housing types nearby including sketching at the Brunswick Centre

**Meet**: at our NYU in London classroom, Bedford Square

**Readings**:
** Quiz (20% of grade) **

** Session 9 **

** City of London – Smithfield Market, the Barbican and St. Paul’s Cathedral **

Thursday, October 31st

Meet: at north entrance to Smithfield Market, Charterhouse Street [Fort Farringdon & 5 mins walk]

Readings:
[R] Summerson – Architecture in Britain 1530-1830 Ch. 14 St. Paul’s Cathedral pp. 221-38

** Essay proposal due (refer to handout for format and requirements)**

** Session 10 **

** Museums and Markets – The British Museum (exterior) and Covent Garden Market and its environs with map regression exercises and sketching **

Thursday, November 14th

Meet: Outside main (south side) entrance to British Museum, Great Russell Street

Readings:

** NB Class tomorrow! Make up for Spring Break **

** Session 11 **

** Lincoln’s Inn and Sir John Soane – The buildings of Lincoln’s Inn and Sir John Soane’s Museum, Lincoln’s Inn Fields (visit arranged) **

Friday, November 14th

Meet: Sir John Soane’s Museum, 13 Lincoln’s Inn Fields. From Holborn tube take the left exit onto Kingsway. Take your 3rd left into Remnant Street, which brings you into Lincolns Inn Fields. The Museum is nearly half way along the north side of the Fields. [Holborn & 2 mins walk]

Readings:
[T] Summerson – Georgian London Ch. 1 Building during the French Wars 1793-1815 pp. 165-77

** Session 12 **

** Spitalfields and Shoreditch – Eighteenth century silk weaving area and nineteenth century furniture manufacturing area with distinctive buildings in each, then up to the Geffrye Museum (visit arranged) for interiors **

Thursday, November 21st

Meet: at Bishopsgate Street entrance to Liverpool Street

Readings:

** Session 13 **

** St. Pancras Old Church and Station – An exploration of church architecture through this remarkable church, mostly Victorian but with a Roman altar stone, medieval fabric and important tombs. We will learn about the connection of the historic churchyard to St. Pancras railway station and will study the **
train shed. Tea break at your Instructor’s house.

Meet: at the entrance to St. Pancras Old Church, Pancras Road (to the north of St. Pancras station) 
Kings Cross St. Pancras

Readings:
[T] Bradley, Simon. St. Pancras Station

** Essay on London building due (40% of grade) – Hand in original copy with Turnitin receipt to Instructor **

### Session 14
Thursday, December 5th

Meet: at the entrance to St. Pancras Old Church, Pancras Road (to the north of St. Pancras station) 
Kings Cross St. Pancras

Readings:
[T] Bradley, Simon. St. Pancras Station

** Essay on London building due (40% of grade) – Hand in original copy with Turnitin receipt to Instructor **

### Session 15
Thursday, December 12th

No final exam (and no class meeting)

Classroom Etiquette
Much of our class is spent outside, often on busy, noisy streets. It is essential that students keep close to the Instructor, walk briskly and keep up with the group to avoid delays at each stop, and pay extremely careful attention when crossing roads. Students should always take personal responsibility for their own safe passage across roads, rather than automatically crossing with the group. Active participation is essential and students should respectfully not talk when the Instructor is introducing a building on the route or on site.

It is very important that all students arrive in time to start punctually at 2 o’clock as often we will start walking at that point. If delayed for unavoidable reasons, students should telephone the Instructor on the number provided above to get directions on where to catch up the group.

Toilet breaks should be taken before or after class or during class breaks.

Food & drink, including gum, are not to be consumed in class, although hot drinks and cold water are allowed when sketching outside.

Mobile phones should be set on silent and should not be used in class except for emergencies. Students should keep notes in their sketchbooks, not on telephones or laptops.

Please kindly dispose of rubbish in the bins provided.

Required Co-curricular
Use your sketchbook outside of our class hours, making notes and describing the places you visit and explore. A rich and intelligently developed sketchbook is a key component of this term’s assessment.
Activities
Take it anywhere you go and draw at the theatre, football matches, even parties, wherever! The Architectural Association (AA) and particularly its library, on the other side of Bedford Square can be a great resource for you. It provides one of the best architectural and London libraries in Europe, exhibitions, lectures, an inexpensive café / bar, and an interesting crowd of international students. Similarly, the RIBA library will be an important resource for your essay and also features architectural exhibitions and lectures.

Suggested Co-curricular Activities
There are also opportunities to attend evening lectures, walking tours and exhibitions and your Instructor will periodically suggest additional ways to learn more about London’s history, art and architecture in this way, which students are strongly encouraged to pursue.

Your Instructor
Your Instructor has worked at English Heritage for 12 years and is Head of Designation, advising the government on the listing of buildings and other historic assets. The course will inevitably focus on buildings and sites that have special interest worthy of designation (statutory protection or ‘listing’) and we will consider conservation and preservation issues on our travels together. Emily studied in the US (Smith College, BA; University of Virginia, MA Architectural History), was teaching assistant for architectural history courses at UVA, and has a Diploma in Building Conservation from the Architectural Association in London. She has published several articles on the history of purpose-built housing for working women in Victorian and Edwardian London and leads English Heritage’s activity on twentieth century architecture. Emily has taught at NYU in London since Spring 2011.