

City Continuity Community
by
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Client
Spitalfields Historic Building Trust

Project Statement:

After three years work widely disseminating groundbreaking ideas and vivid imagery for a successful Public Inquiry London's historic Smithfield Market was saved from being demolished just to make way for a private office building. It will now be restored as a New Museum of London as a fully public building. The success established new conservation case law, valuing character and uses, not just facades.

Elsewhere, in The Strand, an alternative strategy for a new public space opposed the demolition of a terrace of historic buildings and shops and the public outcry resulted in Kings College withdrawing plans for a single building. There are now plans for the Strand next to Kings College and Somerset House to become a new publicly accessible university precinct.

In the case of Norton Folgate, Spitalfields, the planning process and democratic planning decisions were ignored and overruled prompting legal challenges for a Judicial Review. The current threat of the demolition of scores of premises in the historic Norton Folgate district and replacement with six over-scaled office buildings (£100m) by a single organisation is being opposed using viable alternative more enlightened proposals.

The community backed scheme is going through the planning process and returning businesses, new occupiers, and affordable housing providers await the opportunity to return and preserve the scale and vibrant culture of this part of London.