Case Study: Royal Academy of Arts, London

Gallery

At the end of the 20th century the much loved Royal Academy in Burlington House expanded northward into 6 Burlington Gardens. Both buildings are Grade II* listed. The Royal Academy of Arts' ambition was to make an effective link between the two buildings, using the opportunity to celebrate activities within the RA schools by revealing the previously hidden brick vaults and yards.

David Chipperfield was appointed to develop a direct route linking the original Piccadilly entrance with the north-facing entrance on Burlington Gardens – with the stricture that the entire Royal Academy of Arts complex should be accessible to all. The design brief noted that 25% of the RA's potential audience has disabilities and that a high proportion of the RA Friends, the backbone of the institution, are older people who are more likely to have a disability.

David Bonnett Associates worked closely with the client and the design team to ensure that the intricacies of the scheme respected this RAA ambition. The result has been widely admired the access challenges having been addressed with an open mind and a creative spirit.



Royal Academy of Arts, London



Project Details:

Location	London
Completion	2018
Architects	David Chipperfield Architects
Clients	Royal Academy of Arts