



O'DonnellBrown

PRESS ENQUIRIES

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PRESS RELEASE

NEW OLYMPIA HOUSE UNVEILED IN GLASGOW

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A former Salvation Army Citadel and headquarters of the Grand Orange Lodge has been radically transformed into new office space in the East End of Glasgow. Now known as New Olympia House, the space offers 280m² of modern and flexible commercial office space which will support up to 20 full time jobs.

Designed by award-winning architectural practice O'DonnellBrown, who are based locally in Glasgow, the project demonstrates the practice's expertise in giving a new lease of life to an existing civic building.

The £1.7m development has been spearheaded by Clyde Gateway, Scotland's largest regeneration company. Clyde Gateway oversaw redevelopment of the adjacent Olympia Building, with architects Page\Park refurbishing the Grade B listed Olympia Cinema to create the Bridgeton Library, a boxing centre and lettable office accommodation above.

New Olympia House is a two-storey red sandstone building within the Bridgeton Cross Conservation Area. The internal spaces have been approached with a de-furb strategy, exposing brickwork, roof trusses and existing timber linings, whilst drastically improving the energy performance of the building with new insulation throughout, air source heat pump technology and underfloor heating. The revitalised building features new additions including a platform lift to improve accessibility and a new public entrance defined by a large sculptural metal tower called the Beacon, a nod to the adjacent Bridgeton Umbrella.

Martin McKay, Chief Executive at Clyde Gateway, said:

"We bought this iconic building a few years ago because we knew this had great potential to drive investment right into the heart of Bridgeton. Just off Bridgeton Cross, it is a great space for organisations and businesses. A key objective of this project was to ensure that we did not lose the charm of the original building. The architects O'DonnellBrown and builder Redpath Construction have carried out an excellent job in doing this whilst updating the space into a modern and energy efficient workspace. Clyde Gateway has refurbished and built a number of properties in the immediate vicinity, bringing businesses and organisations to the area. We cannot wait to get new tenants utilising this space too and investing in the east end of Glasgow."

Jennifer O'Donnell, Director, O'DonnellBrown, said:

"New Olympia House provided an exciting opportunity to repurpose a historic building and further strengthen one of Glasgow's historic Crosses. The regeneration of Bridgeton Cross over the last decade has been tackled with ambition and care and O'DonnellBrown enjoyed working in this context with the project team and Clyde Gateway to give this local landmark a brighter future and new lease of life."



Ross Cameron, Project Architect, O'DonnellBrown, said:

"The excitement and challenge of New Olympia House lay in peeling away layers of unsympathetic subdivisions that had occurred over the years and finding the historic and characterful features that existed behind. The previously concealed brickwork, roof trusses, timber linings and 1st floor hall space are now celebrated to create the atmosphere of the new work spaces. Previously the dark, dingy, gated side lane was a negative space that the building turned its back to. This has been transformed, with New Olympia House now embracing the lane with large glazed openings and a new main entrance, providing dual aspect, natural light and ventilation to the work spaces. This move is signified by the new lightweight metal 'Beacon' that infills the missing piece of the street elevation, and sits in dialogue with the decorative metal work of the Bridgeton Umbrella."

Susan Cardwell, Marketing and Business Development Manager, Redpath Construction, said:

"It has been a real privilege to be part of the transformation of the building with Clyde Gateway. As a true regeneration project, we have not only been able to breathe new life into New Olympia House, creating a bright and sustainable office space, we have also had the opportunity to support local young people through training and made lasting relationships with the fantastic team at Green Trees Nursery. There are few projects where the impact on the local community has been felt more keenly".

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Notes to editors:

Address:	13 Olympia Street, Bridgeton Cross, Glasgow G40 3TA
Gross floor area:	350m ² including 280m ² office space
Value:	£1.7m
Construction value:	£1.2m
Client:	Clyde Gateway Developments Limited
Architect:	O'DonnellBrown
Contractor:	Redpath Construction Ltd.
Structural engineer:	David Narro
Services engineer:	Harley Haddow
Quantity surveyor:	McLeod+Aitken
Photos:	© David Barbour

O'DonnellBrown is a multiple award-winning Glasgow-based architecture practice with experience across a range of specialisms, and a keen interest in what it takes to make a positive contribution to our built environment. Recent built works include two outdoor structures, Calton Hill Play Shelter in Edinburgh, and Rainbow Pavilion in Strathclyde Country Park, North Lanarkshire (both 2021). Current projects include: the regeneration of the Govan Graving Docks, Glasgow; the refurbishment of The Pipe Factory in the Barras area of Glasgow, into a new community facility; Gap Homes, Stirling, a development of affordable housing for young people leaving the social care system, commissioned by Barnardo's; and The Crichton Project, in Dumfries and Galloway (in collaboration with White Arkitekter).

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Clyde Gateway was established in 2008 following the announcement that Glasgow was to hold the 2014 Commonwealth Games, Clyde Gateway has seen over £1.5 billion invested in the area from both the public and private sector. Clyde Gateway is an urban regeneration company which exists to drive inward investment and improvement for the people and communities across the east end of Glasgow and South Lanarkshire.

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