

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release 4th December 2007



From left to right: Cripps Court (Phase I), Magdalene College, Cambridge, designed by Freeland Rees Roberts Architects (Peter Cook /VIEW); Model of Cripps Court (Phase II), showing new Student Accommodation, designed by Freeland Rees Roberts Architects. Reproduction is permitted providing authorship is credited.

MAGDALENE COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

DESIGN FOR NEW STUDENT ACCOMMODATION FOR MAGDALENE COLLEGE SECURES PLANNING APPROVAL

Freeland Rees Roberts Architects of Cambridge have today announced that their design for a new building at Cripps Court, Magdalene College has successfully secured planning approval. The new student housing block, which will provide 16 ensuite bedrooms and a Fellows flat, is to be built facing onto Hertford Street in central Cambridge. The first phase of Cripps Court, also designed by Freeland Rees Roberts Architects, was completed in November 2005.

Cripps Court currently comprises a state of the art auditorium for 150 people, teaching and seminar rooms and dining, exhibition and gallery spaces arranged around a landscaped courtyard. Two Victorian villas in Chesterton Road were also refurbished as part of the original development and are linked to the courtyard by a new entrance building and landscaped forecourt.

The original plans for Cripps Court also included a first floor gymnasium over ground floor changing rooms facing onto Hertford Street with a sports hall behind. However, the College decided that the provision of student accommodation would be a more

sensible use of its resources and therefore asked Freeland Rees Roberts to produce new designs for the site.

The new student accommodation has been designed to fit within the same 'envelope' as that originally intended for the gymnasium and sports hall, being of similar height and footprint. To retain the character of the existing Cripps Court buildings, matching materials have been chosen which include clay pantiles, handmade buff brick, stone dressings and oak windows. The only exception will be the roof of the building overlooking Hertford Street, which will have a natural slate roof as originally intended for the gymnasium it replaces.

Graham Riley, Director of Freeland Rees Roberts Architects, commented: "As this new building replaces elements of the original plans for Cripps Court, we have designed it to harmonise both aesthetically and functionally with the existing buildings. We believe this development will complete Cripps Court in a wholly sympathetic way and will improve the frontage to Hertford Street which, since the days of the ice cream factory, has been poorly served by this site."

Steven Morris, Senior Bursar of Magdalene College, commented: "We are delighted that this second phase of Cripps Court has secured planning approval as the student accommodation is a much needed facility. Freeland Rees Roberts Architects' expertise has helped to realise our ambitions to provide first class student accommodation and professional conference facilities well into the future."

Construction of the new student building is expected to begin within the next two years.

Graham Riley is the director and project architect for a diverse range of schemes, including offices for Hobsons Publishing in Bateman Street, new buildings for Emmaus, conservation work and private residential homes. Graham has also recently completed the renovation of his own late 1960's Colt timber kit house in Cambridgeshire with a new, two storey extension to the existing cedar timber framed building.

Other recent projects Freeland Rees Roberts Architects have been involved with include new libraries for King's College and Trinity Hall; the refurbishment of National Trust Picture Galleries at Anglesey Abbey in Cambridgeshire; the conservation and relocation

of Temple Bar to Paternoster Square, City of London (which has been awarded seven architectural awards in the past two years); the refurbishment and expansion of the University of Cambridge's Department of Architecture and the redecoration of period buildings in Magdalene Street, Cambridge.

For further information on Freeland Rees Roberts Architects, visit: www.frrarchitects.co.uk.

-Ends-

Notes to the editor:

1. For high resolution images of Cripps Court Phase I and the model of Phase II as well as other schemes designed by Freeland Rees Roberts Architects, an interview or photo opportunity, please contact Carri Crook or Martin Downing, Carisma Communications. Email: carri@carismacommunications.co.uk, telephone 01842 815910 or mobile: 07704 920350.
2. Freeland Rees Roberts Architects' key areas of expertise include: Schools, Colleges & Universities; Local Authority; Sport & Leisure; Private Houses; Residential Schemes; Churches & Cathedrals; Commercial & Workplace; Healthcare; Historic Buildings & Conservation and Libraries.