

Master's Blog

## WCCA Master's Walking Tour: Spitalfields & City



On Sunday the 2nd of April the Architects Company held its Masters Archi-Tour, hosted by Chris Dyson and led by the incredibly knowledgeable Rachel Kolsky, the tour focused around the historic Spitalfields and Shoreditch areas of the east end. The day began in Aldgate with a tour of the oldest synagogue within the United Kingdom, Bevis Marks. Here the Rabbi Morris explained the origins of the synagogue and the Jewish faith within the UK, the issues regarding overshadowing buildings within the city of London and natural light, and alongside Biba Dow of Dow Jones Architects – the future of the synagogue and their plans for a visitor centre and accessible archive space.



We then preceded along towards Spitalfields passing along Petticoat Lane for a tour of the Sandy's Row Synagogue kindly led by Harvey Rifkind. Sandy's Row is a much later established synagogue having originally been a Huguenot Chapel. Our visit highlighted the hardships that the communities who maintain these structures face, especially maintenance and refurbishment costs. After a fabulous pub lunch we walked back towards Aldgate for a tour of Toynbee Hall, this was expertly led by Christopher Coombe [client side] and Richard Griffiths [architect] whose practice was responsible for its recent renovation. Established in 1884, the charity continues to strive to bridge the gap between people of all social and financial backgrounds. Starting in 2016 the charity began several refurbishments works including the restoration of its historical house alongside a new extension housing new classrooms and community spaces.



Finally, we embarked along brick lane towards Princelet St for a tour of Annetta Pedretti's home, sadly despite our best efforts of trying to organise a tour beforehand we were met with no answer, so a small group were able to enjoy the newly opened Gilbert & George Centre on Heneage street, however this was not to detract from the incredibly interesting and varied day of architecture and culture we had experienced. We give thanks to all of those involved who kindly offered their expertise for an incredible day out.

Oliver Dunn, RIBA 1 Student