

# The Barbican Estate: Grade II\* listed architectural masterpiece under threat in 50th year



The current view through the Grade II\* listed sight lines which will be infilled if the City of London School For Girls plans go ahead

**The governors of the City of London School for Girls have announced proposals for a significant expansion of the school's buildings within the Barbican Estate.**

**If approved, the expansion will cause substantial harm to this iconic Grade II and Grade II\* listed Estate.**

Nicholas Hare Architects has developed the following plans:

To construct a new dining hall and kitchens in the sub-podium space below Mountjoy House, thereby filling in a magnificent Grade II\* listed vista

To build a large new multi-storey building at lakeside overlooking St. Giles' terrace that will damage the architecture of the school's own Grade II listed building

To construct a new building made of wood and glass on top of one of the Highwalks which will overlook the Thomas More gardens.



These plans constitute a major threat to the architectural heritage of the Estate by removing the Grade II\* listed open views beneath Mountjoy House, hiding the 'piloti' columns, placing new buildings on podium level and contravening the City's own listed management guidelines in the Barbican Estate's 50th year.

With the recent refurbishment of another Brutalist icon, Balfron Tower in Poplar, into luxury apartments, the unique architectural history of London in the post-war period is under threat.



**"The Barbican is a very carefully composed Brutalist townscape. The voids which architects Chamberlin Powell and Bon chose to leave at podium level and below were meticulously placed and carefully composed and detailed."**

– Dr Barnabas Calder, a lecturer in architecture at the University of Liverpool and author of *Raw Concrete: the Beauty of Brutalism*

### About the Barbican:

Notes for editors: The Barbican Estate is a residential estate that was built during the 1960s and 1970s within the City of London in Central London, in an area once devastated by World War II bombings. The Brutalist icon was designed by Chamberlin Powell & Bon as a landmark mixed-use, high-density, inner-city complex and it today home to 4,000 residents. It was awarded Grade II listed status in 2001 as a site of special architectural interest for its scale, its cohesion and the ambition of the project.

For comment or questions please email [chairba@btinternet.com](mailto:chairba@btinternet.com) or [andy@andyhawkins.com](mailto:andy@andyhawkins.com)

Download high-res images of the Grade II\* listed sightlines under threat from development: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ilkf9ruytfu3xgb/AADmrluuAN3XCz2IDCdpOX9Ra?dl=0>

Please follow [@hellobarbican](https://twitter.com/hellobarbican) on Twitter or Instagram.

### About the City of London School for Girls:

The school was established by the Corporation of the City of London in 1894 and moved to its current site in the Barbican in 1969. CLSG is a fee-paying school owned by the city in its role as a private corporation and only 2.9% of its pupils come from the local area.

For more information on the plans, a video of the impacted area and copies of previous press articles please visit [clsgexpansion.com](http://clsgexpansion.com)