

Document title: Design, Access and Heritage Statement

Date: 14th May 2018

Project: Joy Slide, St James's Churchyard, Thurland Road, Bermondsey, SE16 4AA

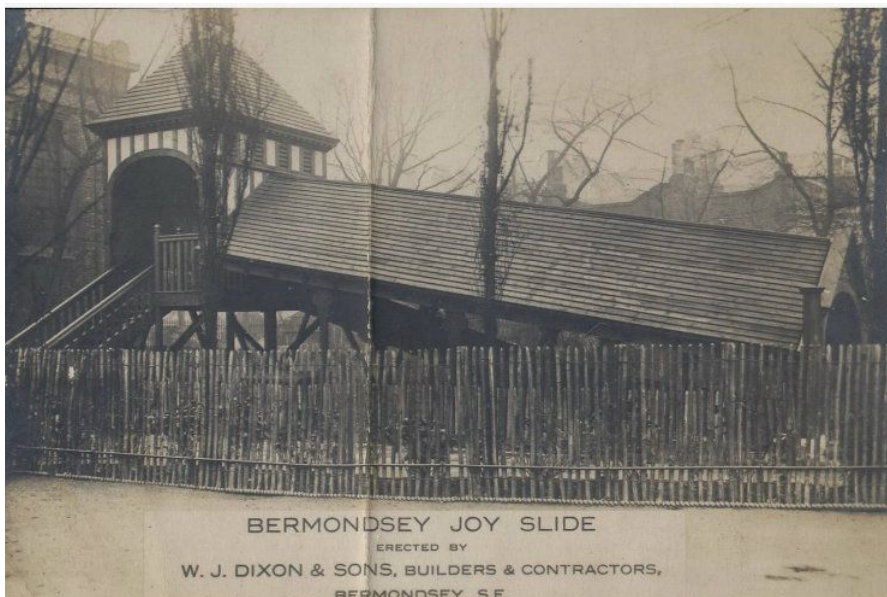
Description: Multi activity play equipment for children

Designer: Fergus Carr, RIBA, ARB Reg No: 089563F

Heritage

The proposal intends to replace the previous Joy slide which was gifted to the people of Bermondsey by Arthur Carr (director of the Peek Freans Biscuit factory and my great great grandfather). The Joy Slide was constructed within the grounds of the St James Church in 1921 but was damaged by arson in the 1980's and removed. It became an important part of the local community and has been sorely missed.

As can be seen in the photographs below, the original slide was a substantial structure constructed from timber in the Mock Tudor style with a tiled roof.



Design

Due to site constraints; the new proposal will have to be much smaller in size than the original as that part of the churchyard has been repurposed as an attractive memorial garden, and is therefore no longer available. The new proposed site is perfectly located adjacent to the existing children's playground in a currently underutilized part of the churchyard, on which there are a few trees and some hedges, some of which will need removal. By relocating the security fencing and installing new rubber flooring, the playground can be extended and the joy slide can be incorporated into this area.



Further to the site constraints, our new proposal intends to reflect the changes in 21st century society and do much more with less. However the inspiration for the new design is rooted within the original brief set out by my great grandfather and is inspired by the original photograph with the steps of the church that he saw the children playing on, when he realised that they needed a proper slide to play on.



As can be seen in the drawings attached to this application we are proposing an extension of the existing play area and formation of a new piece of children's play equipment, comprising;

1. A slide, in homage to the original.
2. A terrace of raised planting beds and green roof in honour of the work of Ada Salter and her mission to beautify Bermondsey with gardening.
3. A large scale reproduction of an historical image related to the slide, Bermondsey and its people.

We have collaborated with a play equipment inspector to ensure that the health and safety of the end users has been at the forefront of the design process.

Materials

In line with our specification document, we propose to build the structure mostly out of hardwood or treated timber, with the void infilled with well compacted earth to prevent vermin from nesting within. The use of compacted earth (especially if sourced locally) will reduce the carbon footprint of the build as opposed to a concrete or brick. The use of timber will act as a carbon store, will aesthetically be sympathetic to the memory of the existing structure and be very simple to repair or replace.

Biodiversity

It is likely that the church and the churchyard is home to a wide variety of species, including bats, birds, insects and plants that often populate this type of environment. Our proposal is on a site which contains various attractive trees and low level shrubs of no particular benefit, the trees will be retained but the shrubs will be removed to make way for the structure. Our proposal will include planting in various forms including raised beds and the roof structure will support a tray containing growing medium for a living green roof. We intend to ensure that the structure provides a net gain of biodiversity to the site, by introducing plants that will benefit pollinators which will in turn increase native bat and bird populations.

Access

In an ideal world the entirety of the slide would be accessible to all of all abilities, however this is not necessarily possible as a slide is by its very nature impossible to operate on a wheelchair. We have however sought to increase the accessibility to the equipment as much as possible, by providing a handrail to the steps we have enabled those with limited mobility to access the slide and platform (which can also be used to deliver speeches, sermons or plays. By forming the planting beds, the scheme offers an alternative opportunity for organised play and appreciation of nature. The scheme also includes places to sit for the guardians, parents and grandparents of the children playing and it is intended that this scheme will bring joy in numerous forms for many generations to come.

I look forward to working with you to deliver this exciting project, please do not hesitate to contact me should you need any further information.

Sincerely,

Fergus Carr,
RIBA Chartered Architect,
ARB Reg. No: 089563F.