

Royal Academy of Dance announces new purpose built headquarters



The RAD's new home to feature in a redeveloped site on York Road in Battersea, London. Artwork courtesy of Fifth Capital London.

The Royal Academy of Dance today announced plans for a new purpose built headquarters, just a mile away from its current location in Battersea. This new building, with its state-of-the-art facilities, will enable the RAD to further strengthen its ties with the local community, to meet the ever-growing demands for high quality dance education and to expand on our commitment to dance teacher training internationally. The new headquarters is due for completion in 2020, the Academy's centenary year.

The Academy's new headquarters, designed by architects Patel Taylor, will provide outstanding training and performance facilities to the Academy's own specifications. The new building will be almost double the size of the RAD's current premises, offering better facilities, a performance space, studios, library and archive.

The move is the result of a unique agreement with York Place Buildings, the developer of the former Homebase site on York Road, where the RAD will be based. The Trustees of the RAD are satisfied that this agreement offers the most cost-effective opportunity in the current economic climate - a unique agreement which enables the RAD to make the most of the value from our current property. The RAD will, however, need to launch an appeal later in the year to help fund the move to the new headquarters.

Luke Rittner, Chief Executive of Royal Academy of Dance commented: *"As a world leader in dance education and training, our new home needs to reflect that status in every way. I believe that this new building will be a world-class headquarters that will not only make our members, staff and partners proud, but will also help us to fulfil our mission in support of dance and dance education internationally."*

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The logo for the Royal Academy of Dance, featuring the text "ROYAL ACADEMY OF DANCE" in white, uppercase letters on a red rectangular background.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF DANCE

“While in many ways it will be sad to move from a place so familiar and loved by so many, it is also the case that our current building restricts our ability to operate and to develop - we have simply outgrown it as an organisation. The new headquarters will be a place that we can all be proud to call home, no matter where we are in the world; particularly as we prepare to take centre stage in our centenary year. This move will also greatly enhance our ability to deliver our strategic objectives, our artistic vision, and to serve our members.”

Ravi Govindia, Leader of Wandsworth Council said: *“I am delighted that the Royal Academy of Dance will remain in Wandsworth. Their new headquarters will represent a major new attraction and we will be working closely with the Academy in the coming months to help more local people get involved with their work.*

Battersea is changing and we understand the vital role that cultural institutions like the Royal Academy of Dance have to play in creating genuinely attractive, interesting places with real life and vitality. Local people have a lot to look forward to and we will continue to do everything we can to attract and retain more inspiring cultural venues in the years ahead.”

Pankaj Patel, Director of Patel Taylor comments: *“London’s challenge, in place-making terms, is to create mixed-use buildings which genuinely make contributions at local and cultural levels. In response to London’s housing needs, we have created a design which houses the Royal Academy of Dance in the ground floor, contributing to the local community and animating the public realm, integrating it with an innovative housing solution, preserving the relationship of the Royal Academy of Dance and Wandsworth.”*

“We’re delighted to be able to provide a state of the art new home for the prestigious Royal Academy of Dance, and that it can remain in Wandsworth. We’re looking forward to starting on site later this year, providing spectacular river fronting apartments above the new RAD headquarters and, in due course, on our award-winning scheme on Battersea Square.” **Comments Omer Weinberger, York Place Buildings.**

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Notes to Editors

Website: www.rad.org.uk
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Twitter: www.twitter.com/RADheadquarters
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With 14,000 members in 83 countries, the Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) is one of the largest and most influential dance education and training organisations in the world. Established in 1920 to improve standards and re-invigorate dance training, the Academy helps and encourages its teachers to perfect their teaching skills and pass on this knowledge to their students. There are currently over 1,000 students in full-time or part-time teacher training programmes with the Academy and

each year the examination syllabus is taught to thousands of young people worldwide, with around a quarter of a million pupils per year going on to take RAD exams.

Patel Taylor

Patel Taylor is a London-based architecture practice led by Pankaj Patel and Andrew Taylor. Founded in 1989, the practice's work ranges from city scale planning and urban landscapes, to leading residential, mixed-use and workplace developments, education and cultural buildings. Patel Taylor's work reflects a view of design as a process embracing the historical and social dimension of places as well as their visual and aesthetic context, enhanced by material and craft. The practice is involved with some of the largest urban regeneration schemes in the UK including two new mixed-use buildings on the Southbank, and London masterplans for Wembley, Earls Court, White City and Wapping.

York Place Buildings

York Place Buildings is an affiliate of Weinbergers Investments, a London based property developer focusing on providing high quality homes and office space in central London. Weinbergers was founded in 2013 by Omer Weinberger, a former investment banker and is backed by private investors.

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