

## SMITHFIELD ABBEY CAMPUS

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*"The brick was always talking to me, always was telling me that I was losing an opportunity"*

Louis Kahn

Smithfield Abbey Campus is an Art, Scenic, Architecture school located in the middle of London, England. Between the districts of The City and Islington. Today is known as Smithfield Market. An old vitorian building that has suffered different appearance variations in the interior along its history.

Since the first time, I decided to remove the interior and mantain the main facade as an image and memory for the city of London. The project has been defined by:

*A series of personal experiences and sequences of walked space defined by the tectónica, mater and space.*

*The memory, the interest about the past, the ruin and the monumental character defines an image that is a contrast between the traditional and the contemporary time. An image that has to be with the condition and the evolution. An image with a clear purpose recalling the past and the memories reinforcing the idea of designing from the personal experience and memories.*

The project studies the place and introduces the building into a set of different monumental and reference buildings in the city of London relating to a personal walk defined by:

*John Soane's house labyrinthine as well as confusing...*

*The brick and stone vitorian facade establishing a limit between the school and the city...*

*A Norman Abbey next to this limit...*

*The Barbican as an example of Brutalism...*

*The monumental of Sant Paul cathedral...*

*The Lloyds's building contrast and the hi-tech detail in Foster and Rogers...*

*A walk that goes through the Thames river and goes inside the Tate Modern by Herzog and the Meuron*

A walk that focused in Bank of England designed by Sir Jon Soane that specially interested myself. A piece that was drawn and analysed. A collage piece that it is understood as a sequence of spaces in plan and section happening the same way in the plans of the project referring to the collage, the different options, drawing one of the multiple solutions of the system.

The tecnique and the construction plays an important role detailing the brick wall system as well as the armed vaults being faithful to the brick as the predominant material.

It has an important spatial richness in the interior being rigorous to the system. Understanding the campus as a sequence of spaces between walls having the same facade module of 4.5 meters. The east-west axe mantains the original visual and generates new different diagonal visuals. On the other hand the north-south axe does not need any structure because the armed brick vaults provocate a direct visual through the overlapping of glass vertical planes. Doubles and triples heights colonise the old medieval Smithfield square becoming new classrooms, yards and work rooms. A sequence of spaces that separe from London by the limit of the brick and stone facade.

In conclusión Smithfield Abbey Campus is a reminiscence to the past architecture having a view to the future with the tecnique and the construction. It is a travel to the origin and an exploration to the future.