

Game Changing Sales in Shoreditch

Former furniture warehouse buildings in shoreditch ...

Now the iconic, "The Dirty House", transformed by award winning David Adjaye. Space Station's acquisition and sale of Chance Street, London E1, in 1998 was the catalyst for kick-starting the Redchurch Street renaissance. Just opposite the Hayes Document Storage Centre, which would later become The Tea Building and home to Shoreditch House. Space Station acquired this non-descriptive run down furniture warehouse. It previously belonged to former England Rugby Pro, Jeff Probyn, who was born in Shoreditch.

The scruffy yellow stock original brickwork was painted a dark brown, offset by two rows of window openings, and a 'floating' roof that appears to hover over the upper level of glazing and recessed decks.

These were early years in Shoreditch when developers were still hesitant on the location. The area was still too edgy for mainstream developers. The building was on Shoreditch's periphery, which was pretty scruffy with run-down streets and a mishmash of buildings. Nevertheless, we loved the rawness, energy and soul, that was rippling around these amazingly creative streets. There was a pop, crackle, fizz and we were fully submerged.

With a proven track-record of matching several properties with the a few of the seminal YBA's...we had an inkling this property was perfect for an artist.

The Dirty House

Sue Webster and Tim Noble represented by barrister and art dealer Detmar Hamilton Blow, approached Space Station, to make an offer and successfully bought the building. It became their studio space and home for the next two decades and earning it's place as one of Shoreditch's landmarks. Little did all involved know at the time, that this one game changing sale, paving the way to the Shoreditch we know and love today.

Which, resulted in Space Station, fast becoming the go to agent for the YBAs, migrating to the area, such as long term clients as Marc Quinn, Tim Walker & Gillian Wearing CBE.

Webster and Noble's agent Detmar Blow, who was married to Isabella Blow, who reportedly discovered Alexander McQueen and purchased his entire graduate collection for £5,000, paying it off in weekly £100 instalments. Around this time Alexander McQueen was coming into our offices on Leonard Street almost every other week for a coffee and catch up and when the east end was the east end. Those were the days!





