



TALK: Wednesday 12 October 2011
at 6.00 for 6.30pm

Inhabiting the Ruin: work at Astley Castle

William Mann, Witherford Watson Mann Architects

Auguste Perret wrote that “Architecture is what makes beautiful ruins” – but can you live in a ruin? I will be talking about the approaches we have used to achieve a degree of domestic comfort while maintaining the character of the ruin: working from the scale and durability of the masonry shell to the rhythm and warmth of the joinery says William Mann

Astley Castle was the medieval seat of the Astley family and was incorporated into the Arbury Estate by purchase in 1674, from which time it lost its function as a main family residence. However it was continuously occupied until 1978, when it was severely damaged by a fire and left as an unconsolidated ruin.

The Landmark Trust has been involved in attempts to secure its future since the 1990's but the aim of a full restoration was dropped due to lack of funds. A new approach accepted that some of the castle fabric had deteriorated beyond repair and would be lost. In 2006 the Landmark Trust invited designs for a new 21st century Landmark that had to sit within the footprint of the existing building. The Landmark Trust describes WWM's winning competition entry:

“WWM deliberately follow a 'middle way' in their interventions - adopting neither conservative repair in a traditional manner, nor conscientiously modern structures. Instead they strive to allow old and new to work together to achieve a harmonious whole.”

More Information:

www.wwmarchitects.co.uk

http://www.landmarktrust.org.uk/future_landmarks/Astley.htm

Meetings are held at:

The Gallery, 77 Cowcross Street, London EC1

Nearest tube: Farringdon

Wine is served from 6.00pm- lectures start at 6.30pm

Non-Members are welcome, suggested donation £5.00

For queries contact the Meetings Secretary: penny.evans@blueyonder.co.uk

