



VISIT: Saturday September 17th 2011

From 10.30 am to 12.30pm

***Royal Hospital Chelsea with Peregrine Bryant***

The Royal Hospital Chelsea was founded by King Charles II and built to the designs of Christopher Wren between 1682 and 1692 to provide a home for military veterans. The Hospital, now listed Grade 1, continues in its original function today and plans to bring its accommodation up to expected standards with a 5 year programme of refurbishment to provide ensuite accommodation for the In-Pensioners. Whilst the project involves major changes (supported by EH and RBKC) to the internal fabric, including dismantling and re-erecting the 17th century oak panelling that forms the berths, cutting through the brick spine wall and installing new partitions, wetrooms and extensive new services bringing the wards up to modern standards, retention of the historic fabric has been paramount.

One of the two existing corridors will be returned to its original form providing a social corridor as Wren designed, the timber panelled berths on this corridor will be re-instated much as they were originally and each In-Pensioner will have a window and a wet room in his/her berth. Ultimately, the continued use and modernisation of the Royal Hospital is fundamental to its survival.

Two floors of the East Long Wards have now been decanted and are available for viewing, as is the Sample Berth, a pilot scheme to test products and buildability, which has recently been completed.

This visit, led by Peregrine Bryant, Architect for the Project, will allow members to view the Sample Berth and the vacant East Long Wards prior to refurbishment. Members will also be able to view the Chapel, Great Hall and State Apartments.

Coffee will be available in the new Margaret Thatcher Infirmary café. (Steffian Bradley with Quinlan & Francis Terry 2009 review by Kenneth Powell: <http://www.architecturetoday.co.uk/?p=1027> )

Meet at:

London Gate Entrance at 10.30am

Royal Hospital Road, London SW3 4SR

Nearest tube: Sloane Square

Buses : 11, 137, 170

<http://www.chelsea-pensioners.co.uk/>

There is no charge to ASCHB members Non-members are asked to make a minimum donation of £5.00

To reserve a place on this visit please email [penny.evans@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:penny.evans@blueyonder.co.uk)