



COURT BARN MUSEUM PRESS RELEASE: SEPTEMBER 2009

TOUR AND FREE ENTRY AT RIBA SHORTLISTED MUSEUM

Shortlisted for the RIBA Town and Country Design Awards in 2008, Court Barn Museum in Chipping Campden will be participating in this year's Heritage Open Days, by offering a tour of the Museum and free entry to all visitors on Friday 11 and Saturday 12 September.

Celebrating the lives of the designers and makers in the North Cotswolds since the start of the 20th century, the Museum is housed in a modest, late 17th century, listed barn. The Museum stands among some of the most remarkable buildings of the town, the 15th century parish church, the 17th century almshouses, and the striking, partially ruined, 17th century fabric of Old Campden House, which is also open as part of Heritage Open Days.

Reg Ellis, a local conservation architect, carried out the adaptation in this sensitive location, guided by the stringent conservation requirements of the ground landlord, The Landmark Trust. The existing fabric was repaired so conservatively that, when the museum is closed, it looks unchanged from the outside. Inside, all new work, including a substantial mezzanine floor, has been designed to be reversible and can be removed without damage to the historic fabric.

The principal feature of the interior is the permanent exhibition, designed by the award-winning Scottish firm of Gareth Hoskins Architects. The idea of the tower-like display cases was to insert a

distinctly modern feature into the barn, acting as a counterpoint to the structure and trusses of the historic building.

The Curator Sarah McCormick Healy says “This is a great opportunity for all our visitors to gain an insight into the challenges of designing for modern use in an historically sensitive setting. By offering free entry we hope to appeal to audiences who may not otherwise visit.”

The tour by the curator will take place at 12pm on Friday 11th and 2pm on Sat 12th September.

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CONTACTS

For information about Court Barn Museum please contact Carole Reynolds, Administrator:
admin@courtbarn.org.uk and 01386 841951. www.courtbarn.org.uk

Notes to editors:

COURT BARN MUSEUM

1. How to find us

Court Barn Museum is by St James's church in Church Street, Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire, GL55 6JE

2. Admission charges

Adults £3.75; Concessions (students, senior citizens) £3.00; Children under 16 are free; Children under 12 should be accompanied by an adults.

3. Opening times

April - September: Tuesday - Saturday 10.30 - 5.30, Sunday 11.30 - 5.30

October - March: Tuesday - Saturday 11.00 - 4.00 Sunday 11.30 - 4.00

Closed Mondays (except Bank Holidays) and Closed 24 Dec - 1 Jan inclusive

4. About Court Barn Museum

Court Barn Museum, which opened to the public in July 2007, is an independent museum and the brainchild of a group of local enthusiasts called the Guild of Handicraft Trust. The museum was created through the generous support of the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Guild of Handicraft Trust raised the £1.3 million needed to create the museum.

This groundbreaking new museum is situated in the beautiful old town of Chipping Campden and tells the story of how a small town, in a beautiful setting, became a gathering place for creative people from the Arts and Crafts movement onwards. The museum has been created to celebrate these talented designers and makers, such as C.R.Ashbee and Gordon Russell, who have worked in Chipping Campden and the north Cotswolds since about 1900.

5. Heritage Open Days is part of European Heritage Days, taking place across 49 countries during September as part of a mass celebration of Europe's cultural heritage. The Heritage Open Days online directory listing all the events taking place in England can be seen at www.heritageopendays.org.uk

6. RIBA

The Royal Institute of British Architects is the UK body for architecture and the architectural profession. They provide support for 40,500 members worldwide in the form of training, technical services, publications and events, and set standards for the education of architects, both in the UK and overseas.

RIBA work with government to improve the design quality of public buildings, new homes and new communities.

Their annual award schemes recognise outstanding architecture and culminate in the RIBA Stirling Prize.