



PETER PRESTON

Director

BA (Hons) DipArch MSc (Timber Building Conservation) RIBA

Peter studied architecture at Liverpool John Moores and Oxford Brookes Universities, graduating with a first and a merit respectively, before passing his professional exams in 2010. As a student Peter developed interests in vernacular architecture, historic building conservation and natural building materials, and how these can be integrated to foster a sense of place. This in turn led to an interest in architectural psychology – the way in which buildings shape and influence how we behave and feel, and the way in which we interact with each other.

Career History

2017 – Manifest Design Workshop (Director)

2015 – The Robert Franklin Studio (Project Architect)

2009 – Nick Cox Architects (Project Architect)

Peter developed his expertise in conservation by taking up a position at Nick Cox Architects, where he worked on a variety of projects from nationally important Grade I listed buildings including Blenheim Palace, Woburn Abbey and Wells Cathedral, to more humble vernacular structures.

Education

2015 – MSc Timber Building Conservation (The University of York), Merit

2010 – Examination in Practice & Management (Oxford Brookes University)

2009 – Diploma in Architecture (Oxford Brookes University), Merit

2006 – BA (Hons) Architecture (Liverpool John Moores University), First

In 2015 Peter, studying under Richard Harris, gained his MSc in Timber Building Conservation from the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum in conjunction with the University of York, furthering his interests in this form of construction. His knowledge of the history and development of timber framing in England and Wales, along with his experience recording timber frames, underpins the practice's extensive expertise in this area.

At Manifest, Peter continues to pursue these interests, inspired by his fascination with historic buildings to create a new architecture which is informed by the past, rooted in its cultural context and grounded in tradition, yet is relevant to our contemporary world in design and meaning. This remit includes both the creative re-use and adaptation of old buildings, and the inspiration by their vernacular principles to build new structures that meet modern standards while lifting the human spirit above the mundane.

Other Professional Experience

- Member of the Oxford Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches
- Member of the Baptist Union's Listed Building's Advisory Committee

Memberships

- Architects' Registration Board
- Royal Institute of British Architects
- Ecclesiastical Architects and Surveyors Association (associate member)
- Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings
- The Vernacular Architecture Group
- National Heritage Ironwork Group

Key Skills

- Highly Experienced in surveys and fabric inspections on a wide variety of buildings and structures.
- Highly experienced in preparing planning, listed building consent and building regulations applications as well as contract administration and project management.
- Highly experienced in preparing heritage reports, impact assessments and conservation management plans.
- Rigorous understanding of conservation principles and repair techniques, especially stonework, ironwork, and timber.
- Practical, hand on, knowledge of traditional building crafts and techniques.

Special Interests

- Stonework, Ironwork and Timber conservation.
- The history and development of Monastic and Cathedral buildings.
- Passivhaus construction methods.
- Non-Conformist chapel architecture (an often-overlooked architectural typology)

Relevant Experience



St. Leonard's Church, Eynsham (Oxfordshire)

Manifest have been shortlisted to design the new parish centre for this lively and busy church and are currently finalising their design for the invited design competition. The project is likely to also involve some limited internal alterations to this Grade II* listed church which used to form part of the precinct of the ruined Benedictine Abbey to the south.

Client: The PCC of St. Leonard's Church, Eynsham

Status: ongoing (design competition entry)

Value: £1.5m



Hook Norton Baptist Church, Hook Norton (Oxfordshire)

Repair, renovation and reordering of significant Grade II listed Georgian Chapel, home to one of the earliest Baptist congregations in the country. The project includes stonework repairs, the structural repair of the galleries, replacement of the rotten floor and new heating and lighting and general internal re-ordering to make a space fit for use in the 21st century.

Client: The Elders of Hook Norton Baptist Church

Status: ongoing

Value: £350k



Strict and Particular Baptist Chapel, Waddesdon (Buckinghamshire)

Manifest are appointed as the inspecting architects to this Grade II listed Georgian Chapel in the care of the Friends of Friendless Churches. We are currently working on a package of remedial repair works following the 2018 Quinquennial Inspection.



Holy Cross Church, Shipton-on-Cherwell (Oxfordshire)

Manifest are currently working on the design of a servery to match and integrate with the existing pews, and an external disabled WC building to this Grade II listed church of medieval origin. The church sits in a particularly sensitive landscape setting and the churchyard contains the substantial remains of a medieval preaching cross, which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

Client: The PCC of Holy Cross Church

Status: ongoing

Value: £100k



St. George's Garrison Church, Woolwich (London)

Manifest won a national competition to design a pair memorial gates for this ruined Grade II listed Victorian church. Formerly part of Woolwich Barracks, it is now owned by Heritage of London Trust Operations and open to the public. The design was inspired by the poem in 'Flanders Fields' and incorporates the remembrance flowers of Britain, France and Germany. The gates were unveiled by HRH The Duke of Gloucester in April 2018 at a ceremony attend by representatives from the French and German embassies. In November 2019, the gates won the National Heritage Ironwork Group's Best New Design in a Heritage Setting award.

Client: Heritage of London Trust Operations

Status: complete

Value: £100k

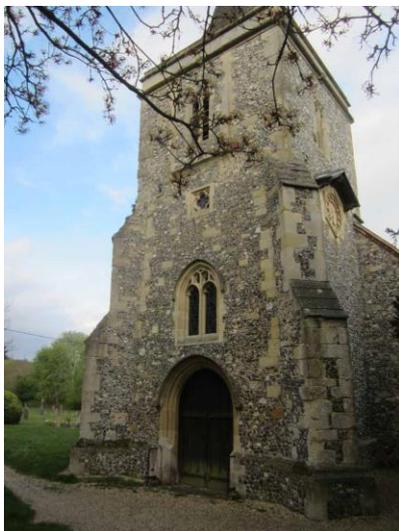


St. Frideswide's Church, Frilsham (Berkshire)

Manifest are appointed as the inspecting architects to this Grade II* listed 12th century medieval church in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Recent works have involved the re-building of the churchyard railings, which were severely damaged by a falling tree, replacement of the porch roof following a lead theft and advice on plaster ceiling repairs.

Client: The PCC of Yattendon and Frilsham

Status: ongoing



Church of St Peter & St Paul, Yattendon (Berkshire)

Manifest are appointed as the inspecting architects to this Grade I listed 15th century medieval church in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which is famed for its beautiful roof structure. Peter carried out the last Quinquennial Inspection in 2017.

Client: The PCC of Yattendon and Frilsham

Status: ongoing

Relevant projects carried out by Peter as Project Architect at Nick Cox Architects:



Stonor Park Chapel (Oxfordshire)

Repair, re-roofing and internal renovations of Grade I listed private Roman Catholic Chapel dating from the 12th century, with a 15th century brick tower (one of the earliest in the country). The project, which was grant funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and other charitable grants, involved the complete replacement of the roof covering and associated structural repairs, repairs to the stonework of the chapel and brickwork of the tower, and complete replacement of the timber cupola to the tower. Internally, the thermoplastic floor tiles were replaced with a new stone floor designed by Peter, the striking colour scheme by John Piper was renewed, and a new lighting scheme installed.

Client: The Lord Camoys

Value: £250k



St. Peter's Church, Northampton

Re-roofing of the north aisle of this Grade I listed Norman church in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust following a lead theft. The project also involved internal redecoration and cleaning of wall memorials due to staining caused by water ingress.

Client: The Church's Conservation Trust



Wells Cathedral

Quinquennial Inspection the Vicar's Close, a Grade I listed street and chapel dating mainly from the 14th and 15th centuries. Proposals for re-roofing the North Nave Aisle and various other work supporting the Cathedral Architect



Blenheim Palace (Oxfordshire)

Various works, including the several highly-visible stone repair projects to this Grade I listed country house and UNESCO World Heritage Site, and the repair and conservation of the Ice House (grant funded by Natural England). In addition, Peter was responsible for the annual lead roof inspection.

Client: The Blenheim Estate



Woburn Abbey, Bedfordshire

Various works, including the annual stone repair projects to this mostly 18th century Grade I listed country house constructed out of the problematic Totternhoe Stone.

Client: The Bedford Estate



Basildon Park (Berkshire)

Stonework repairs and cleaning of this Grade I listed Palladian Mansion designed by John Carr of York and now in the care of the National Trust.

Client: The National Trust

Contractor: Ward & Co

Tithe Barn, Church Enstone (Oxfordshire)

Management Plan for the repair and maintenance of Grade II* listed cruck framed tithe barn and Scheduled Ancient Monument under Section 106 Agreement.

Woolsthorpe Manor (Lincolnshire)

Quinquennial Inspection of Grade I listed house (birthplace of Sir Issac Newton) and associated outbuildings.

Parham House (Sussex)

Quinquennial Inspection of Grade I listed 16th century country house, extensively restored in the 1920s and 30s.