

Service Tower for the International Students Club
(Church of England) Ltd

Architects

Farrell/Grimshaw Partnership

Structural Engineers

Ove Arup & Partners and
W. H. Smith & Co. (Whitchurch) Ltd

Steelwork Contractor

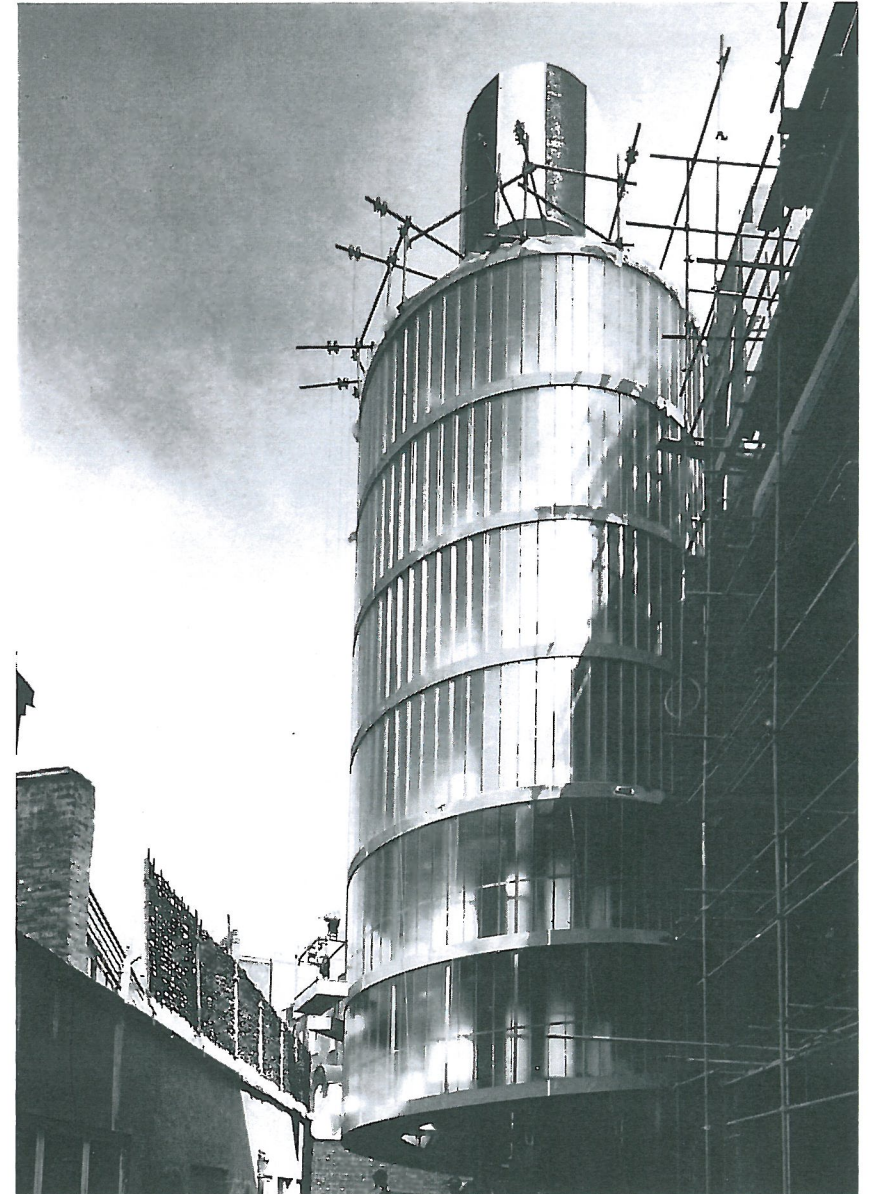
W. H. Smith & Co. (Whitchurch) Ltd

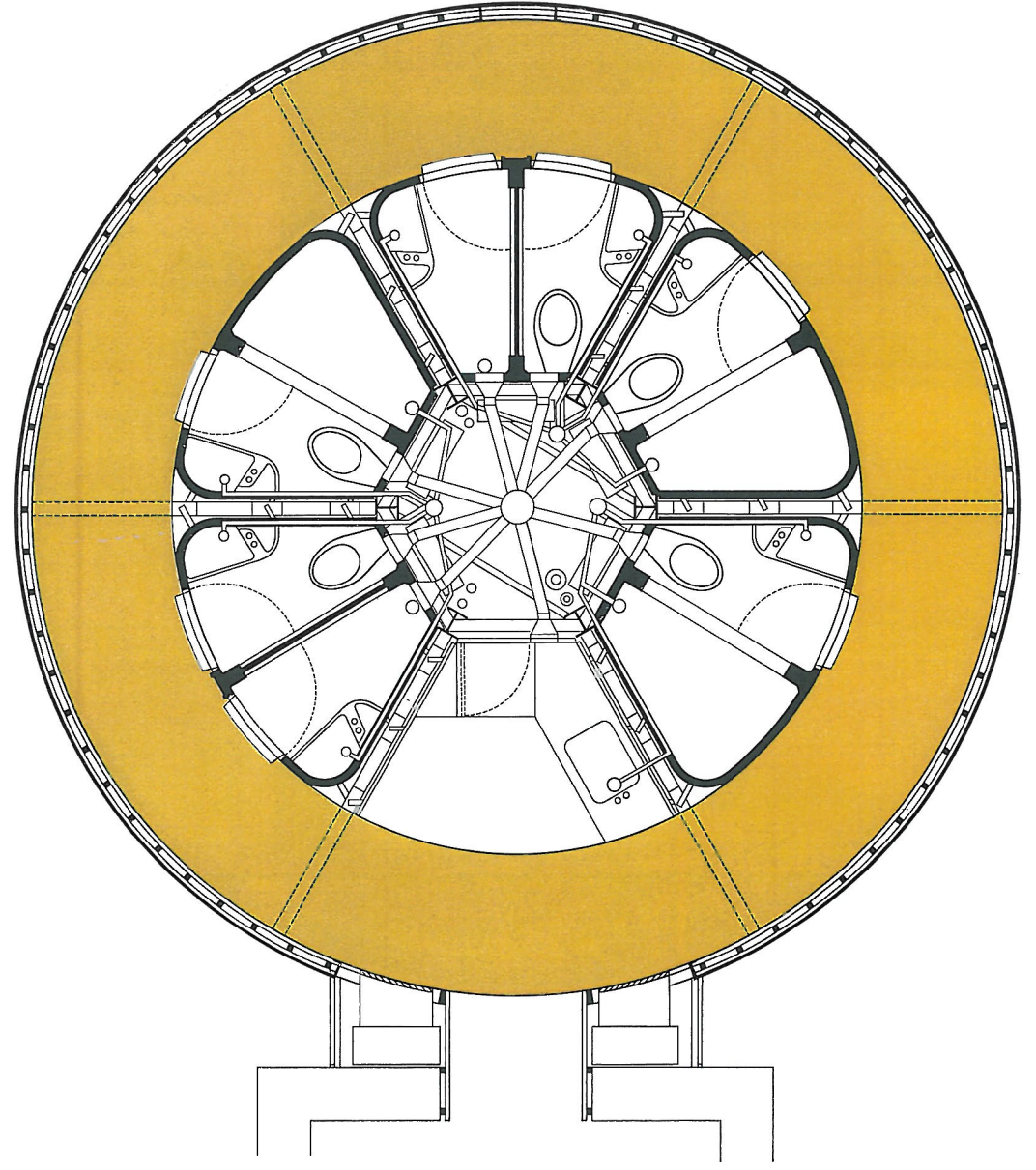
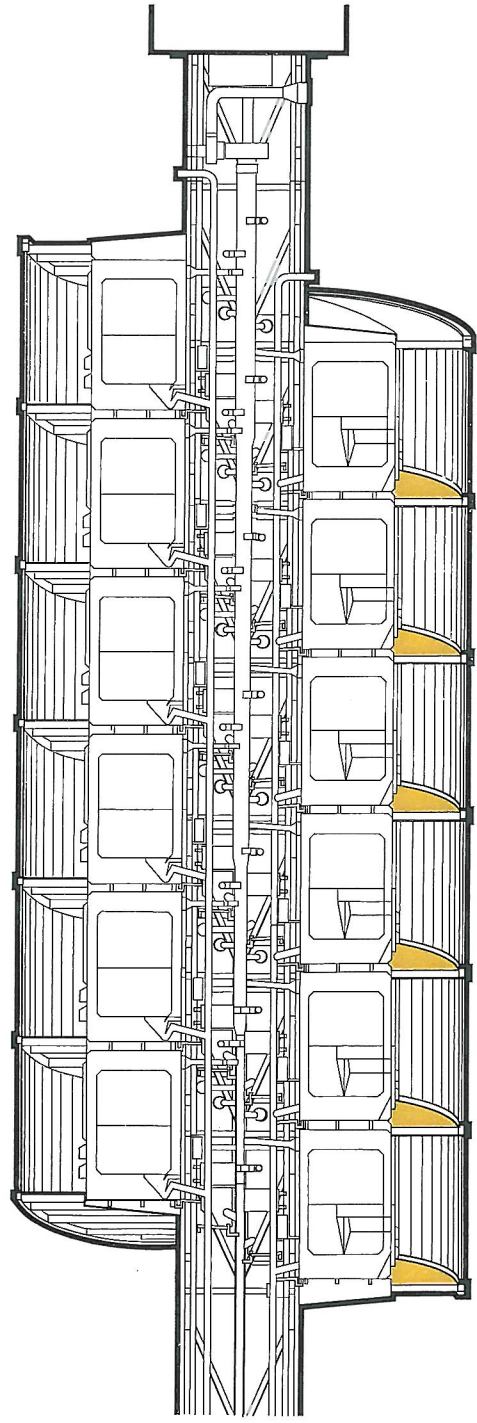
Main Contractor

A. Bell & Sons (Paddington) Ltd

Judges comments

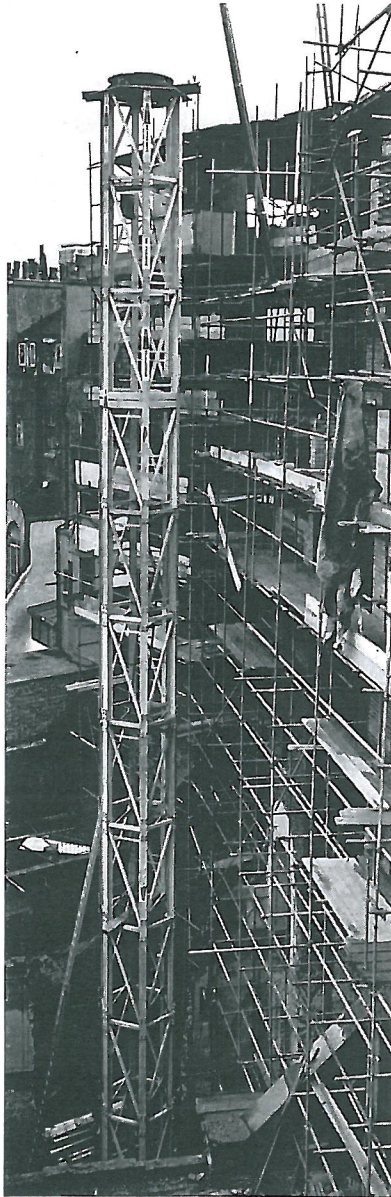
This building represents an ingenious solution to the problem of providing bath and toilet facilities for the club without impinging on the limited accommodation within the existing premises. The intricate fabrication and erection sequence called for the closest collaboration between the architect and fabricator and this was instrumental in achieving successful completion well within the time allotted.



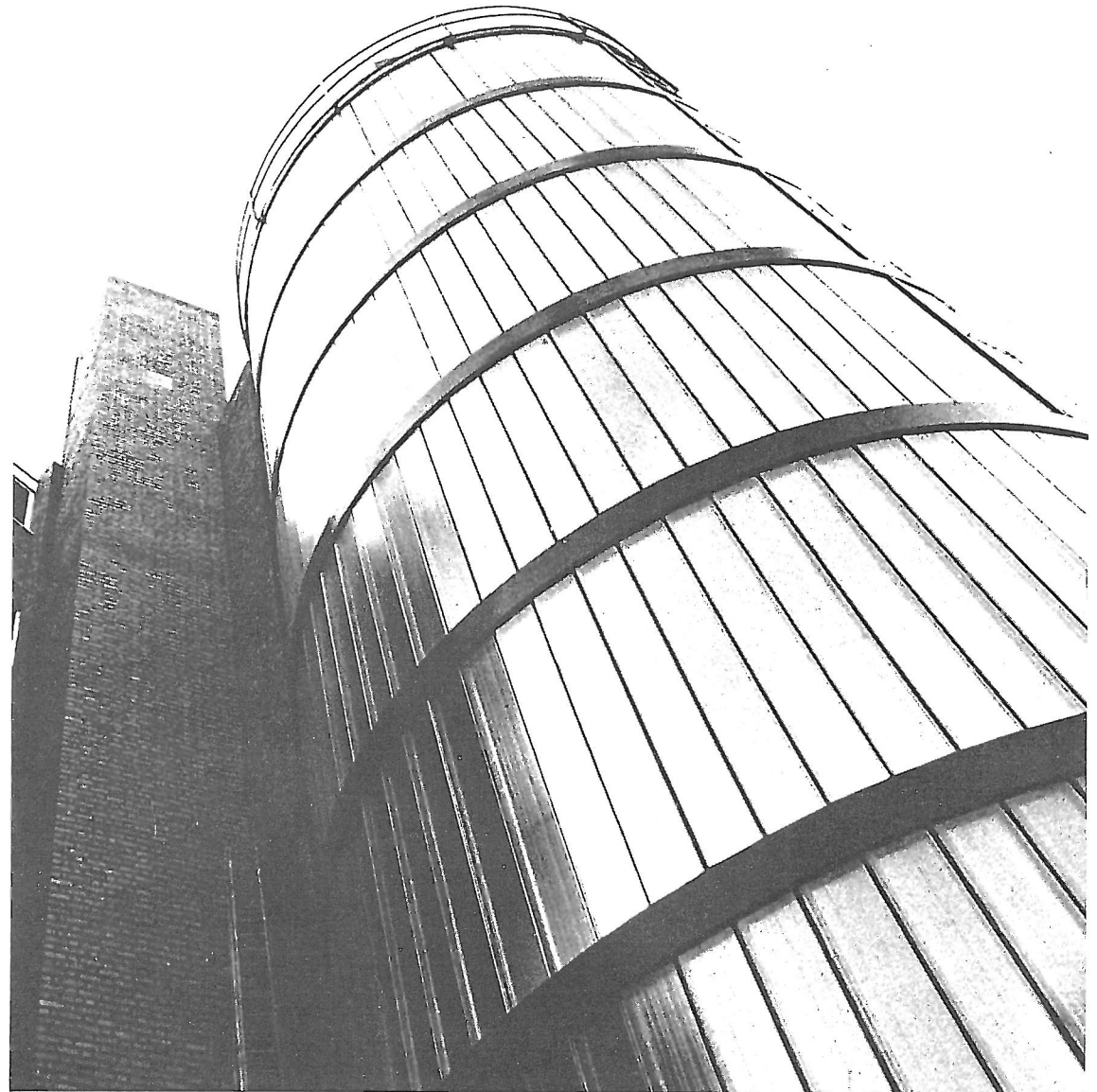
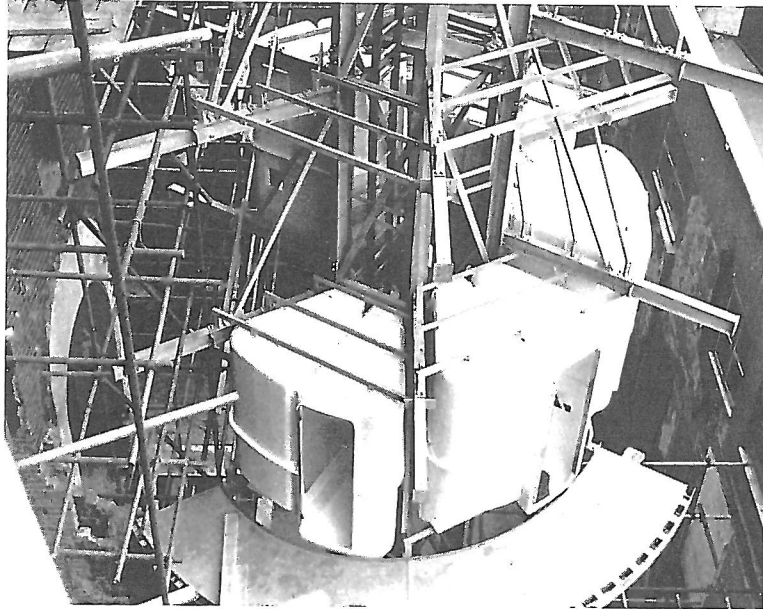


Buildings section

Below : Two stages in the erection of the steel core which was later used as a tower crane to assemble the complete building.



Steel core with some of the glass fibre bathroom units fixed in place.



Description

When it was decided to convert six adjoining houses at Sussex Gardens London into a students club the choice had to be made whether to include the bathroom and sanitary facilities within the existing structure or whether to add a new block entirely. The latter alternative was chosen to avoid cutting plumbing through the 100 year old brickwork, often 2ft 6in thick, to enable the 3000 gallon water tank to be carried without extra reinforcement and to provide accommodation for an extra 25 students in the main building. The tower unit is 20ft 6in diameter and over 82ft high and has an all steel structure.

As the site is very restricted and access difficult, it was necessary to assemble the tower from relatively small components. The central core or mast was prefabricated in 7ft 3in high units and bolted together. The top of the core was fitted with a revolving beam which was used as a crane for lifting all other components into position in the following order : radial beams and hangers ; pod support beams ; bathroom units ; steel ramp units. The G.L.C. agreed that the steelwork did not have to be provided with fire protection because of the particular use of this building.