

Mansfield Traquair, Edinburgh



Client: Mansfield Traquair Trust
Year: 2002
Value: £4.5M
Awards: Scottish Award for Quality in Planning

Rowand Anderson's magnificent Catholic Apostolic Church at Mansfield Place in Edinburgh - with its celebrated Phoebe Traquair murals - was repaired, restored and converted to create the new headquarters for the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations. The £4.1 million project involved the comprehensive repair of the external building fabric, and the extensive remodelling of the interior to provide modern office space and the conservation of the Nave to provide a unique events space.

Two floors of highly serviced offices have been created below the Nave by the demolition of dividing walls and the lowering of the original floor level by over a metre. An elegant, exposed, steel "tree" structure now supports the Nave floor, with the two floors of open plan offices beneath ranged around a central void and connected to each other by lightweight steel stairs. Overly modern materials and forms have been chosen for such new interventions in order to distinguish them from the historic fabric of the church. Elsewhere, salvaged materials and elements, such as original pine flooring and distinctive panelled doors, were re-used wherever possible.