

# FIRST LOOK LYNCH ARCHITECTS

HOLLOWAY ROAD & NATIONAL YOUTH THEATRE, LONDON

Lynch Architects has applied for planning permission for a mixed-use scheme off London's Holloway Road involving improved accommodation for the National Youth Theatre and substantial new housing.

The project is for Museum of Everything founder Tom Shutes, and seeks to create new connections through the largely landlocked site to the surrounding neighbourhood as well as providing workshop and performance space.

The design combines new build and refurbishment, arranged around a series of courtyards between Tufnell Park Road and Holloway Road. Workshops and small shops are on the ground floor with flats above.

NYT's accommodation is reconfigured and relocated to give additional sound stages, a café, archive space and lift access, as well as more of a public presence on the street. New porticos thread through the site, with bench seating that can also act as impromptu stages for students.

The architecture of the public spaces is deliberately downplayed — retaining a partially ruined wall, for example. "The kids are so flamboyant and colourful that the architecture doesn't need to mimic cheerfulness," says practice director Patrick Lynch.

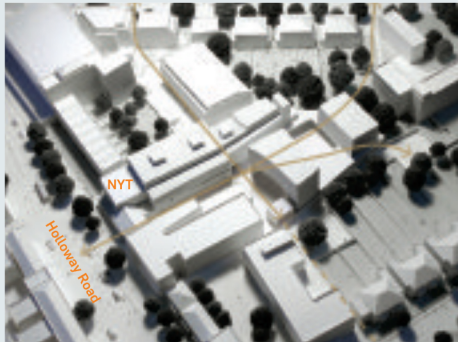
Deep within the site are two new brick residential blocks. One is curved with a largely open undercroft that can be used as a performing space, a market or a seating area. The main square will be covered in patterned paving of brick and Yorkshire stone.

"We are trying to heal the rifts in the urban fabric caused by 20th century planning policy and create a proper city quarter," adds Lynch.

If the planning application is successful, the project is expected to start on site next year, starting with the new buildings and followed by the refurbishment works the following year.



The curved residential block's open undercroft and courtyard spaces can be used for performances.



Model showing the porous city block.



Proposed Holloway Road facades.



Affordable housing block and rear courtyard.