

THE ROYAL EXCHANGE



Founded by Sir Thomas Gresham in the heart of the City of London as a centre for commerce in the 16th century, and twice rebuilt after fires, this historic monument was used in the 1980's as a trading floor by the LIFFE exchange before its latest incarnation as a boutique shopping and restaurant destination. The trading floor fitout was a completely self-supporting structure that didn't touch the framework of the host building.

This grade 1 listed building was remodelled by our design team, led by Aukett Fitzroy Robinson, incorporating elegant glazed retail boutique constructions which complement the heavy classical Portland stone porticos and columns. The new structural elements are entirely free standing within the latest (1844) rebuild of the host building by Sir William Tite.

The development presented a number of acoustical changes, not least of which being the control of disturbance from construction noise to the other tenants occupying the upper floors of the building at the time. State Street Bank and Fischer Francis were operating across multiple time zones confounding efforts to find 'noisy periods' which were acceptable to both tenants and the City of London. The below before and after is really quite revealing!



Since the Grande Café and Bar were opened in 2003 by Fortnum and Mason, the venue has become firmly established as a favourite for exclusive city retail and entertainment, with live music every Thursday night in the fascinating and unique acoustics of this central courtyard space.

CSA worked with the Royal Exchange on the refurbishment and re-modelling of basement space directly below the central courtyard for a new restaurant operation. With an aspiration to provide for private hire and live music beneath the courtyard, it was a good job we relished a challenge!