

THE FURNITURE AND ARTS BUILDING - FAB

Richard Taylor leased the building that once housed the '*Brown & Pank*' Bottling Plant in 1969.

The building belonged to the Greater London Council (GLC) who had bought it with the intention of knocking it down together with two attached rows of houses in order to create a park bordering Kings Rd..

Richard took on a six month rolling lease of the building at £8,000 PA and used it to house his, then fashionable, 'stripped pine' furniture business. 'Society Girls' wearing rubber gloves worked for him in the building's courtyard using tanks of hot acid to strip the furniture.

No Health and Safety issues then!

Over a period of eighteen months Richard sublet various spaces within the building to antique dealers Chas Godson, John Bradbury, Nick Gifford Mead, John Hobbs , Anthony Outred and others.

The building became know as 'The Furniture Cave'.



In 1974 a major fire consumed much of the upper part of the building - parts that were never rebuilt and were subsequently demolished.



When the GLC decided it was time for the building to be pulled down, the 'furniture' tenants persuaded them not to do so. Instead, four of these tenants bought the building using the business name Firm Four Ltd..

As Richard still retained the head lease on the building, Firm Four subsequently decided it needed him 'on board' and Richard became a fifth owner in the partnership.

On the first floor, Christopher Hunter (also the owner of La Popote on Walton Street which coincidentally was on the opposite side of the street from Jeremy Norman's Burke's Peerage offices - see: <https://jndflife.com/burkes->

[peerage-2/](#)) became a tenant at The Furniture Cave and opened 'Country Cousins' a Cabaret / Dining Club which proved hugely successful.

In the early 1980's Firm Four retained the services of Architects Andrews Downie and Partners and carried out a substantial reconstruction of the upper part of the building and roof.



In the mid '80's Country Cousins became the even more successful nightclub Crazy Larrys.

In 1984 Richard let the front part of the building's 2nd floor to Jeremy Norman (in partnership with Richard Branson) for his gym Power Station (see <https://jndflife.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/na-uk-harpers-queen-magazine-power-station-london-1984.pdf>).

In 1986 one of the Firm Four owners decided to sell their interest in the business and Jeremy Norman bought their share.

In 1989 Jeremy and Richard bought out their other shareholders. Richard had been raised in a house called Blakenhall and using this name they formed a new company, Blakenhall Ltd., to take over Firm Four Ltd..

In the 70's and 80's, Lots Road, which runs down one side of the building from Kings Road to the River Thames was home to warehouses, lumber yards and vacant lots and was, in consequence, largely unvisited. It was literally and figuratively beyond World's End.

In the mid to late 80's the enormous largely derelict site which lies at the bottom of Lots Road was developed - what was described at the time as 'the biggest single construction project in the UK for decades'. Sixteen new buildings covering 14 acres formed part of development together named 'Chelsea Harbour'.

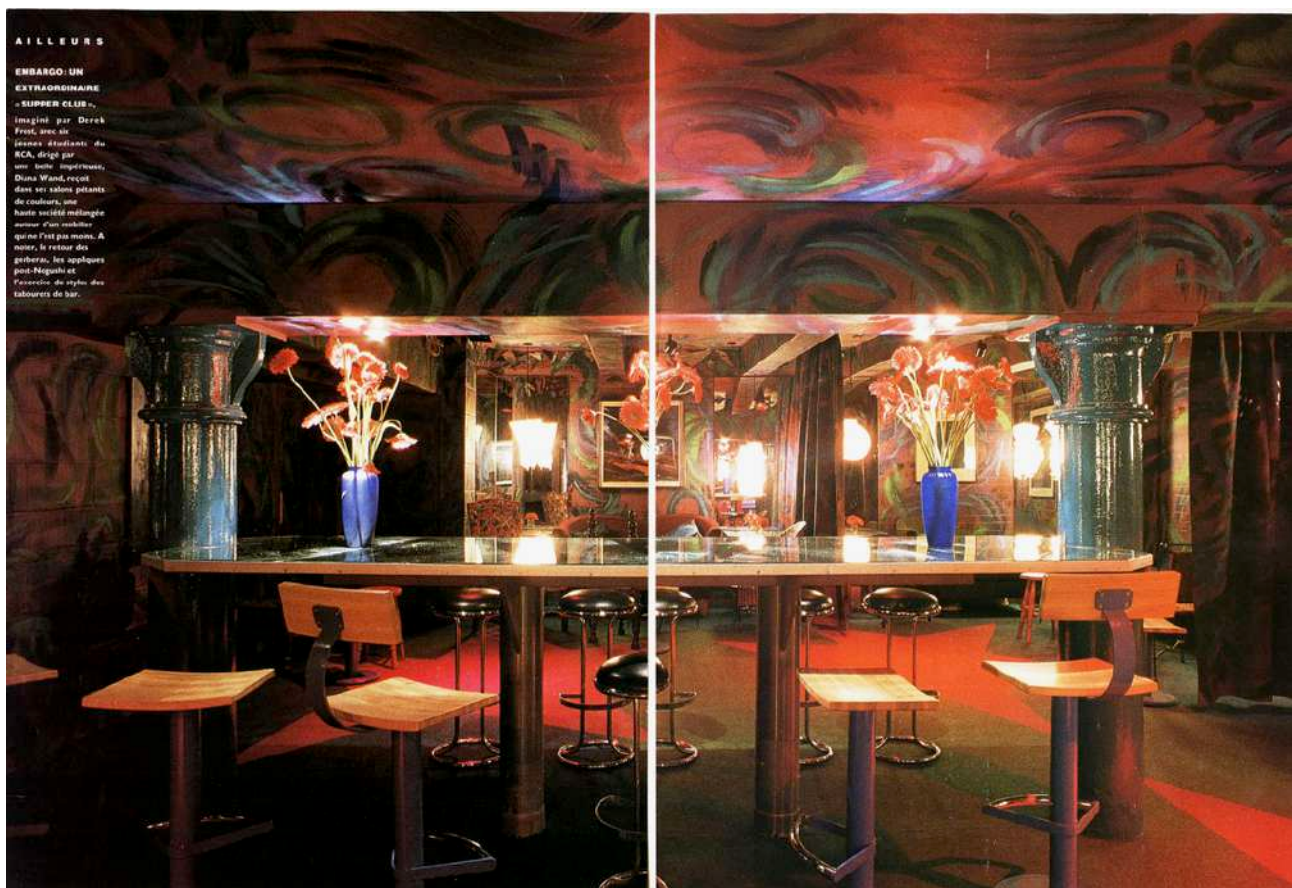


One of these building subsequently became home to 'Design Centre London' - the capital's premier destination for design and decoration and home to 130+ showrooms selling more than 600 international brands.

The impact on Lots Road and in turn 'The Furniture Cave' proved extraordinarily positive. Blakenhall and their tenants now found themselves enjoying the benefits of being located at the very centre of London's Design World.

At much the same time taste in interior design was undergoing a dramatic change. Less and less people wanted to fill their homes with antiques - 'modern' and 'new' was the design direction in which more and more of the market was heading. Blakenhall watched and responded to this fundamental change and in consequence many of tenants selling antiques left to be replaced by others selling ever-higher quality contemporary products.

On the second floor, Power Station had proved to be a marginal business and in 1989 Jeremy converted the business into a private member's club called eMbargo (see <https://jndflife.com/embargo/>).



Interior Design by Derek Frost - Jeremy's now husband.

Over the years Derek advised on the regular upgrades to the building and in particular it's exterior colour. Originally painted in a single pale colour it first became grey beige with it's distinctive detailing painted in a rust.



The building would subsequently become green, then brighter green and, as current, the brightest green (much to the initial alarm of many) and is now known to every London 'cabbie' and anyone else who cares to describe it as 'that green building on Kings Road.'







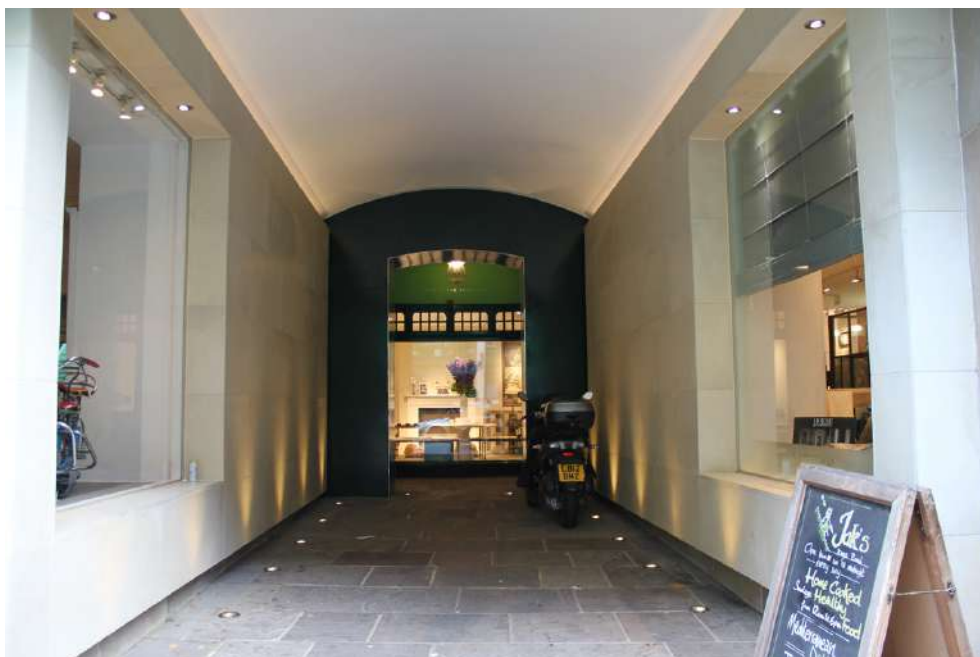




In 2009 the building was substantially upgraded and rebranded. Despite the protests of its older occupants it was renamed the 'Furniture and Arts Building' - FAB.



The Lot's Road 'Loading Bay' now one of the principal entrances into the building.



In 2011 Crazy Larry's was looking for larger premises and their late night licence was transferred to the basement of the building. The club reopened as 'Public'. This hugely successful club, haunt of various Royals and London's 'jeunesse dorée', proved sadly to be the victim of its own success. This together with Public's arrogant attitude to our neighbours forced the club to close and in consequence we lost the premises' valuable late night licence.



Public enemies: why Prince Harry and Pippa Middleton's favourite nightclub has closed

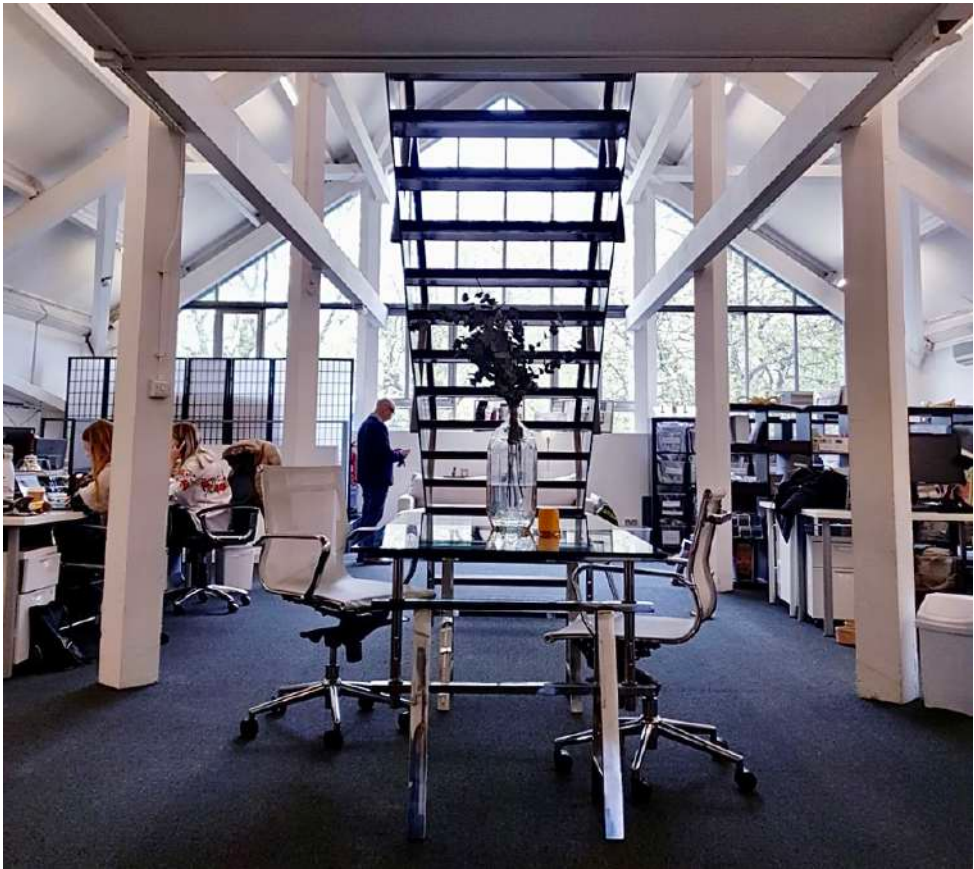
London's rich young party people are in shock at the forced closure of Prince Harry's favourite King's Road nightclub. Joshi Herrmann investigates a bitter dispute with class undertones

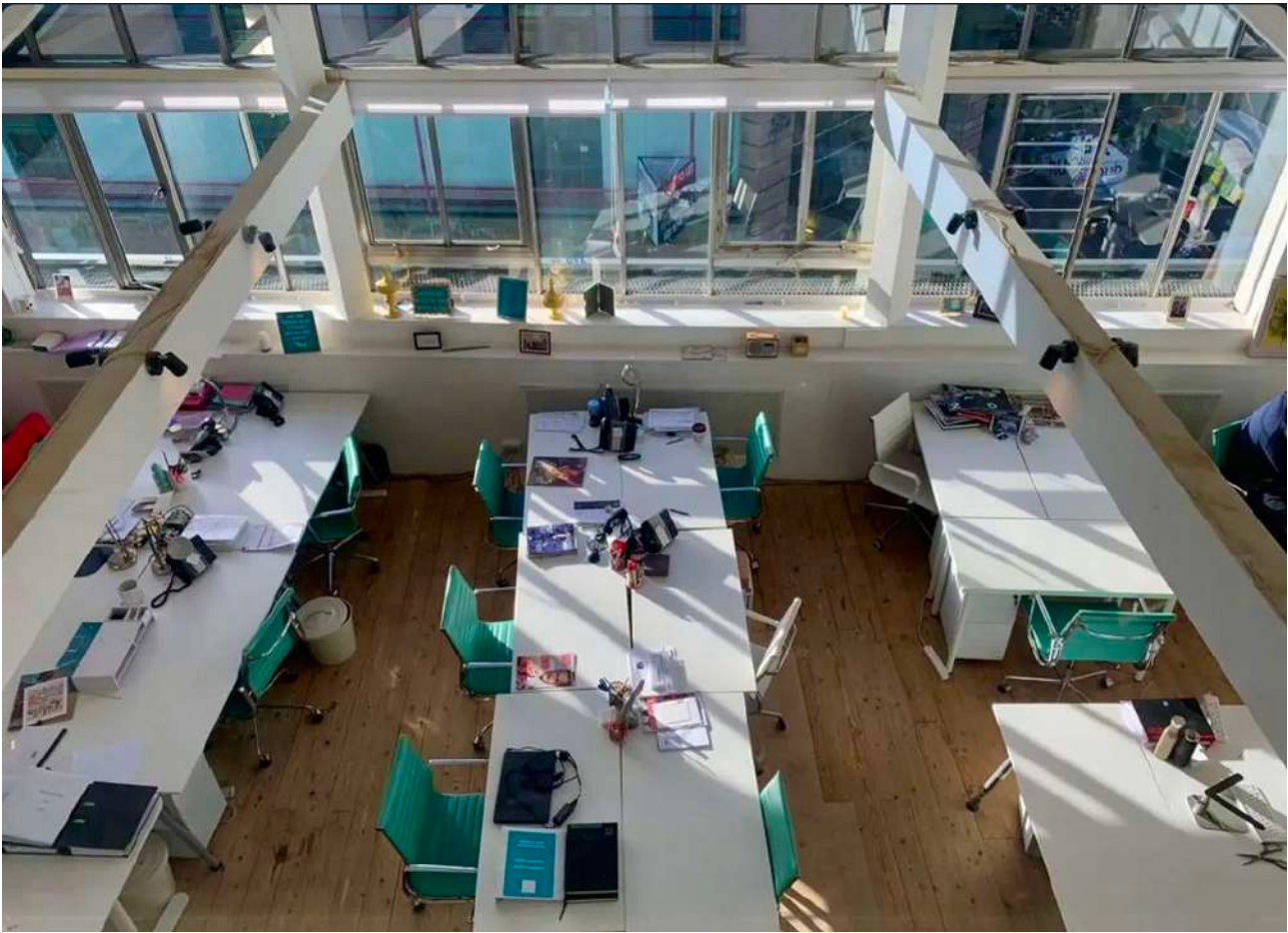
<https://www.standard.co.uk/lifestyle/london-life/public-enemies-why-prince-harry-and-pippa-middletons-favourite-nightclub-has-closed-7762933.html>

By now Jeremy had now sold his interest in eMbargo which still trades successfully as Embargo Republica (see: <https://www.embargorepublica.com/>).



Upper Floor Interiors





Some of the First Floor & Mezzanine Interiors







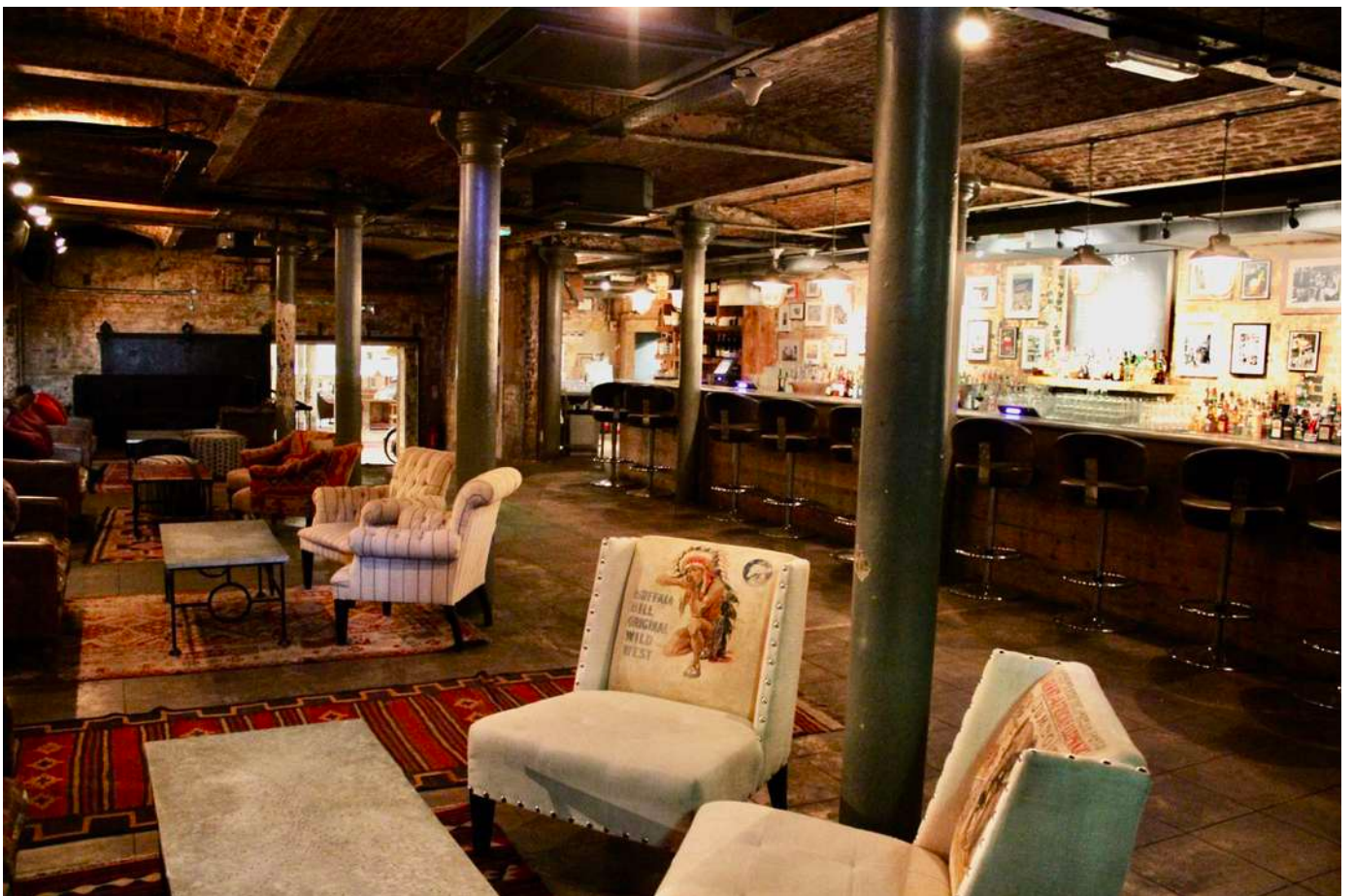
Some of the Ground Floor Interiors





Jaks Kings Road (see: <https://www.jakskingsroad.co.uk/>) took on the ex: Public lower ground space and in addition the smaller bar ground floor bar with its entrance on Tetcott Road. Jaks united both, calling the latter Zefi Bar and by installing an additional doorway into the building's ground floor courtyard provided external space for smokers.







In 2012 an upgrade to the first floor rear of the building included incorporating 3 large rectangular windows overlooking the park which lies behind the building.

The offices of Jo Cowen Architects (see: <https://jocowenarchitects.com/>) now occupy this space.





In 2023 Sir Mick Jagger hosted his 80th birthday party at Embargo Republica (see: <https://jndflife.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/mick-jagger-80th-embargo-7.23.pdf>).

Richard Taylor remains fully active and continues to play the lead role in advancing the future fortunes of the 'Furniture and Arts Building' - FAB.

FAB TENANTS end 2023

Embargo República - <https://www.embargorepublica.com/>

Entourage Collection Ltd. - <https://entourage-collection.com/>

Fameed Khalique - <https://www.fameedkhalique.com/>

Gabrielle Shaw Communications - <https://gabriellshaw.com/>

Hatchwell Antiques - <https://www.hatchwellantiques.co.uk/>

Jaks Kings Road - <https://www.jakskingsroad.co.uk/>

Jo Cowen Architects - <https://jocowenarchitects.com/>

M&D Lewis - <https://www.mdlewisantiques.co.uk/>

Missoni Home (Trade Showroom)

NCBA Ltd.

Phoenix Trading - <https://www.phoenixtradingcompany.co.uk/>

Zefi Bar - <https://jaksllondon.com/zefi-bar>



Google Satellite View showing The Furniture and Arts Building located between Kings Road, Tetcott Road & Lots Road and the public park that lies behind it.

