# King’s Birthday Honours spotlight architects balancing bold London skyscrapers and historic restoration



The recent King's Birthday Honours have saluted the achievements of several architects who have made significant contributions to the field, highlighting the importance of architectural innovation and restoration. Among the honourees, Eric Parry and Julian Harrap received recognition for their extensive careers in both contemporary design and historical restoration, respectively.

Parry, the founder of Eric Parry Architects, has become well-known for ambitious projects in the City of London. His firm is currently spearheading the construction of the Justice Quarter near Fleet Street, a £170 million initiative that aims to transform an entire city block into a new judicial complex. This development, which includes a headquarters for the City of London Police and a court complex, has been designed to balance modern requirements with the area's historical context. Parry has expressed a commitment to sustainable architecture that respects the heritage of its surroundings.

Additionally, the firm is behind the impressive '1 Undershaft', a skyscraper slated to rise 309.6 meters and become the tallest building in the City. This project promises to provide approximately 154,000 square meters of commercial space alongside publicly accessible areas, such as an elevated garden designed to offer spectacular views of London. Approved in December 2022, this project advances the City of London’s ambitions to enhance its cultural and leisure offerings in the commercial district, aligning with the ongoing 'Destination City' initiative.

In contrast to Parry's contemporary focus, Julian Harrap, who founded Julian Harrap Architects in 1973, has gained recognition for his expertise in the restoration and conservation of historic buildings. His firm's most notable projects include the restoration of the Neues Museum in Berlin, an undertaking that blended modern architectural principles with a commitment to preserving historical integrity. This extensive renovation, completed in collaboration with David Chipperfield Architects, involved not only reconstructing sections of the building damaged in World War II but also ensuring that the museum retained its historical resonance, a key aspect of contemporary conservation architecture.

Currently, Harrap's practice is involved in the redevelopment of the Museum of London at Smithfield Market. The planned £337 million overhaul seeks to create a vibrant cultural destination while relocating a vast collection of some 7 million objects. The project's schedule and budget have faced challenges due to the complexities of working within a historic context, yet it promises to revitalize the area and enhance public engagement with the museum.

Further honours include Tom Bloxham, the founder of Urban Splash, who received a CBE for his services to culture, specifically regarding the Manchester International Festival. Reflecting on his career, Bloxham highlighted his collaborative experiences with talented individuals in the cultural sector, expressing delight that their collective efforts had received formal recognition.

Jenny Hamilton was awarded an MBE for her long-term contributions to transport planning with Transport for London, particularly in enhancing accessibility at some of the city's busiest tube stations. Meanwhile, Sophie Thomas and Gareth Capner received OBEs for their achievements in sustainable design and planning, respectively. Thomas’s work in circular design has been notable in the industry, while Capner’s leadership in the Housing Design Awards reflects a commitment to quality housing initiatives.

The recognition of these professionals indicates a growing appreciation for the roles that architecture and urban planning play in shaping cultural and historical landscapes. As urban environments continue to evolve, the balance between innovation and preservation remains a crucial dialogue for architects and planners alike.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.architectsjournal.co.uk/news/architects-named-on-kings-birthday-honours), [[4]](https://www.architectsjournal.co.uk/archive/neues-museum-by-david-chipperfield-architects-in-collaboration-with-julian-harrap-architects)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.architectsjournal.co.uk/news/architects-named-on-kings-birthday-honours), [[2]](https://www.bdonline.co.uk/news/eric-parrys-170m-fleet-street-justice-quarter-approved/5111528.article), [[6]](https://www.architectsjournal.co.uk/news/eric-parrys-revised-one-undershaft-skyscraper-approved)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://www.ericparryarchitects.co.uk/projects/1-undershaft/), [[4]](https://www.architectsjournal.co.uk/archive/neues-museum-by-david-chipperfield-architects-in-collaboration-with-julian-harrap-architects), [[5]](https://www.architectsjournal.co.uk/news/first-look-chipperfields-neues-museum)
* Paragraph 4 – [[7]](https://www.architectsjournal.co.uk/news/museum-of-london-plans-submitted-for-new-337m-home-in-smithfield)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.architectsjournal.co.uk/news/architects-named-on-kings-birthday-honours)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.architectsjournal.co.uk/news/architects-named-on-kings-birthday-honours)
* Paragraph 7 – [[1]](https://www.architectsjournal.co.uk/news/architects-named-on-kings-birthday-honours)
* Paragraph 8 – [[1]](https://www.architectsjournal.co.uk/news/architects-named-on-kings-birthday-honours), [[6]](https://www.architectsjournal.co.uk/news/eric-parrys-revised-one-undershaft-skyscraper-approved)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.architectsjournal.co.uk/news/architects-named-on-kings-birthday-honours> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.bdonline.co.uk/news/eric-parrys-170m-fleet-street-justice-quarter-approved/5111528.article> - Eric Parry Architects' £170 million proposal for a judicial complex in the City of London was approved by the City Corporation’s planning committee. The development aims to replace an entire city block in a conservation area between Whitefriars Street and Salisbury Court on the south side of Fleet Street. The project includes a new headquarters for City of London Police, a courts complex, and a commercial building to help fund the project. Parry emphasized the responsibility to design sustainable and modern buildings that pay homage to the history and context of the area.
3. <https://www.ericparryarchitects.co.uk/projects/1-undershaft/> - Eric Parry Architects has designed '1 Undershaft', a 309.6-meter tall tower in the City of London, set to become the tallest building in the area. The project offers approximately 154,000 square meters of commercial space and includes publicly accessible areas such as an elevated public garden on the 11th floor, providing unique views of the London skyline. The design aligns with the City of London’s 'Destination City' campaign, aiming to enhance cultural and leisure opportunities within the commercial district.
4. <https://www.architectsjournal.co.uk/archive/neues-museum-by-david-chipperfield-architects-in-collaboration-with-julian-harrap-architects> - David Chipperfield Architects, in collaboration with Julian Harrap Architects, restored Berlin's Neues Museum, a 19th-century building bombed during World War II. The project involved rebuilding the missing northwest wing and a bay to the southeast, while preserving the building's sense of decay in the restored courtyard spaces and staircases. The 20,500-square-meter museum now houses Egyptian antiquities and serves as a significant example of contemporary conservation architecture.
5. <https://www.architectsjournal.co.uk/news/first-look-chipperfields-neues-museum> - The Neues Museum in Berlin, restored by David Chipperfield Architects and Julian Harrap Architects, reopened after a £49 million renovation. The project successfully addressed funding challenges and local complaints, completing 12 years after Chipperfield was commissioned to masterplan the area. The museum, originally completed in 1849 and bombed during World War II, now houses Egyptian antiquities and showcases a blend of historical preservation and modern intervention.
6. <https://www.architectsjournal.co.uk/news/eric-parrys-revised-one-undershaft-skyscraper-approved> - Eric Parry Architects' revised plans for '1 Undershaft', the City of London's tallest tower, were approved. The updated design reduces the building's footprint and opens up the lower levels, enhancing public access. The 74-storey skyscraper, standing at 309.64 meters, will replace the existing 23-storey St Helen’s Building and aims to provide 154,000 square meters of office space, accommodating up to 8,700 workers, along with retail, commercial, and cultural spaces.
7. <https://www.architectsjournal.co.uk/news/museum-of-london-plans-submitted-for-new-337m-home-in-smithfield> - The Museum of London submitted detailed plans for a new £337 million home at Smithfield Market. The designs, drawn up by Stanton Williams, Asif Khan, and Julian Harrap Architects, involve transforming the historic market buildings into a 24-hour cultural destination. The project aims to relocate the museum's 7 million objects from its current Barbican base to the West Smithfield site, with the cost and timeline having increased due to expanded floor space and the state of the historic buildings.