



# DERBY ROUNDHOUSE

Featured in English Heritage's "Constructive Conservation" book as one of 20 exemplar projects nationwide, the Derby Roundhouse was a Grade II Listed project built on a desire to restore a historic monument with meticulous attention to detail.

Following a devastating fire, the world's first railway roundhouse and carriage repair shop required dramatic restoration work to restore it to its former glory, but with the aid of modern materials and techniques that would be sympathetic and sensitive to the original features.

Working with Architects, Maber Associates and construction firm Bowmer + Kirkland, the replacement rooflights helped to breathe new life into a heritage industrial site, forming a new flagship vocational skills centre for Derby College.

Originally built in 1839 by Robert Stephenson for the North Midland Railway, a careful balance was needed to ensure a controlled maintenance and

repair whilst upgrading the incredibly low thermal performance. The roof windows became a key component in enhancing the performance and structural integrity of the buildings.

Part of the reconstruction of the roof included reinstating a circle of 48x trapezoidal rooflights, of which 36x had to open remotely. These rooflights needed to be 2.3m long and follow the line of the roof hip. The project also included a further 64x linked Conservation Rooflights; each bank of three measuring up to 3m x 1.6m, installed on the former carriage shops and engine sheds.

Working closely with the architects and contractors, we developed a bespoke version of our Conservation Rooflight. These roof windows provide the building with much-needed ventilation through electric actuators and significantly improved the thermal performance of the building. They combined modern performance with original heritage design, with slender frames that match

the appearance of the original roof windows, maintaining the roundhouse's iconic silhouette.

Through careful planning and teamwork, the restoration work resulted in rooflights that were both fit for purpose and delivered the desired heritage look and feel. A successful transformation using modern performance solutions, made the building fit for the 21st century and beyond, cementing The Roundhouse's position as an iconic part of Derby's landscape.

#### Architect:

[Maber Associates](#)

#### Contractor:

[Bowmer + Kirkland](#)

#### Awards:

RICS Project of the Year  
Project of the Year, East Midlands Centre for Constructing the Built Environment  
Heritage Award, East Midlands Centre for Constructing the Built Environment,  
East Midlands Property Awards English Heritage "Constructive Conservation" exemplar project.

#### Contact us for more information:

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