MJP Architects have a reputation for producing inspirational designs for the extension and adaptation of existing buildings, both historic and modern. Through sensitive design, we have established good working relationships with English Heritage and conservation officers.

Projects involving the conservation and re-use of buildings tend to have three primary concerns; — repair and conservation, to extend the life of the original building fabric. — improvement, to upgrade the technical performance of the building and its components. — Adaptation and extension to facilitate new uses and requirements.

The priorities differ from project to project. Some are listed buildings where careful repair and conservation are paramount, some are buildings from the recent past where new interventions are required to facilitate flexibility and re-use. Extensions and additions to buildings of any age require intimate understanding of the original architecture and deft design to allow new and old to live happily together.
"MJP undertook the project with their customary tact and sensitivity. The new facilities which have been provided have greatly enhanced the academic and social life of the College."

DR AJ BOYCE
BURSAR
ST JOHN'S COLLEGE, OXFORD

**Historical and technical research provides insight and understanding of old buildings.** It forms the basis for appropriate strategies for repair, adaptation and extension. This builds trust with all parties.

The new lunch room in the senior common room at St John’s College, Oxford, extends an existing grade 1 listed building dating from 1676. The extension is more like a garden pavilion, allowing the garden to reach into the building.

The Maggie’s Cancer Caring Centre in Cheltenham is a renovated grade II listed Victorian lodge and a large single storey extension. This was conceived as a piece of inhabited oak furniture providing a range of spaces, some open and flexible, some private and intimate.
“The centre saw over 5,000 visits last year and is continuing to grow, which also shows how successful the design is.”

KIRSTINE ROBERTS
OPERATIONS MANAGER
MAGGIE’S CANCER CARING CENTRES
“MJP’s commitment to the project was exemplary, as was their attention to the smallest detail of the design. They constantly strived to achieve the highest quality within the budget available, and the end result is a seamless blend of the historic and the unashamedly modern.”

PETER GOODSHIP
CHIEF EXECUTIVE,
PORTSMOUTH NAVAL BASE PROPERTY TRUST

The survival of a building often necessitates the incorporation of modern facilities and technology, which did not exist when it was built. When the building fabric makes no concession for them, ingenuity is required to find practical strategies, at the same time as conserving the original fabric.

Boathouse 6, an Ancient Monument in the Portsmouth Historic Dockyard, was built only to store boats. Conversion to an exhibition centre with a large new cinema required air conditioning and the full range of services to support an interactive exhibition, and allow complete flexibility for the future. Our solution minimised impact upon the architecture by deft insertion of explicitly modern additions.
“MJP produced an inspirational and highly effective design for the transformation of BBC Broadcasting House.”

JOHN SMITH
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER,
BBC
Broadcasting House in London has been the iconic home of the BBC since 1932. Contemporary broadcasting technology and acoustic deficiencies in the original design necessitated the rebuilding of the studios in the core of the building. They were structurally isolated to protect against vibration from the Bakerloo Underground trains which run below the building.

We carried out extensive research of the building’s evolution. Where the historic fabric had been compromised by WWII air raids and subsequent frequent remodelling, opportunities were found to incorporate complex and resilient servicing to sustain broadcasting into the future without compromising the essential character of the building.

The production spaces were all refitted to modern standards while the building envelope was carefully repaired and cleaned, including the Eric Gill sculptures. The major Art Deco spaces were restored and re-invigorated, including the Radio Theatre where our work preserved its special character while giving it the flexibility and accessibility required to sustain it commercially.
Commercial office space in older buildings often falls short of modern standards due to constraints imposed by the original structure. Sometimes the historic value is in the envelope rather than the interiors, which may have been compromised by adaptations over the years.

An example is Berry Brothers headquarters on Pall Mall. This includes two narrow frontage buildings from 1902 and 1952 which, in the composition of their elevations, contribute to the historic character of the area. These have been conserved while the buildings behind have been rebuilt to provide flexible modern office space which knits seamlessly with the surrounding grade II* listed buildings.

In the process, the opportunity has arisen to retrieve architectural heritage lost by earlier less sensitive redevelopments on the site. The rear elevation of an early eighteenth century Georgian terrace has been revealed within a new atrium, which also incorporates the light well of a neighbouring building from 1881, designed by Richard Norman Shaw.

We have undertaken this project in conjunction with Short and Associates.
We have developed a specialisation in working with buildings from the recent past, which were often inflexible in their design and inefficient in their energy use.

An example is the Warwick University student union, a 1960's concrete building. We remodelled the building, within the parameters of the exposed concrete structure of the original building. We were able to create a larger facility with architectural integrity, a new contemporary identity, and the adaptability required to sustain it commercially.

Also at Warwick, MJP have worked closely with library staff over several years to implement a new service model for the main library, providing undergraduates and postgraduates with state-of-the-art facilities and a wide choice of study environments. The refurbishment of this 1960's building was phased, allowing the building to remain in use throughout.

“The building is truly phenomenal and exactly as envisioned... and will deliver student and commercial services like never before”

CLAIRE HORTON
GENERAL MANAGER,
STUDENTS’ UNION
“MJP’s design solution addressed our desire to provide a distinctive, sustainable living and working environment that was deliverable in Bangkok.”

JOHN GAYLARD
PROJECT SPONSOR
FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

How can we do as much as necessary and as little as possible? Preservation of the building’s architecture and fabric, or simply financial constraints, can bring this question into focus.

As part of the redevelopment of the British Embassy compound we designed in Bangkok, we converted a 1920’s villa to provide ancillary staff accommodation. The building had already been adapted more than once, and the original verandahs had been lost. With minimal intervention, our scheme replanned it completely without changes to the envelope or the primary plumbing.

The Parks Road Building in St John’s College, Oxford, was retained when the adjoining site was cleared. Salvaged stone was used to build the fourth side which had been left open by the demolition. The building was repaired and cleaned, and new teaching rooms and study bedrooms simply inserted into the existing structure.
MJP Architects are also working in these other sectors.