



## Kresen Kernow, Library & Archive Centre

A derelict brewery in Redruth Cornwall has been transformed into a modern archive and library space, with £11.7m funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Purcell Architects led the creation of the new space with Demco Interiors winning the tender to design and supply furnishings and library shelving for the library, archive reading room, office and visitor area.

The brief was to design a welcoming space for all types of visitors – from a seasoned researcher to new or casual visitors.

The new centre will not only provide a home for the many books, maps, artworks and documents which are in the existing collection but also have the capacity to take on more in future. The extensive library, open to visitors, has over 60,000 books available.

The interior is a creative mix of contrasting elements, against an architectural backdrop of traditional materials. Stunning new features, in new oaks and new granite, include a circular counter, zigzag staircase and large circular central reception desk.

Demco brought their expertise in designing and planning spaces for library and education interiors to the project as well as designing and manufacturing bespoke furnishings: including:

- Low level white clad, steel library shelving weaves across the first floor beneath the new oak beamed low ceilings and contracts against the lovely old brickwork walls.
- Complementary bespoke crafted light oak display shelving units with integral seating.
- Large format meeting tables with colourful seats add a pop of colour to contrast against the more mature stone and wood finishes elsewhere.
- White PC benching sits neatly against the old stone walls with pale grey operator chairs highlighting the darker shade of the grey structural columns.
- Clusters of Ercol styled coffee tables and chairs in muted shades of grey, yellow and blue add a retro twist.
- Large format meeting tables with colourful seats add a pop of colour to contrast against the more mature stone.

The finished design allows the integrity and heritage of the original building to shine through and is respectfully brought into the 21st Century with modern, beautifully crafted architectural set pieces in modern version of old materials.

This is an interior that respects the integrity and heritage of this lovely old building while providing a modern service delivery to sustain Kresen Kernow for many years to come.

Images @PhilBorman

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