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Wooden bins in London

Renovation by Jan Kattein Architects

Enfield is the northernmost district of London. The average income of the population here is in the bottom ten percent of the city, which is mainly due to the lack of educational and job opportunities. In response, the district government is promoting processes for upgrading, cultural activation and job creation in the district. This also includes the *Angel Yard Enterprise Spaces* by **Jan Kattein Architects JKA** (London): a complex of previously abandoned garage yards that the office converted into a new work space. JKA has already implemented several projects in which they revitalized empty buildings with community-oriented offerings, such as a [creative center](#) for local small businesses in London.

The *Angel Yards* garage yards have previously been associated with crime. They are now part of a 17-year interim use that will run concurrently with the development of the surrounding urban space. According to information, the garages will then be demolished. 35 work units for entrepreneurs between the ages of 18 and 30 as well as a small community center were created here. **Launch It Trust**, an association with the aim of supporting young companies, runs the complex and offers the jobs.

The new office spaces in the three garage blocks are lined up along two paths covered with multi-wall panels. They are freely accessible during the day and are intended to expand the district's public space. The existing structure of the courtyards was largely retained during the renovation - also in order to reduce the project's CO2 consumption. The architects placed a wooden structure with barrel roofs on top of the existing masonry so that the room height could be increased. The community center serves as the entrance, for which the middle garage block was opened to the street. In contrast to the other buildings, its barrels are rotated by 90 degrees. In the back there is a typical double-decker bus that JKA converted for the facility.

After a renovation period of less than a year, the 600 square meter project was completed in April 2023. According to the architects, the construction costs amount to the equivalent of around 1.5 million euros. Along with the other measures in the district, the project was supported by the Good Growth Fund, a municipal program to promote growth and community development in London. The *Angel Yards* has won several awards, including the New London Award 2023.

Text: Isabel Herrle

Photos: Jack Hobhouse



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