



SOUTHWARK TOWN HALL

The former Southwark Town Hall is set to be transformed by developer Alumno into a theatre, cafe and artists' studios, along with 149 rooms of student accommodation, a student common room and a roof terrace.

The artists' studios on the ground and lower ground floors, for use by students and local artists, will create jobs and investment opportunities, while the cafe gallery, for both students and the public, is earmarked to be run by a local arts and community organisation.

The 1930s facade and main structure of the building on Peckham Road will be refurbished, retaining significant features.

The site to the rear, currently occupied by Theatre Peckham, which offers affordable performing arts classes to three to 18-year-olds, will include a new home for the theatre with dedicated rehearsal space and a larger auditorium, two new studios, a box office, new visitor facilities, offices and an entrance foyer.

The site will also include new public space

to the rear of the building, providing improved access to the Sceaux Gardens estate.

Alumno had previously worked with the neighbouring Camberwell College of Arts to redevelop neighbouring Georgian buildings into student accommodation.

The town hall used to be Southwark Council's main office building and council chamber. Most council staff have moved into 160 Tooley Street, near London Bridge.

Fiona Colley, cabinet member for regeneration and corporate strategy, said: "Southwark is home to three universities and has a thriving student population which helps make our borough a vibrant and interesting place to live – those students need somewhere affordable to live. Purpose-built student accommodation can also help take pressure off the general rental market."

To represent the needs of students on the site, Alumno worked with Chelsea College of Art and Design to develop the interior of the new development.



FAR LEFT:
The 1930s facade and main structure of the former Southwark Town Hall will be refurbished.
LEFT:
New public space to the rear of the town hall.