

# Saving the physical face of the BBC at [Alexandra Palace](#)

We support the majority of the proposals that will transform this site into a sustainable visitor experience. Whilst the Victorian legacy is being well represented, the physical remains of its main claim to fame, the birthplace of broadcast television on the building's exterior elevation, is in danger of being lost. The photo below shows what was there at the inception of the BBC here in 1936 and should form the template for what is to be preserved. Notice the [Higgs and Hill](#) sign in the centre of the photo - they were master builders for over 100 years having built the Tate Britain, the BBC Television Centre and repairs to Windsor Castle. Their workmanship on the colonnade infills is of a high standard and defines the dynamism that was happening inside.

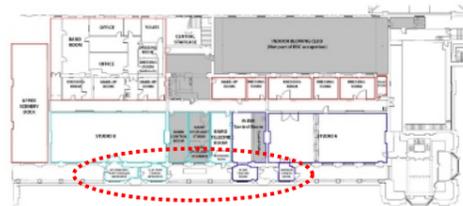


Much of the "Victorian" stonework is replacement concrete.

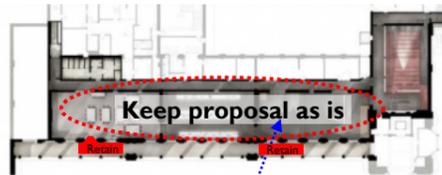


Note how the decorative brick course was respected

BBC infill "Victorian".



Keep these as **icon spaces** of the Baird/EMI systems



Draw this space into Son et Lumiere programme (Access to these spaces could be made at higher level interpreted via app/panel)



## Saving history AND saving money

"We would also expect that a **significant amount** of repair will be needed to the south elevation **following the unblocking of the Colonnade**. The original brick facade will have been damaged by the taking through of structure, services, doorways, etc and new brickwork will need to be patched in".

Feilden Clegg Bradley submission

**Bricked up BBC studio arches to be lost in the proposed scheme**

Conserve these windows

The rescued spaces could be drawn into the proposed Son et Lumiere programme and provide a destination for special visits

Views from here could still be preserved

Interpret this view via app, label and graphics

The 1936 face of a revolution in broadcasting



[Add your voice here!](#)

Contact

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\* The Greater London Industrial Society, the Alexandra Park Conservation Area Advisory Committee and the Save Ally Pally Group.

Several conservation groups\* and a growing petition of concerned local, national and international citizens are calling for the vision above to be respected. Behind the colonnades we recognise that the BBC experience has to operate in a sustainable cost effective way and call for the facade above to be absorbed into the current scheme. This could be cheaply done and allow for more of the built physical 20<sup>th</sup> century architecture to provide a site specific experience. [Bletchley Park](#) almost fell to the same fate as this building with its 20<sup>th</sup> century physical contributions to world peace, almost expunged from the site - do not let this happen here!

**We call on all the parties involved in the project to reconsider the fate of the external BBC elevation on this site.**