

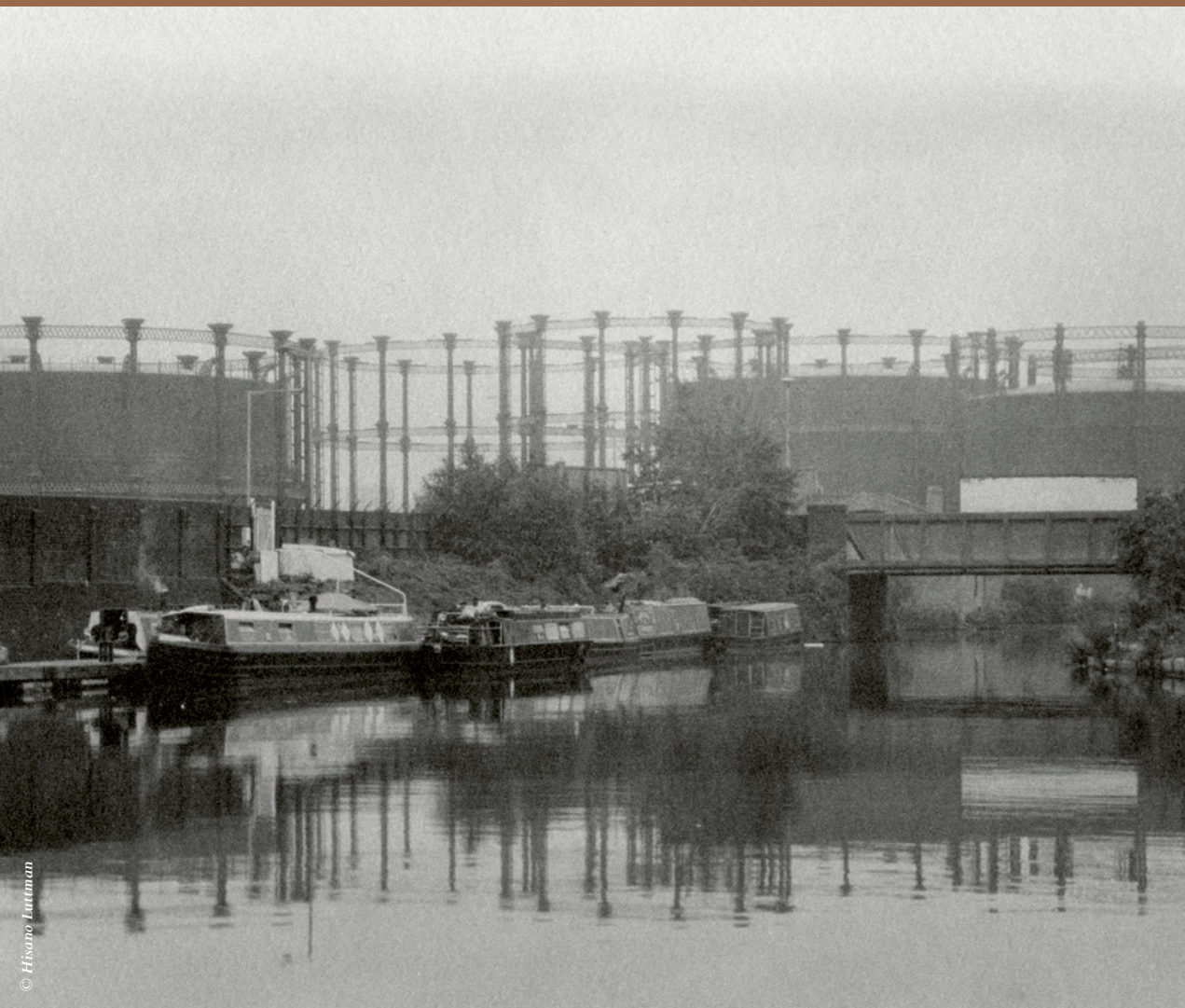


GASHOLDERS
LONDON

Past & Present

King's Cross is inextricably linked to London's industrial past. The telescopic gasholder was invented in 1824 and provided the storage needed to meet the demand of an ever-expanding city. The interlocking gasholder triplets at King's Cross were built and revised between 1860 and 1880 and now, some 150 years later, they are once again responding innovatively to the Capital's ever increasing population.





King's Cross was an important industrial centre both due initially to the Regent's Canal and subsequently reinforced by the arrival of Great Northern Railway and King's Cross Station in 1852. Some of the area's numerous gasholders were lost after the Gas Light and Coke company closed in 1911, whilst the remaining fell victim to changing technology and fell out of use in the late 20th century.

© John Hesehtine



The distinctive gasholders appeared in many old photographs of London and were an equally familiar sight to the train travellers.



© Hisaoe Lautman



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Classic branded carts were a common sight around King's Cross with the extensive stables located beside the gasholders.



The classic black comedy *The Ladykillers* had scenes filmed with the gasholders as backdrop, as did *Alfie*, *Backbeat*, *Chaplin* and *The Missionary*.

With architects Wilkinson Eyre crafting an extraordinary new apartment building to sit within the three gasholder frames, the Grade II listed structures themselves were dismantled and transported to Yorkshire.

It was at Shepley, with passion and vast skill, that these remarkable tributes to Victorian engineering genius have been stripped, repaired, reinforced and resprayed before being re-erected beside the Regent's Canal once more.

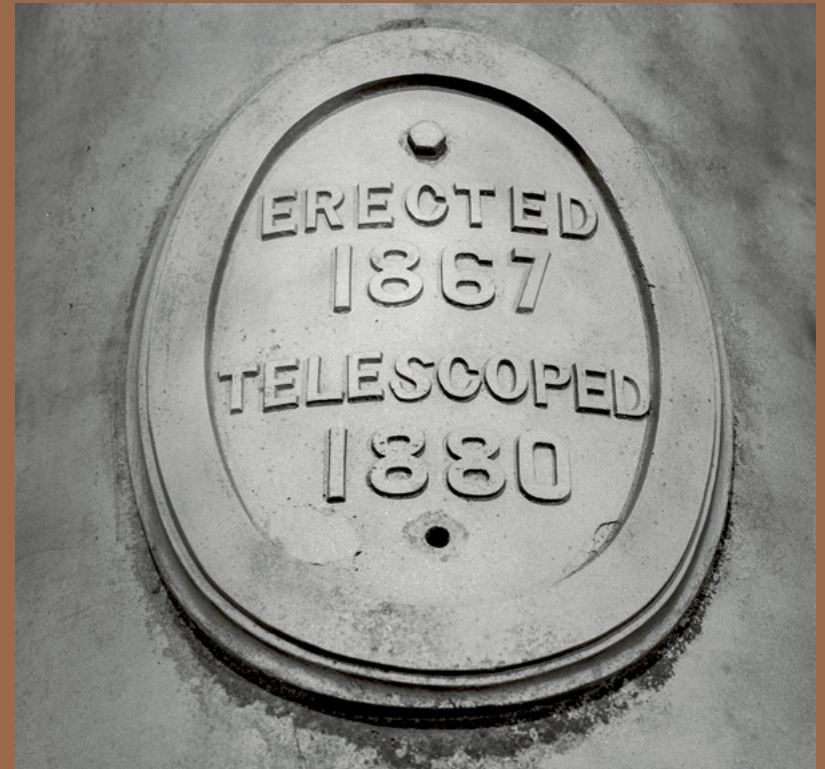




*It has taken
over two years
to refurbish the
123 cast-iron
columns.*







With the new building due to complete in 2017, it will be exactly 150 years since its eastern gasholder was first erected.



The extraordinary architecture that the original frames embrace is best expressed by those responsible. 'We wanted to retain the structure but give it new meaning and use for the future.

We're placing new against old, finding ways to create an elegant contrast.

And working with a circle has resulted in really beautiful ideas. What began as a challenge, turned out to be a blessing.'





*'Living in a landmark
has its advantages,
people will be interested in it,
people will know about it.'*

Chris Wilkinson







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