



2015 HIGHWAYS MAGAZINE EXCELLENCE AWARDS

The Covent Garden Community Lighting Partnership

'Led entirely by the community this totally collaborative approach shows local cooperation on a new level'
Judges' citation.

FIRST'S GALORE

This is the first time these prestigious national awards have gone to a lighting project; the first time a voluntary organisation has won an award and a first for all the other partners; the first time in the UK a voluntary charity has designed a bespoke lantern and bracket; the partnership itself is a first for public lighting and an exemplary cross border partnership. The project arises from recommendations in the *'Seven Dials Renaissance Study'* currently being up-dated as a web edition - <http://www.sevendials.com/the-study/seven-dials-renaissance-study>

WHAT IS THE PROJECT?

We have replaced all the post mounted lanterns from Shaftesbury Avenue down to Long Acre with our bespoke traditional 'Windsor' style nineteenth century façade mounted lanterns. They combine modern and old technologies, so the 19c 'sugar bowls' (used to enhance gas lighting) spread the light and reduce the glare and the Philips Cosmopolis lamp provides a softer form of light suitable for a historic conservation area thus complementing the historic gas lanterns on the Westminster side.

WHAT IS THE PARTNERSHIP & WHAT WERE OUR AIMS?

Initiated by the Seven Dials Trust it comprises the voluntary, statutory and private sectors who have worked since 2006 to bring this project to fruition. Each has brought their expertise to bear. The scheme costs of around £220,000 have been met by Camden, Westminster, English Heritage (as was), and Shaftesbury PLC with the Trust providing admin and organisational support. Our aims were to: create a historically accurate 19c lantern style large enough to accommodate future technologies; reduce glare so the historic facades can be seen at night; create a long life lantern by designing out all the issues encountered by the lighting engineers at Camden, Westminster and the Corporation of London (who advised); reduce both carbon emissions and energy output. We have succeeded with all of our objectives, we hope to the benefit of residents, businesses and our many visitors from all over the world.

THE AREA

Seven Dials is the only quarter of London remaining from late Stuart England, laid out by Thomas Neale MP, *'The Great Projector'* in the early 1690's. It remains almost unaltered with many of the original houses and late 18c and early 19c shopfronts. On and south of the Borough border in Westminster the massive ex Combe brewery buildings still stand, the only such group of 18c brewery buildings in the West End. This small area is quite distinct from the rest of the West or the more formal and grander layout around the Piazza in Covent Garden, retaining the 17th century layout and both small scale houses in Camden and the grand brewery buildings in Westminster. It has thriving residential and business communities and is much visited by tourists. The Sundial Pillar was reconstructed by the Seven Dials Trust in 1989, the first project of its kind in London since Nelsons Column in the 1840's.

The distinguished architectural historian Dr John Martin Robinson has written:

“Seven Dials is one of the great architectural set pieces of London. It is a grand baroque design carried out on a miniature scale.”

David Bieda the Trust’s Chairman: “This has been an exemplary partnership. We pay particular tribute to the lighting engineers at Camden and Westminster. Neil Arnold and then Jim Thornhill at Camden and Dave Franks at Westminster have given unstinting support over many years and well beyond the call of duty. Their application of technical knowledge has brought about a resounding success to this unique project.

My fellow trustee Paul Draper designed the lantern, acrotaria and bracket arm achieving Historic England’s desire for an authentic reproduction of a 19c ‘Windsor’ lantern. Paul is one of the country’s leading architectural illustrators and an expert in the art of perspective and a long-standing Covent Garden resident. This combination of local, council and private sector expertise has made for an unusual and enjoyable journey.”

CLlr Melvyn Caplan, Westminster City Council cabinet member for city management, said: “Working as a partnership has been a huge part of what makes this a successful scheme – so all those that have been involved should take full credit.

“Westminster’s heritage is important to London and the UK, but we have to keep up with the pace of change. This project highlights how that is possible and I am delighted it has been recognised.”

Councillor Phil Jones, Camden Cabinet Member for Planning, Regeneration and Transport said: “By combining Victorian design and current technologies, I am pleased to see reductions in both energy output and carbon emissions within a historically accurate lantern. The use of façade lanterns also frees up footways and greatly reduces maintenance costs.

“This partnership demonstrates the benefits of joint working between the voluntary, statutory and private sectors for the benefit of residents, businesses and the many visitors to the historic Seven Dials neighbourhood.”

Richard Parish, Historic Places Adviser, Historic England ,London “Seven Dials is one of London’s most historic neighbourhoods with a unique character and a strong community. The project shows that it possible to develop street furniture which is historically accurate, underpins local historic character, and can meet and exceed today’s rigorous performance standards. The Trusts dedication to achieving such high standards and to working in partnership has borne exemplary results.”

Shaftesbury PLC: “We are pleased to have contributed to this partnership which has greatly enhanced Seven Dials and Covent Garden at night. The pooling of resources has enabled an unusual degree of attention to detail with the bespoke ‘Windsor’ style lantern and bracket arm designed by Paul Draper, a long standing Covent Garden resident and Seven Dials Trustee. We are particularly pleased that the scheme crosses the borough border with outstanding cooperation between Camden and Westminster and other members of the partnership. The Seven Dials Trust initiated and has administered this scheme over a number of years. Shaftesbury is committed to partnership working in this historic neighbourhood to the benefit of all stake-holders.”

Robert Huxford Director Urban Design Group. *‘The Seven Dials scheme has been of national importance in changing attitudes to and aspirations for the public realm’*

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Highway Partnership Award

Awarded to an organisation or Highway Authority that has driven or can demonstrate a collaborative approach designed to increase the benefits for society or its local community. This should be demonstrated by key performance indicators which test the robustness of the partnership and the positive outcomes.

Highly Commended



City of Westminster



Shaftesbury

The Covent Garden Community Lighting Partnership

Community-led partnership project replacing post-mounted street lighting with bespoke facade-mounted lanterns combining old and new technologies throughout Seven Dials, Covent Garden, and Sundial Pillar lighting.

Judges' comment

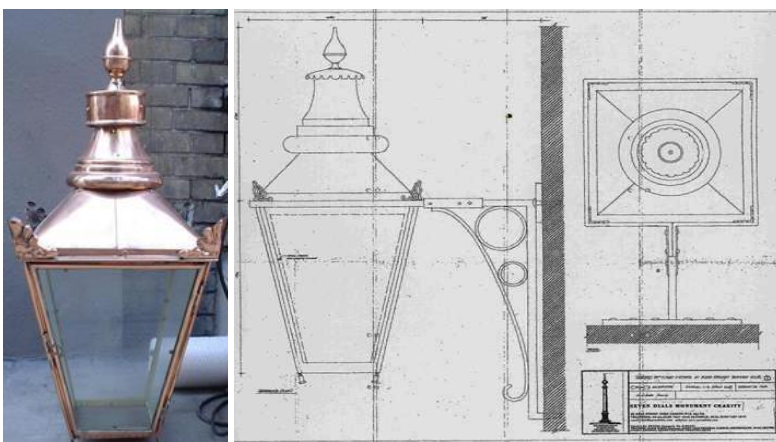
“Led entirely by the community this totally collaborative approach shows local cooperation on a new level.”

All the images below are available.

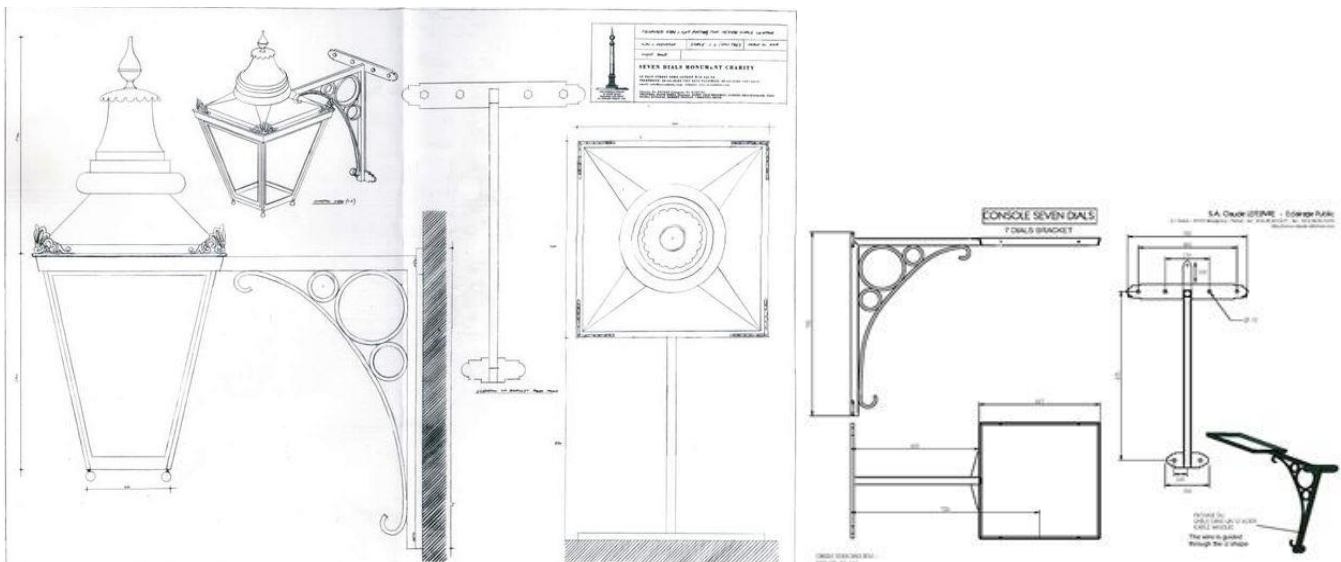
1. RESEARCH FOR A BESPOKE LANTERN



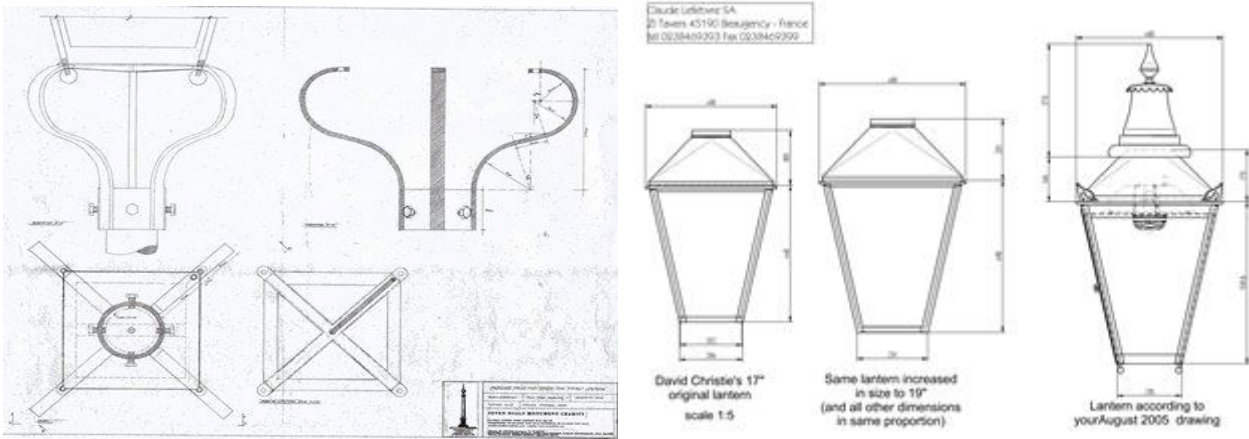
Left - Langley Street late 19c gas lantern. Right 'Lamb & Flag' c. 1880 Sugg gas lanterns.



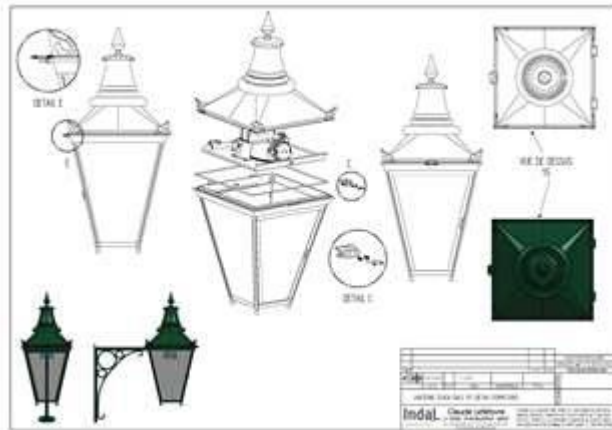
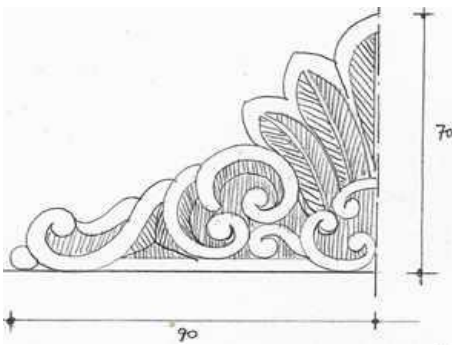
Christie Collection. Right Seven Dials Trustee Paul Draper's survey drawing the 'Lamb & Flag' gas lanterns.



Paul Draper's final drawing for the 19" façade lantern and bracket arm and the final for manufacture.



Paul Draper's drawing for the 19" column mounted version. Right – size & proportion comparisons.



The acrotaria: Paul Draper's design, Paul making the mould in his flat in Covent Garden, the cast bronze acrotaria made by the Monolith Foundry in Staplehurst Kent and sent to Lefebvre in France, and the final result showing the sort of detail normally lacking. Bottom right details of the final prototype No. 3.

2. THE PARTNERSHIP GROUP



Mini-bus tour of façade lighting in 3 London boroughs; John Burke (Corp of London) talk on 'sugar bowls' vs. pot optics to officers of Camden and Westminster Council and English Heritage.

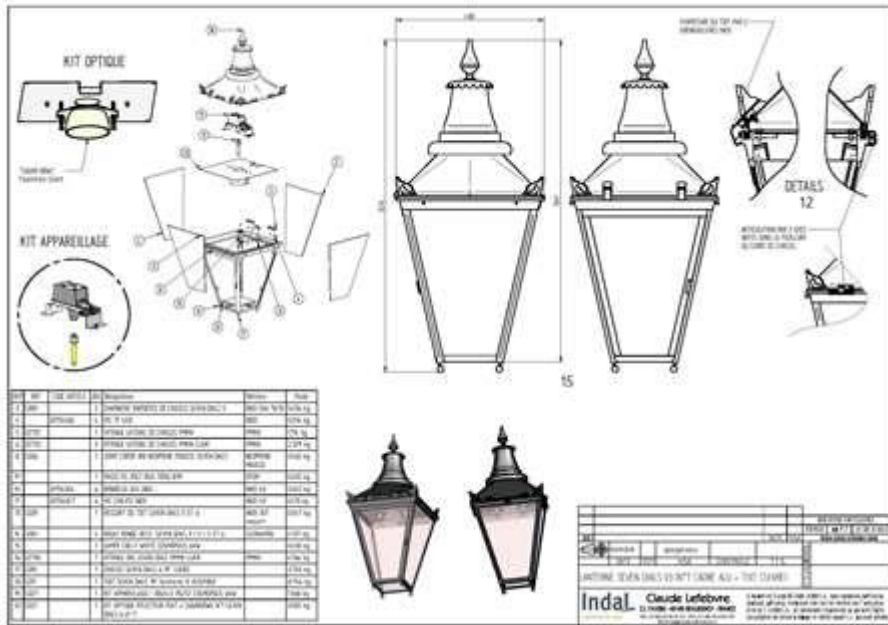


David Bieda & Paul Draper in the Lefebvre factory; Seven Dials trustees beneath the successful V2 prototype in Shelton Street Covent Garden.



Approving the final prototype; the Trust and officers from Camden, Westminster and the Corporation of London.

3. TECHNICAL



Top left shows the Victorian 'sugar bowl' which combined with the Philips Cosmopolis lamp created exactly the right form of light & light spread also reducing the usual glare from standard 'pot optic' type lanterns.

4. REDUCING COSTS



On narrow footways the road camber means lorries can hit the lantern (left two) and graffiti and loose covers are costly maintenance items. With façade lanterns such costs disappear.