


Trellick Tower and the Cheltenham (Edenham) Estate

Listed buildings

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THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA



Trellick Tower (blocks A, B and the corner service tower) were granted Grade II* listed status in December 1998. In November 2012 Cheltenham (Edenham) Estate was given Grade II listed status by the Government.

What does listing mean?

Listing buildings is a way of recognising their special architectural or historic interest. It helps us acknowledge and understand our shared history. Listing does not mean that a building cannot be changed, but it does mean that special consideration needs to be given to make sure that any changes do not diminish this special interest.

A building normally has to be over 30 years old to be eligible for statutory listing. The older a well preserved building is, the more likely it is to be listed. Buildings erected after the Second World War (such as Trellick Tower and Edenham) have to be of exceptional architectural or historic interest to be listed. The Grade II* status given to Trellick Tower recognises its particular importance. Only 5.5 per cent of listed buildings in England and Wales are given this grade.

How does a building get listed?

Anyone can suggest a building for listing. English Heritage administers the listing system and will examine the case. It then makes recommendations to the Government's Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) which carries out the listing. DCMS may also seek the advice of other experts when deciding which buildings to list.

Why were Trellick Tower and Cheltenham Estate listed?

Both the Tower and the Estate are of special architectural and historic interest. They were both designed by Erno Goldfinger, a significant figure in post-war British architecture. Twelve of his buildings are now listed.

Did you know?

Goldfinger used to work from an office at the end of block B within Trellick Tower.

Originally from Hungary, Goldfinger came to London in 1934. He had trained as an architect in Paris, where he formed close associations with other notable modern movement architects, such as Auguste Perret and Le Corbusier. English Heritage has noted that Goldfinger's work is unique in Britain in that it combines the influences of Perret with detailing derived from Le Corbusier.



In the early 1960s the London County Council commissioned Goldfinger to design the Cheltenham Estate in North Kensington to replace the existing sub-standard late 19th century housing. Trellick Tower, built between 1968 and 1972, comprises 217 flats and some non-residential space. The distinctive 31 storey high building profile of Trellick Tower is very slim and sculptural. The corner service tower is dominated by the dramatic boiler house structure, which juts out and has been likened to a 'cyclopean eye'. The interiors of the flats are interesting in layout and contain numerous features designed by Goldfinger himself such as the light switches and door surrounds.

The Cheltenham Estate was built between 1969 and 1973. It contains two six storey blocks of flats, five terraces of three storey houses and four acres of open space. The external design of the buildings has boldly expressed cross walls and horizontal concrete bands providing a strong and consistent rhythm.

The unique 'bush-hammered in-situ reinforced concrete' with pre-cast pebble finished panels and high quality brickwork define the external appearance of both the Tower and the whole estate.

"Included as the ultimate expression of Goldfinger's philosophy of high rise planning. It also embodies the best ideas of the time on high rise housing".

Taken from the National Heritage List for England entry for Trellick Tower

What happens when a building is listed?

When buildings are listed they are placed on the National Heritage List for England. The list includes a brief description of each building and may refer to some, but not all, of its important features, which are all protected.

Did you know?

The Doctor's surgery at number 13, block B retains the original shop front and the majority of the original internal plan layout and fittings. The list description refers to it as "a fine surviving example of an original Goldfinger interior".

Some internal or external alterations will need Listed Building Consent. The Council's conservation and design officers can advise on when this consent is required. When an application for Listed Building Consent is received, the Council will assess whether the proposals preserve the special architectural and historic interest of the building before making a decision.

Did you know?

Goldfinger lived at 2 Willow Road in Hampstead, in a house which he designed. The house is now owned by the National Trust and open to the public.



For more information about listed buildings visit
English Heritage's website:

www.english-heritage.org.uk/caring/listing/listed-buildings

