

A brief history of Oxo Tower Wharf

Around 1900 a power station was built on the site of Oxo Tower Wharf to supply electricity to the Post Office.

In the late 1920s it was purchased by the Liebig Extract of Meat Company which demolished much of the building but extended its riverside frontage - look carefully next time you visit and you will see where it bends.

The company made the famous OXO beef cube and its architect, Albert Moore, incorporated the design as windows on a tower to get around a ban on skyline advertising!

At that time the building was named Stamford Wharf and was London's second highest commercial building. Meat, delivered by barge, was passed through loading bays (which you can still see on the riverside) into cold stores, then processed and packed.

By the early 1970s the building was derelict, apart from the production of 'long eggs' for insertion into meat pies.

By the time Coin Street Community Builders bought the Wharf, the only activity related to two barges used as a floating helicopter port. The first act of the new owners was to close the heliport and bring peace back to the riverside!

An initial contract carved out a two-storey arcade as part of the construction of the riverwalk. In 1988 a second contract demolished the middle of the building and part of the Bargehouse. In 1991 a third contract repaired the basic structure of the building. Only after this was any bank willing to lend money for the main refurbishment contract.