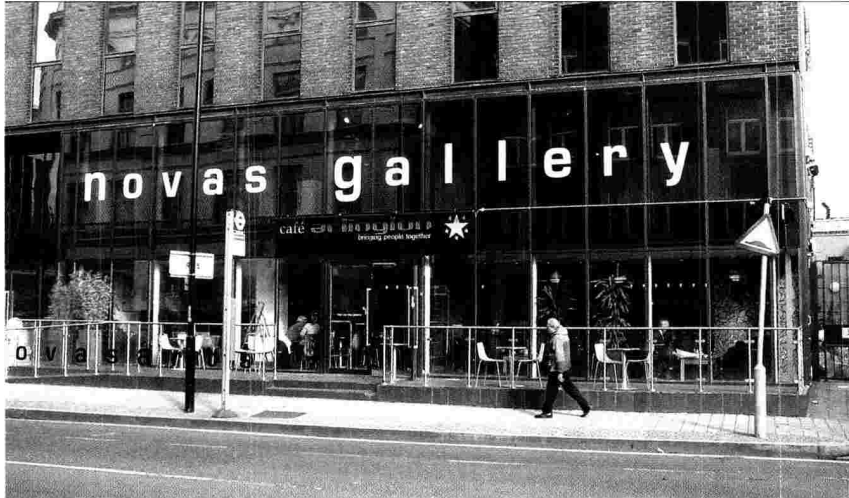


IN PLACE

Novas Contemporary Urban Centre, London



Name of scheme Novas Contemporary Urban Centre.

Completed: 4 April 2007.

Where is it? Southwark Bridge Road, Southwark, London.

What is it? A cultural, employment and training centre.

The lowdown: This London Bridge project is the first of four centres planned to be opened by charity the Novas Group. It cost approximately £20,000 to refurbish and the work was designed by Sonoko Obuchi. Paul Everitt, head of artistic programmes at Novas, says re-designing the building, which was the charity's old headquarters, was a significant task. "Imagination was the first challenge. We had to turn what could be called a quite ordinary looking building into a fantastic art gallery," says Everitt. He says that as part of the refurbishment, the floors of the five-storey building were stripped of carpet to reveal shiny aluminium squares underneath. These have been kept because of their "industrial, urban feel". Everitt says the main aim of the Novas centre is to create a space that marginalised people, such as the homeless and those from black and ethnic minority groups, can use for training and employment purposes. The Novas Group aims to use arts, enterprise and community support to change people's lives. The centre contains a café, bar, art gallery, retail units, training units, conference facilities and meeting rooms.

Credits *Architects:* Novas architects; *Construction:* George Jones; *Local planning authority:* London Borough of Southwark.