Cinema unveils plans for major foyer redesign

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By Ruth Anders

He led his group's presentation in June this year (The Archer, July 2026) when four groups of students proposed their ideas to Phoenix staff, trustees and others. The competition judges considered the views of the public, the board of trustees and, importantly, the cinema staff.

Paul Rossi, chair of the trustees, said: "All the designs showed huge creativity by the students, who were clearly engaged with the opportunities and challenges of our heritage building. We are very grateful for all those who took the time to express their views on these designs and thank them all for their feedback.

"It was vital to have input from the cinema's dedicated team of staff, as not only could they appreciate the aesthetics of the plans, but they also know what would work best when considering the practicalities of day-to-day delivery."

The Phoenix's executive director Kathryn Smith added: "Huge congratulations to our winning students for creating such an inspiring vision for the Phoenix Cinema foyer.

It's been wonderful to see the creativity and fresh ideas that the Middlesex University architecture students have brought to this project. "As a community-owned charity, we want the Phoenix to continue to be a welcoming, accessible and much-loved space for everyone, while preserving the unique character of our historic building. We're excited to take the next steps towards bringing this vision to life, with the support of our wonderful community." The Cinema's Phoenix Rising campaign is designed to raise the necessary financial support to start the building work. The staff and trustees are approaching corporate sponsors, philanthropic trusts and foundations and individuals to achieve this. Every penny counts and if you care about the Phoenix and feel able to make a donation, no matter how small, you can use the QR code in this article.



Screen glamour: The full set of winning designs by a Middlesex University student team chosen to revamp the Phoenix Cinema foyer and toilets.

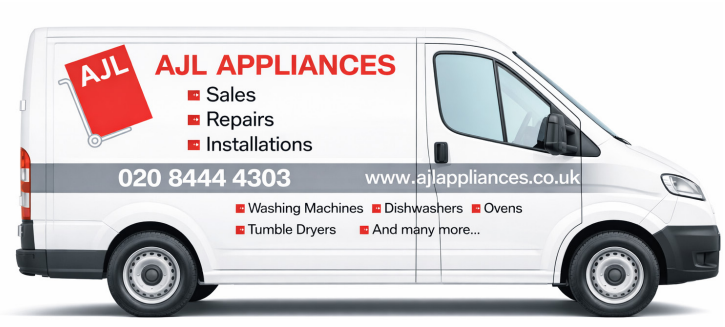
Christmas Fair at St Mary's

Enjoy a little Christmas magic close to home as the St Mary's Christmas Fair brings neighbours, families and friends together on Sunday 29 November, from 11am to 2pm. Everyone is welcome at St Mary's Parish Halls, 279 High Road, N2, and admission is free.

Whether you're coming with children, meeting friends or popping in on your own, there will be a warm welcome and plenty to enjoy. Explore more than 15 stalls offering Christmas gifts, crafts, jewellery and fabulous hampers, or try your luck at the chocolate and bottle tombolas.

Santa arrives at noon to hear Christmas wishes, while the parish choir will fill the halls with festive carols. Younger visitors can enjoy cookie decorating, face painting and glitter tattoos, with nail and henna art also on offer.

Come hungry for delicious hot food and home-baked treats. The fair raises funds to help maintain and heat St Mary's.



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