

Holland Harvey

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CORNER

Impact Report





Shelter from the Storm

Hello

Welcome to the Annual Impact Report of Holland Harvey for 2023. We have been a Certified B Corporation™ for 12 months, and this is our first moment to reflect, measure and report on our progress.

We've always believed that design should enrich lives and communities and this year marks a significant milestone in our commitment to sustainable and ethical practice.

This report is intended to demonstrate our dedication to meeting verified social and environmental performance standards, public transparency, and legal accountability.

Our primary initiative is our pledge to commit 1% of our annual billable hours to the third sector. Over the past year, this has been focused on helping our longstanding friends and partners at homeless charity Shelter from the Storm.

Over the past 12 months, we have embarked on a transformative journey – from adopting more sustainable design practices to enhancing employee well-being and engaging more actively with our local community.

This report provides a snapshot of our achievements in Impact Areas defined by the B Corporation standards: Governance, Workers, Community, Environment, and Customers. These sections highlight our accomplishments and define our ambitions for the coming year.

RIBA 

Chartered Practice





Corner at Tate Modern

Holland Harvey was founded on the belief design should make a positive social & environmental impact.

The studio designs spaces that celebrate the every day, with an ethical approach that ensures each project tells a story. Based in east London, the studio operates globally to deliver lifestyle residential and hospitality projects for aspirational clients worldwide.

Often working in heritage settings, the practice enjoys the challenges and opportunities presented through the conservation, retrofit and adaptive reuse of existing buildings.

TATE MODERN – FREE AND OPEN TO ALL

31,902 sqm
24,879 hours
82 projects
13 countries

WE MUST

CULTIVATE

OUR GARDEN

COR

*studio output in 2023.



Corner at Tate Modern

Architect Employer of the Year

We were thrilled to be awarded the Building Design Architect Employer of the Year Award in November. We have always tried to nurture an inclusive and supportive working environment where we recognise the importance of the balance between our work and our lives, and this award was an incredible way to identify and validate our studio culture.

We were also honoured to be nominated for the Building Design Retail & Leisure Architect of the Year, as well as being shortlisted for the FX Award for Restaurant & Bar Interiors for our work with Corner at Tate Modern and a Dezeen Award for our appointment with preventative medicine and wellbeing clinic, Hooke London.

Tate Modern

2023 saw the completion of Corner at the iconic Tate Modern. Following 18 months of in-depth stakeholder engagement and design, the gallery's new Bar & Café opened.

The project was conceived as an extension of the public realm, between the Thames and the Turbine Hall. We created a new opening onto the Southbank, allowing the café to engage with its riverside setting for the first time. The project was defined by themes of accessibility and circularity – a space for all – and we engaged with long-term partners such as Goldfinger and developed new relationships to deliver a food and beverage environment that defined a new standard for sustainable commercial interiors.

Our Journey

We chose to pursue B Corporation certification as a means to reflect our core values. The journey was a conscious effort to align our operations and business strategy with our commitment to high standards of social and environmental performance.

The process began with a thorough evaluation of our business practices, assessing our governance, workplace policies, environmental impact, community engagement, and customer relations. This self assessment was about understanding the ethos of being a B Corp.

In response we implemented changes ranging from prioritising environmental design to enhancing employee benefits and actively participating in community initiatives.



We're proud to be part of a growing community of B Corporations working within the built environment.

London Festival of Architecture



Chantry Mews, Dorset

Impact Area

Community

£23,192

Goldfinger + Tate

In 2020 we launched a furniture range with social enterprise Goldfinger based on our designs for Inhabit Hotel. The initiative was intended to capitalise on the investment of time and money embodied in the design process as means to support their work within their community.

Following this successful collaboration, we launched another based on our work at Tate Modern.

With the generous permission of our client, Goldfinger now replicate and manufacture the pieces that were designed for Corner to mean that the project can reach a wider audience and make a more significant social impact, generating £2,900 of revenue to date.

The furniture is available through Tate Shop and Goldfinger's online retail platform and was recently featured in the Financial Times.

RAW Workshop

RAW is a social enterprise that specialises in making sustainable indoor and outdoor furniture in Oxford that has both social and environmental value built-in.

They employ people who have overcome some of life's most adverse scenarios, with 70% of its workforce having fought and won against challenges including addiction, mental health issues, and criminality.

Through the orders that were placed from the above 242 hours of social impact were generated, at a value of £20,292. These are hours of employment and training directly generated by orders from our clients including Gail's Bakery, Montcalm and Farmer J.

The more orders that we generate the more opportunities RAW can offer both adults and young people within their community.

*generated in sales for social enterprises through our initiatives.

We donate 1% of our annual billable hours to the third sector.

Shelter from the Storm

Since 2018 our 1% commitment has manifested in our ongoing partnership with homelessness charity Shelter from the Storm, for whom we designed their 38 bed shelter in north London.

We continue our engagement with the charity - albeit on a top secret project - and in 2023 we committed 636 hours to the cause.

Over the next 12 months we hope to be able to reveal the next phase of the charities development as they extend their social impact across London.



*pro bono hours to Shelter from the Storm.



RIBA Delegation at MIPIM →

Studio directors Richard and Jonathan attended MIPIM for the first time last year as part of the RIBA delegation on the London stand.

We took the opportunity to promote British architecture on a global stage through the lens of our B Corporation values.

We will be attending again with the RIBA this year to build further relationships as we look to grow our network and extend our impact.



London Design Festival

"How can design and architecture foster well-being?" was the question asked of panellists during this event organised by Inhabit Hotels.

Fellow panellists included Sophie Garnier, founder of the social enterprise homewares brand Kalinko, and Marie Carlisle, co-founder of the London-based bespoke furniture maker and long-term collaborator Goldfinger.

The panel was chaired by Josh Fehnert, Editor of Monocle.



London Festival of Architecture

Our event, "B Corp & the Built Environment" was an opportunity to discuss the merits of certification and how it can drive positive change in our industry.

Panellists included Ben Cross, Development Director at General Projects, Holly Lewis, Co-founding Partner at We Made That, Kieron Taylor, Technical Director at AKTII and Sandy Rompotiyoke, Social Advocacy Lead at Periscope.

Thomas Aquilina, co-director of New Architecture Writers chaired the evening.

Sample Project →

We donated 104kg of unwanted materials to The Sample Project, providing local schools with play materials for children.

Not only significantly reducing our waste within the studio but also supporting primary schools in igniting the imaginations of young minds and fostering a richer educational experience.



Hackney Work Experience →

We opened a dialogue with Hackney Council to understand how we could engage with the local schools to promote social mobility within our local area and beyond. Following this, we had the pleasure of hosting Ridhaa in our studio.

Starting with in-depth research she created her own café design, joined us for Monday morning meetings, participated in a charrette, and shared in our Friday studio lunch to experience how we collaborate as a team.





Impact Area

Environment

Impact Business Model

Unlike traditional business models that primarily focus on profit, our Impact Business Model integrates sustainability principles, ethical practices, and social responsibility into the fabric of our operations. We measure our success not just in financial terms but also in terms of our contributions to society and the environment.

Over the past 12 months, we have been developing our “Sustainability Brief Tracker”, a proprietary document allowing us to benchmark our projects against B Corporation targets. We hold specific sustainability workshops with clients to identify opportunities to improve the environmental credentials within their projects from the outset.

Ludgate Hill

One example of the IBM in action is our recently submitted application for HubCap which sees the conservation, and adaptive reuse of a central London office building into a new, low-carbon aparthotel to serve the City.

The 19th century building is in a prime location near iconic St Paul's Cathedral, and the project aims to preserve its unique features while introducing a ground floor cafe that revitalises the connection between the building and the street outside.

Our commitment to sustainability is demonstrated by our decision to upgrade the existing structure of the building, significantly reducing embodied and operational carbon to align with LETI and RICS guidelines and targeting BREEAM and WELL accreditations.

As part of our IBM we hope to emulate this initiative across our wider portfolio.

*target reduction in emissions.

Impact Area

Workers

Supporting Growth

This past year we celebrated a number of promotions and advancements within the studio. Chris, Francesca, Hannah, Lorraine and Amelia passed their Professional Diploma in Professional Practice and became registered architects. Monika and Emma were promoted to Senior Architects whilst Karyn became our Studio Coordinator. Rachael continues her Masters of Business Administration, whilst Rory and Evelyn have begun their Part 3.

Empowerment

We place great emphasis on people, positioning them at the core of what we do. We aspire to cultivate a studio environment that fosters growth, striving for individuals to feel valued, content, and actively engaged. As part of our ongoing commitment to improvement, we overhauled our review process to ensure inclusivity, and provide a platform for all voices. In this pursuit, we introduced an annual Team Empowerment survey, providing a channel for constructive feedback on the leadership team, and an opportunity to influence the direction of our practice. We have also implemented a continuous feedback form, enabling individuals to voice concern or share positive feedback regarding any part of our practice, infrastructure, or the individuals within it, at any point throughout the year.

We will build on our training for both personal and professional development to further empower our team in acquiring skills that help their understanding of various facets of the practice, including financial matters.

67%

*of our team identify as female.

35%

*of our team were promoted.

26%

*of our team received financial support for continuing education.



Impact Area

Governance

Reviews

Our team participates in Performance Reviews annually, formally incorporating social and environmental issues. In addition, we undertake regular, informal reviews within our team to ensure that their voice is heard.

As a part of our certification, we implemented employee training that includes social or environmental issues material to our company or its mission through our extensive CPD programme that relates directly to the RIBA curriculum and ARB requirements, with specific ESG orientated topics.

Fostering Transparency

Every three months, our directors report to the studio on the state of the business during our Quarterly Review. This includes a candid appraisal of the company's finances in line with the financial reporting requirements set out by B Corp. These sessions are framed as educational – rather than presenting raw data, the information is curated into a set of tangible reports produced to help monitor the business's health and ensure that everybody understands the context in which financial decisions are made.

For the first time, we have also set and communicated internal salary bands. Simultaneously, this information is openly shared in our job advertisements.

Systems

We strive for ongoing improvement and refinement of our systems, focusing on enhancing our financial processes and beginning to understand how we can quantify our impact in monetary terms, enabling us to comprehensively assess our environmental, social, and economic impact beyond in a broader context.

*of our CPD programme focused on social & environmental issues.

Impact Area

Customers

Investing in Quality

In our continuous efforts to enhance our quality management, we have recently implemented Atvero, a robust document management system integrated with our project management software, CMAP. With Atvero in place, our team benefits from a centralised platform that not only ensures the secure storage and easy retrieval of project documents but also enhances data security.

This implementation ultimately enhances the efficiency, security and precision of our design and project processes.

Health & Safety

We've provided our staff with formal training, including health, safety and environment training, the RIBA Principal Designer Course and the Building Safety Act - addressing changes in recent amendments to design safety regulations.

Our status as a B Corporation is a key aspect of our identity, attracting organisations that share our commitment to values-driven design. We have a diverse client base who see design as a means to strengthen their brand and fulfil long-term aspirations. Our approach to client service is accessible, engaging, and informative, helping our customers to make well-informed decisions about their projects.

In 2024, our goal is to fortify existing client relationships and cultivate new connections by understanding client needs and preferences. We aim to further enhance our services and refine our communication in order to promote growth in our practice.



77%

*of our customers are repeat clients.

What next?

Miir Templeton Gardens has begun on site in Earl's Court and is due to open in early 2025. Comprising 157 hotel rooms set across 7 Victorian townhouses, the scheme includes an Orangery extension from which guests can enjoy the gardens.



The Montcalm Marble Arch is due to complete in Autumn 2024. A flagship project for our studio, the Grade II listed 5* hotel will provide 158 guestrooms set over 85,000 square feet in London's West End.



Chantry Mews is a 42 home masterplan in rural Dorset that seeks to set a new benchmark for development in rural centres. Providing a new town square and landscaped link between the High Street and the local park, the project seeks to revitalise the town.





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