

Tunnel Wharf

Rotherhithe, London



Above: Determined by a flank wall light angle, the stepped form coincided with the need to load the off-centre tunnel evenly

Below: The building is topped with an oval drum of steel in which windows spell out the name of the building downriver, the traditional way to guide shipping to dock

Sir Marc Brunel built the first tunnel under the Thames between Rotherhithe and Wapping – a great feat of engineering – and now the site on the riverside at the Rotherhithe end is owned by Bryn Bird, a leading present day engineer, and his wife June. The conservation area is characterised by a mixture of larger and smaller separate warehouses on the river front, and the new building has to hold the north side of a square, respond to windows in a flank wall on one side and a public open space on the other. The resultant stepped form happily coincides with the requirement to load the off-centred tunnel evenly. Residential upper floors overlooking the river have large areas of glazing set in a strong brick frame resting on the Vierendeel truss of the commercial ground floor. Other elevations are of more conventional stock brick with window openings.

Client: Tunnel Wharf Developments



Address
123 Rotherhithe Street, London, SE16

Client
Tunnel Wharf Developments

Local Authority
London Borough of Southwark

Content
12 apartments
Ground floor B1 space

Contract Value
£3.6 million

Completion Date
2002

Main Contractor
Ellmer Construction

Consultants
Structural Engineers
Alan Conisbee and Associates
Environmental
Max Fordham
Cost
Davis Langdon