

The annual August Walk for CoreNet's UK Chapter took place this year in September as the best time for our guide, **Benedict O'Looney, M.Arch (Yale), RIBA**, architect and teacher who has worked at Kent University and the AA (the Architectural Association) as well as working in a variety of leading architectural practices.



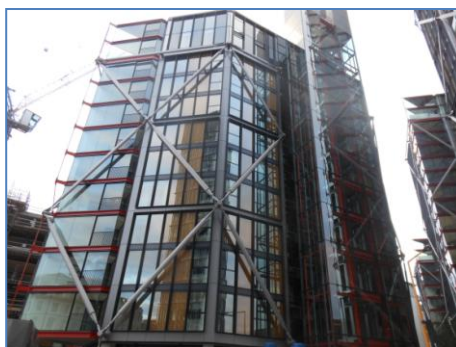
In spite of a rather doubtful weather forecast (what a surprise in the wettest summer since 1910) a small group of CoreNet members met up at The Ring on Blackfriars Road ready to walk round the Bankside area of Southwark, one of London's most dynamic boroughs.



First stop was just opposite the pub - where Benedict explained some of the detail of Alsop's Palestra building, noting the signature 'pod' and the elements of colour on the exterior of the building. Then off along Union Street and up into Great Suffolk Street. First to admire the long Victorian arches under the railway lines leading to London Bridge Station and then on to a new brick built housing project, completed in 2009 and designed by Panter Hudspith, comprising 80 one, two and three bedroom apartments behind an interesting and varied facade designed to reflect the Victorian surroundings.



Opposite is a student accommodation block designed by Allies and Morrison, again of brick but with large aluminium and glass window modules breaking up the flat front of the building, and behind can be seen the rear of the Victorian Kirkaldy Testing and Experimenting Works which faces onto Southwark Street and is a reminder of the ironworks and glassworks that once filled the area.



Next, crossing Southwark Street into Summer Street, the NEO Bankside, a Rogers designed complex with a concrete core and typical external bracing and services. Back onto Southwark Street, to Hotel CitizenM constructed from modular units which are prefabricated and then stacked together.

Finally to the magnificent iron framed Hop Exchange, originally built for the hop merchants who supplied the local brewing industry, now home to designers and small businesses, before moving on to our last destination, Borough Market with its iron and glass Floral Hall and the Brew Wharf.



A fascinating look at a vibrant quarter of the south bank, once occupied by heavy industry, now being re-born and with an eclectic mix of business and residential occupiers. Our thanks to **tp bennett** who supported this evening and most of all to Benedict who is an inspiring guide.

AV Sutherland

