



furniture  
for public  
spaces



CHRISTIAN O'REILLY



York Art Gallery . arcade bench . 1860mm

# Well designed furniture transforms public spaces, providing places to linger, pause and rest.

## About Us

We design bespoke furniture and installations for public spaces and are passionate about making beautiful and affordable pieces, which meet your brief, timescale and budget.

Our work is built to withstand heavy use in interior and exterior public settings and to comply with accessibility guidelines.

As well as working directly for our clients, we also work with architects and design companies to develop their concepts for a space.

## We provide:

### a personal service

You deal directly with the designer throughout your project so you have one point of contact from initial site visit to delivery.

As we design all our furniture, we can make any items you need, however large or small your project. We love designing specifically for your space and are also happy to remake existing designs.

### bespoke design to enhance your space

We design furniture to belong to its space: to complement the area and architecture and become an integral part of its environment. Furniture is where people interact with a space and it should be beautiful, tactile and comfortable, encouraging the public to use it and the space to the full.

Having bespoke furniture removes the need to compromise and we will create pieces which meet all elements of your brief.

### projects delivered on time and on budget

We have an excellent track record of working to budget and timescales, as confirmed by our clients in this brochure.

As you are buying from the designer and manufacturer of the furniture, your budget goes further.

It is best to consider furniture at an early stage in your project as this gives us longer liaison with you over the design and to source materials. However, we are always happy to discuss potential projects at any stage.

### furniture made sustainably in the UK

We make all our furniture in the UK and use a variety of materials depending on the design, endeavoring to source all of them from sustainable sources. All the wood we use is FSC or equivalent certified from the UK and Europe.





York Art Gallery . York GG bench . 2440mm

# 'We are delighted with the beautiful benches Christian O'Reilly made for York Art Gallery.

Christian really listened to what we wanted to achieve and incorporated all aspects of our brief, including budget, timing and DDA requirements. He created two bench designs and we liked them so much we ended up commissioning both. Christian ensured the designs tied in with our building and displays as well as complementing each other. The benches look lovely in our gallery spaces as well as being really functional and having great longevity. They are an investment for the future and have received a lot of positive comments from visitors and the press.'

**Laura Turner, Curator of Art,  
York Art Gallery, York Museums Trust**



Key project points:

- + create all the gallery seating to include 11 benches
- + two different designs, one based on the benches designed for the Graves Gallery, Sheffield and a new design inspired by York Art Gallery's building
- + designs complement each other and give the gallery great flexibility with their seating
- + incorporate storage for information about the art works
- + fixed budget and timescale
- + sustainable, managed European oak

York Art Gallery . arcade bench . 1860mm



RAMM . bench . 2000mm

'Christian O'Reilly's elegant but practical furniture was produced for us against an exacting timescale, tight budget and very specific brief.

The designs came as a response to visiting the Royal Albert Memorial Museum which in its new incarnation melds the nineteenth century Venetian Gothic building with a much sparer twenty-first century extension. In line with our brief, Christian O'Reilly's public seating works successfully in both settings, as well as meeting all the practical concerns we identified. We are delighted by the results. We very much appreciate their enthusiasm and passion for the project; their creativity and attention to detail, but most of all Christian is apparently unflappable and was also able to deliver against our other two constraints: a fixed opening date and money!

**Camilla Hampshire, Museum's Manager,  
Royal Albert Memorial Museum and Art Gallery, Exeter**

Key project points:

- + 9 weeks from receiving the brief to delivery of 13 bespoke benches
- + flexible design - benches of various lengths, some with arms and backs
- + contemporary design - an oak top with decorative moulding sitting on structural steel supports, makes reference to the architecture of both the original Victorian building and the new extension, as well as tying in with the new display cases and interactive units
- + complies with Disability Discrimination legislation and health and safety standards
- + benches can be moved around the museum as required
- + robust, durable and easy to maintain
- + affordable and within budget
- + sustainably managed European oak and powdered steel construction



RAMM . bench with arms . 2000mm

**From Dawn till Dusk**  
Everyday life in the late 19th and 20th century



'Christian O'Reilly created three bespoke benches for the Graves Gallery. They were produced on time and within budget, meeting the original brief for this project and are a beautiful addition to the gallery spaces.'

Christian O'Reilly's elegant designs and choice of materials are sympathetic to the original 1930's furniture and architectural features already within the gallery space. They are durable, withstand regular use and also meet the health and safety requirements of a public space.'

### Graves Gallery, Sheffield

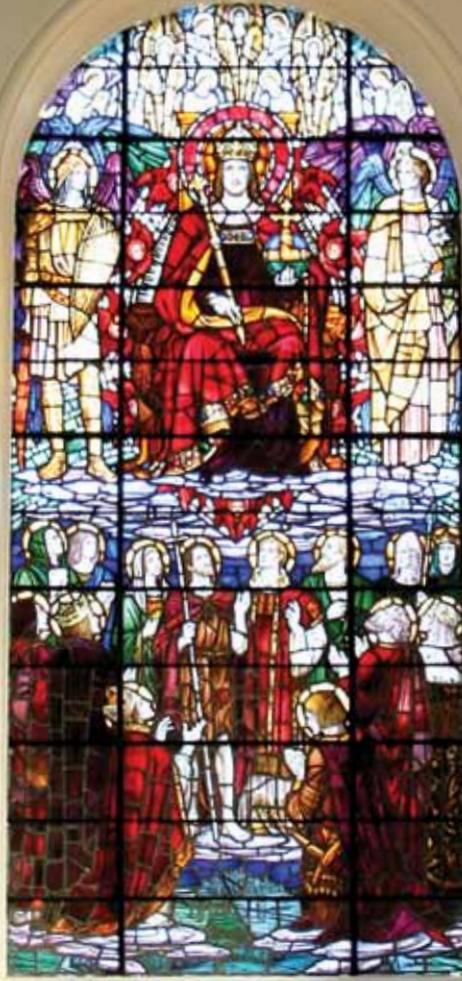
Key project points:

- + won a Wood Award for the best single piece for a public space
- + flexible - in the centre area, visitors can choose to sit facing in either direction
- + portable so they can be easily moved to suit changing displays and visitors' needs
- + comfortable and inviting, encouraging visitors to spend more time in the gallery
- + incorporate storage for information about the art works
- + complement the purpose built Art Deco gallery - the elegant, serpentine curves of both the backrest and the overall form draw the eye through the gallery and tie in with the original gallery chairs; the seat backs are block laminated and hand shaped, creating a link with the gallery's parquet floors as well as visual and surface texture
- + designed and made to a fixed budget and timescale



Graves Gallery . bench . 2440mm

St Aubyn's church (left to right)  
lectern, altar, bishop's chair



'We had a very positive experience of working with Christian O'Reilly. Everyone has been thrilled with the quality of the workmanship and the furniture has been recognised as part of our success with architectural awards for the overall project.

The three pieces were for the worship area of St Aubyn's, which is on a new mezzanine floor above the original church, which is now in public use as a library run by Plymouth City Council. The furniture needed to relate to the rest of the building and strike the right note for both church and community use.

Christian O'Reilly understood our brief very well; we had a concept, but the design needed refining to create elegant, but strong furniture which would last and stay looking good for a long time. Everything they did was true to the original design concept which reflects the contemporary re-use of a historic Georgian church with beautiful geometry.

We had an excellent collaboration throughout the project. Our meetings, both face to face and via Skype, were very positive. We had a clear understanding of all detailed alterations made to the design and our client was kept fully informed, knew what to expect and felt that they had a proper input into the project. I know that Christian's care in explaining things was very much appreciated by the parish.

The deadline was tight and the fee was fixed. Christian O'Reilly kept to their side of things completely and the pieces were delivered to site on time and with no fuss. The furniture has been consistently admired by everyone who has seen it.'

**Amanda Le Page, Director, Le Page Architects Ltd**

Key project points:

- + collaboration with Le Page Architects Ltd and the parish of St Aubyn's to develop their concept for bespoke church furniture comprising the altar, bishop's chair and lectern
- + tight timescale to deliver in time for Christmas services
- + sustainably managed European oak, glass and steel construction



St Aubyn's church . altar



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