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The Docklands & East London Advertiser, Thursday March 15, 2012

The Crown Jewels

New look at Crown Jewels

A new display of the Crown Jewels is opening at the Tower of London later this month to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee with Handel's music and a film of her 1953 corona-

updated exhibition opens from March 29 with graphics and film footage for the first time looking at the importance of the Royal Collection and the role of the Tower in protecting it.

The Crown Jewels, which attract 2.5million tourists a year, will also to have tactile three-dimensional models for the blind and visually impaired.

Bricks from old station would form part of block of flats

Fears arising from character of alleyway will soon be lost

By Nadia Sam-Daliri

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A former East End train station will be rebuilt with its original brickwork incorporated into a seven-storey block of flats if a developer's plans are approved.

Shoreditch Tube station in Pedley Street - which was part of the old East London Line before it was closed in 2006 - would be completely transformed under the proposals, which include 15 flats and space on the ground floor for two retail units.

Anthony Hoete, director of the firm What Architecture, which bought the building a year ago, said the block would reinvigorate an area that has

become a "crime spot and public urinal" for drinkers spilling over from Brick

He said: "We need some housing to normalise the area. At the moment Brick Lane is schizophrenic between night-time alcoholism and daytime retail."

In a public notice erected last month, the application was described as seeking the "demolition of the existing building" and providing "405 square metres of commercial/office space at ground floor and 245 square metres of community use at sixthfloor level".

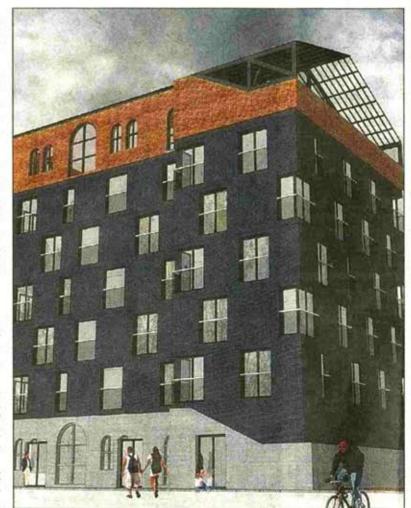
'Social significance'

There are concerns that the character of the station, which dates back to 1876, would be lost in the plans.

Alan Milliner, of Goldman Close, said: "If it gets knocked down that's a bad move for the area. We were hoping it would be used for restaurants, shops or art space."

Mr Hoete said the current structure would not be completely lost but instead taken apart brick by brick and then incorporated into the top floor of the new building. He added: "It's not a listed building but it has social signifi-

The firm is in talks with arts charity Spitalfields Mu-



An image of what the new flats would look like

sic over the group occupying Hoete said it was found to be the top and some of the ground floor.

Some asbestos was removed shortly after the station was purchased but Mr tion will start next year.

"low grade" and added: "We had an air test to show it was clear about a year ago." If the plans are approved, construc-

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