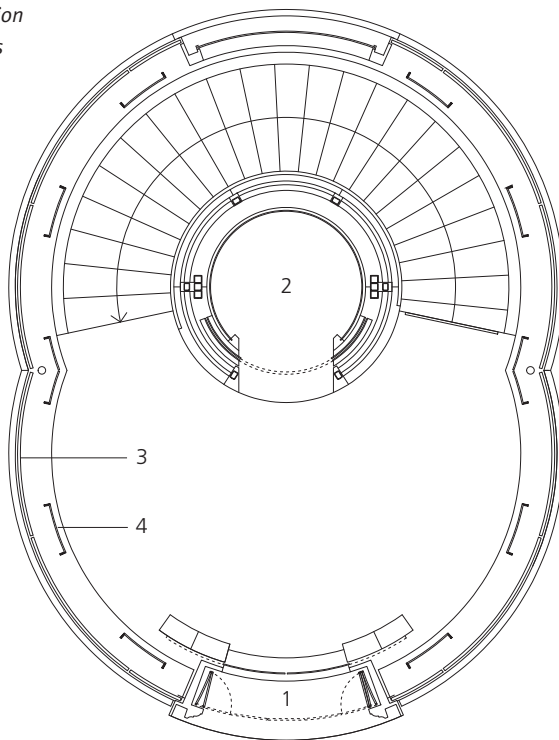


## St Martin-in-the-Fields in London





*Visitors enter the crypt of St Martin-in-the-Fields via an entrance pavilion of glass and stainless steel.*

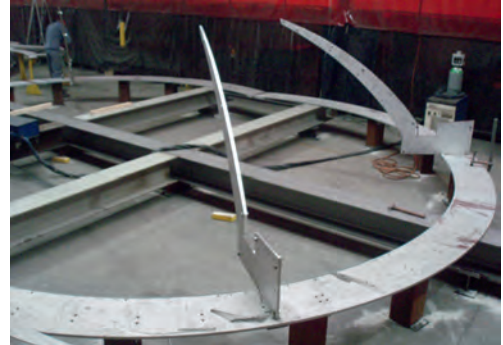
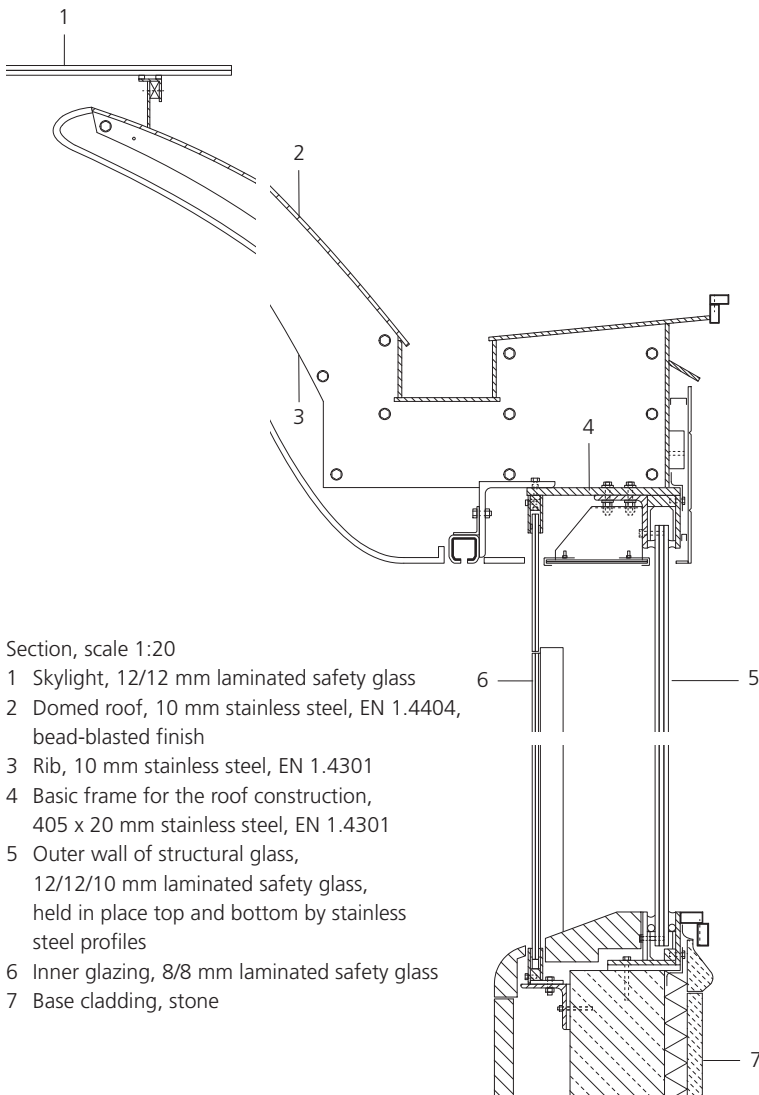


The church of St Martin-in-the-Fields at Trafalgar Square in London was built between 1721 and 1726 to plans by the architect James Gibbs. Its name is perhaps most famous for the internationally renowned chamber orchestra, the Academy of St Martin in the Fields, which has its roots in the church. The area around St Martin's has undergone extensive restructuring and the church, adjacent residential buildings and the social welfare facilities have been refurbished to create a stronger link.

A spacious foyer with shop, a café in the former crypt, rooms for the administration and a music-rehearsal room are located below the newly designed public square. Above ground a glass entrance pavilion, shaped in plan like two intersecting circles, marks out the entrance to the basement area. Its wrap-around glass façade is interrupted only in two places: a door at the front and a window at the back, each framed with stainless steel profiles. The pavilion is crowned by a dome-shaped roof with skylight which boosts daylight levels in the semi-circular spiral staircase and the glazed lift, both leading down into the foyer.

Plan of entrance pavilion, scale 1:100

- 1 Folding entrance door, stainless steel sheet, in door frame of stainless steel, electrical sliding door on inside
- 2 Lift
- 3 Outer wall of structural glass
- 4 Inner glazing



*The components for the stainless steel roof were prefabricated in Switzerland with millimetre precision and transported to London for assembly.*

*The prefabricated segments of the roof were welded together on site and the whole structure raised onto a temporary support frame.*



The domed roof of stainless steel was pre-fabricated in segments and welded together on site. After the welds were ground and the surfaces bead-blasted, a crane hoisted the 7.42 m wide and 9.63 m long roof onto a temporary support. Once the five-metre high curved panes of structural glass had been fitted into stainless steel bracket profiles, the roof was gently lowered into position and the temporary support removed.

A few metres behind the entrance pavilion is a light well through which daylight falls deep into the below-ground spaces. In plan it takes its cue from the pavilion. On the top of its stone-clad perimeter wall is a box section welded from stainless steel sheet. Attached

*The entrance pavilion and the light well form a connection between the public square and the below-ground spaces.*



*The curved structural glass supports the weight of the ten-tonne domed roof of stainless steel.*



around the matt sand-blasted surface, in polished letters cast from stainless steel, is the text of a poem by the former Poet Laureate, Andrew Motion.

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