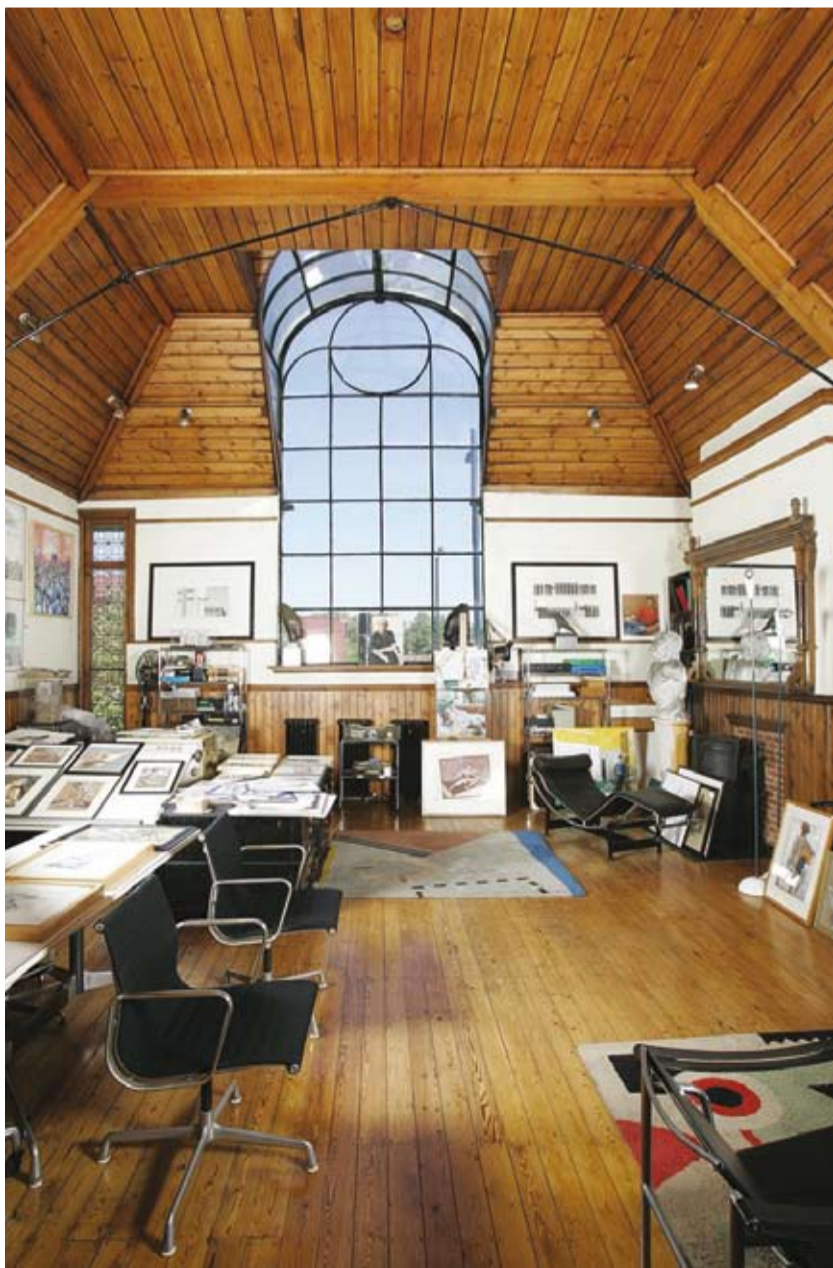




Contents of St Paul's Studios sold at auction

A sale at Bonhams in Knightsbridge on 24 July saw the contents of artist's studios in 'Arts and Crafts' row in Hammersmith fetch over £120,000.



The sale of items from the stunning artist's houses on Talgarth Road, Hammersmith, included late 19th century art and architecture. The extensive collection of furniture and works of art were very much in keeping with the style and period of the house. Each piece was hand-picked by the owner, and encompassed Memphis and Arts and Crafts furniture, sculpture, pottery, and prints.

Angela Dixon, Chairman of the Hammersmith and Fulham Historic Buildings Group, described the famous row of houses to h&f news, explaining some of the background to these unique properties. "St Paul's Studios are a splendid listed terrace of studio houses built for 'bachelor artists' in 1891 by Frederick Wheeler.

"Passing along the Talgarth Road it is the magnificent north-facing tall studio windows on the top floor one notices at once. Not so noticeable are additional slit windows for hauling up the canvasses to the studios."

"The ground floor has formal front rooms for receiving visitors to the studio, with the back rooms used as the artist's bedroom.

"The owner, an artist and designer, was a long standing member of the Hammersmith and Fulham Historic Buildings Group and contributed a lot to the Group's work.

"Perhaps his most valuable contribution was to demonstrate how important the interiors of listed buildings are. Interiors are listed as well as exteriors, but sadly are not always respected by owners.

"At St Paul's Studios the owner retained all the original detail he found in the house, painstakingly restored it, often with his own hands, and replaced what was missing. He went on to furnish it in the style of the time. His house became the pattern of what these studios must have been like at the time they were built."

The studios were originally built at an original total cost of £8,100. In 2003, one of the studios, which was once the home of Dame Margot Fonteyn, was on the market for £1.1 million - that's 1,000 times the cost of its original construction.

The Talgarth Road properties are particularly distinctive thanks to the barrel-vaulted studio windows, which extend from the first floor to the exposed roof structure, and their curved glazing - thus giving a great deal of valuable light directly into the studio.

Many of the artists who lived and worked in these properties were followers of the Arts and Crafts and Pre-Raphaelite movements.

