

## Harber Associates

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**From:** Harber & Associates [rodneyharber@mweb.co.za]  
**Sent:** 22 November 2012 03:21 PM  
**To:** Ros Devereux  
**Cc:** Rodney Harber; cherrylc@mweb.co.za  
**Subject:** Mary Stainbank Gallery

22<sup>nd</sup> November 2012

Dear Ros

**REF: 1172 - MARY STAINBANK GALLERY**

Apart from my own family ties, as a young architect I personally interviewed Mary Stainbank. She was living alone in a flat on lower Berea Road and although very old, remained a giant of a woman. I have always found it inexplicable that her extraordinary body of work should be relegated to crates and damp basements! The above is a wonderful chance to display her work for posterity near her original studio.

We really need to get on with the show!

I am prepared to oversee the restoration of the gallery, pro bono, as my contribution to help achieve this objective.

Work will be by Graham Levy who has had experience in restoration, e.g. the Rope Shed at the Point.

I proposed that it consists of:

- i) Replacing the floor boards with ex 150 x 40 SAP t&g boarding onto the existing floor joists (after inspection).
- ii) Leaving the walls as they are apart from restoring a bulging, damp section with red brick to match other remedial brickwork.
- iii) Restoring the sash windows on the outer elevation.
- iv) Fitting an unpainted softboard ceiling, insulated behind, onto the exiting purlins so that the present trusses remain exposed. Lighting will probably be off matt-black tracks fixed to the underside of the ties.
- v) None of the existing artefacts will be touched, including the antiquated switchgear

Nothing else will be implemented, just to enable the collection to be taken out of boxes.

The balance of the work will then be adapted from Bruce Clark's drawings, submitted to the Local Authority and, clearly, ratified by AMAFA.

Funding is available to start with the above immediately, and it has to be spent before March 2013.

Would it be possible to urgently facilitate this from your position?

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely

Rodney