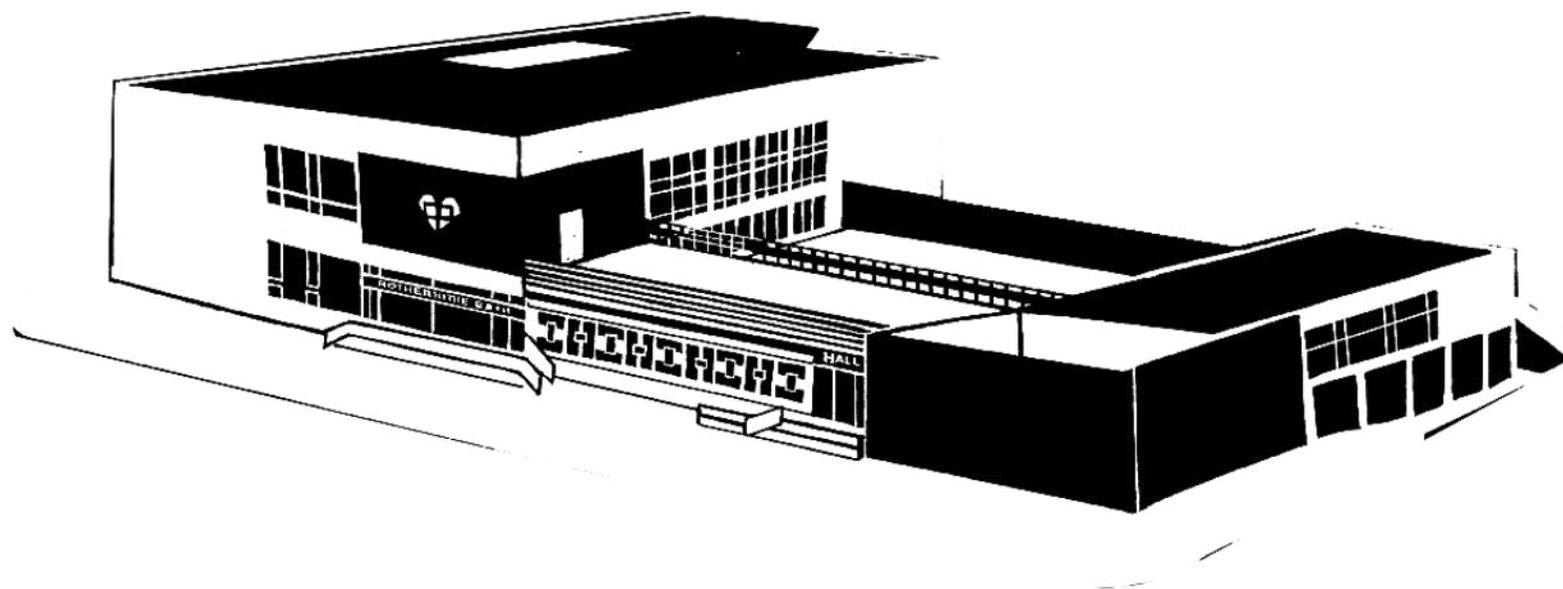


# **ROTHERHITHE BATH AND ASSEMBLY HALL**



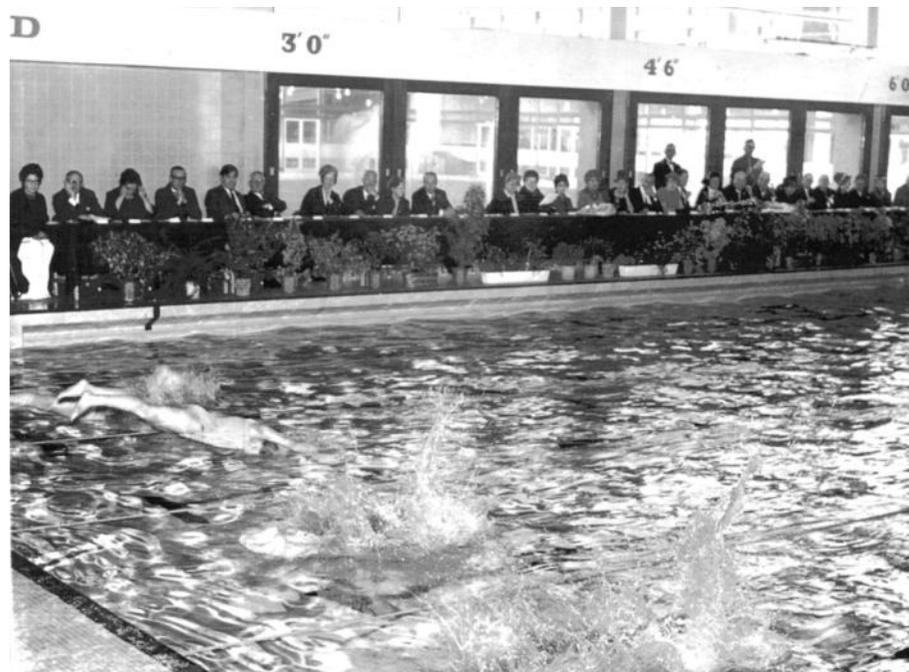
**OFFICIAL OPENING 27 NOVEMBER 1965**

Consultants for Architectural, Structural Mechanical and Electrical Services:  
Sir Frederick Snow & Partners, Ross House, 144, Southwark Street, London, S.E.1

Chief Architect: W. S. A. Williams, Esq., Dipl. Arch. (Hons.) A.R.I.B.A.

Quantity Surveyors: W. G. Edwards & A. Avery Hall, F.F.R.I.C.S.  
75-76 Blackfriars Road, London, S.E.1

Main Contractor: C. J. Sims Limited, 2, Victoria Street, S.W.1



One of the main factors which influenced the design of the new baths was the desire to provide a large outdoor area for sunbathing which would be readily accessible from the swimming pool.

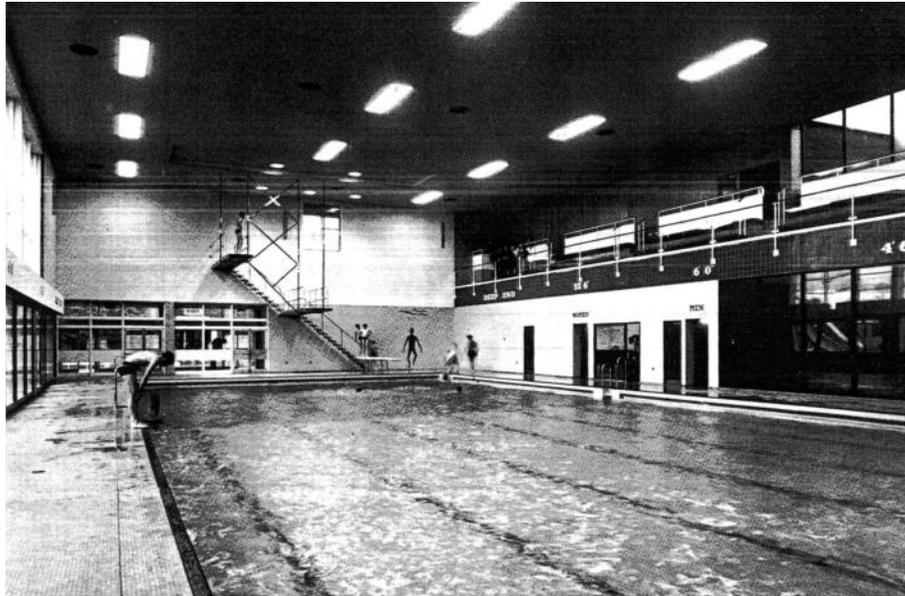
To achieve this, the three units which form the new baths have been given a U-shaped layout in plan. The swimming pool block is on one side, the Assembly Hall on the other and the two are connected by the cafeteria and sun terrace, with a grassed and paved patio in between.

The principal cladding to the swimming bath block consists of large precast concrete units with an exposed aggregate finish of white calcined flint. These panels contrast with areas of dark blue-black bricks. Along the Lower Road frontage a band of white textured concrete extends from the swimming block across the roof of the cafeteria where it forms a handrail as far as the assembly hall. This band acts as a tie to the assembly hall structure which is predominantly in the same white textured concrete.

The assembly hall also has panels of dark blue-black brick for contrast. To form a highlight along the main Lower Road frontage, the whole of the cafeteria wall is covered with an abstract tiled mural, the tiles being both coloured and textured.

**Swimming Pool Block:** The Swimming Pool block as well as housing the pool, also provides laundry and slipper bath facilities.

The pool itself is 110 ft. long by 42 ft. wide with a depth of 12 ft. 6 in. at the deep end and 3 ft. at the shallow end, and is designed mainly for general recreational purposes but can be used for racing and sports events and galas if so desired. Three and five metre high diving boards are provided.



An interesting feature of these boards is that they hang from the roof structure and therefore do not obstruct the pool surround. It is the first time that this method has been used in this country.

The main entrance to the swimming pool is situated in Lower Road. Patrons will pay for admission at the ticket office in the entrance hall and will then pass to the appropriate changing room.

The changing cubicles are formed in prefabricated tiled partitions and changing room walls are tiled to ceiling height. The floors throughout the changing room area and rack storage are of ceramic tile with a non-slip finish. Ceilings throughout the changing room and storage areas are suspended to conceal the plenum ducts behind. All ventilation to these rooms is artificial, as is the lighting.

The lighting fittings are mainly fluorescent and are recessed into the suspended ceiling.

The principal glazing to the bath hall is provided along the north west side of the building which is almost totally glazed. The lower portion of this glazing consists of sliding doors so that in the summer months the whole side of the pool may be opened to the sunbathing enclosure allowing the free movement from one area to the other. There is also a glazed area in the south east wall overlooking the children's play area associated with the laundry.

The pool is clad in ceramic tile and a scum channel is incorporated in the four sides of the bath. The bath surround is finished in mosaic tile with a non-slip nosing at the bath edge. At the shallow end of the pool, walk-in steps are provided recessed so as not to intrude into the main bath area.



Vertical ladder type steps are provided in the deeper parts of the pool, again recessed.

The pool hall walls are tiled to a height of approximately 11 ft. and above this height the walls are lined with an acoustic absorbent material.

The suspended ceiling over the pool comprises a perforated stoved enamelled aluminium strip with acoustic absorbent behind. This large area of acoustic absorbent material will reduce the excessive reverberation usually found in bath halls.

Ventilation to the swimming pool is by means of a plenum system, the ducts for which are concealed behind the suspended ceiling.

Artificial lighting to the pool is by means of recessed fluorescent fittings, access to which is gained by walkways above the suspended ceiling.

**Slipper Baths and Steam Baths:** These are situated at first floor level in the block facing Gomm Road.

Twenty-four slipper baths and ten steam baths complete with showers and resting facilities are provided.

The floor finishes to the slipper bath and steam bath cubicles are of ceramic tile with a non-slip finish whilst the corridors between cubicles are of plain ceramic tile. The cubicles are formed of prefabricated tiled partitions and the structural walls are tiled to ceiling height. Ceilings throughout are suspended to conceal the services behind.

Ventilation and lighting alike are provided by artificial means, the ducting, etc. being concealed by the false ceiling. Light



fittings are of the tungsten type to the individual cubicles and fluorescent to the larger general areas.

**Laundry:** This is located at ground floor level in the swimming pool block and has twelve automatic washing machines together with hydro-extractors and dryers, ironing facilities are also provided.

**Cafeteria and Sun Terrace:** The cafeteria links the assembly hall and swimming pool block and may be approached from the entrance halls of both these units.

A central servery is provided with facilities for light refreshments and along the counter facing the assembly hall are hot

cupboards for use in conjunction with the assembly hall letting facility.

The roof of the cafeteria which is intended for use as a sun terrace and a relaxation area is approached from the patio by means of an external staircase.

**The Assembly Hall:** The Assembly Hall is situated in Lower Road at the north west end of the site and is available for local events such as club activities and wedding receptions. It has a small stage together with two dressing rooms and will accommodate approximately 300 people.

A car park for 27 cars is provided beneath the Assembly Hall, together with space for motor cycles.

**Engineering Services:** The water content of the main swim and the precleanse pool situated in the patio area is sterilised by the break point chlorination method and is re-circulated once every 3+ hours, passing through a primary filter in the suction line and then via the pumps into two sand pressure type filters. From the filters, the water passes into a heat exchanger, is finally discharged into the swim and precleanse pool via a series of outlets in the periphery of each.

**Heating and Ventilating:** Three types of heating are used for the new baths, floor heating, plenum or warm air heating, and hot water radiators.

The plenum heating plant is installed in a central plant room housed in the basement. Air is drawn in through a fresh air intake duct passing through a dry fabric filter and a heater by means of axial flow fans and then discharged into the respective areas, A percentage of air extracted from each area is returned to the basement plant for recirculation or discharge

to atmosphere as required. Sound attenuation units are included for the quiet operation of the plant.

Domestic hot water services are supplied from two storage type calorifiers which raise the required amount of water from 50°F to 150°F.

The boiler installation consists of three packaged oil fired high pressure steam boilers, one of which acts as a complete standby. The whole installation is completely automatically controlled, and is fed by two oil storage tanks which house three weeks' storage at maximum plant loading, the oil having a viscosity of 950 seconds, The tanks are located in a separate compound built in one corner of the boiler house.

# GROUND FLOOR PLAN

## KEY

- |                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| A. assembly hall  | M. duct            |
| B. stage          | N. ticket office   |
| C. dressing room  | O. female cubicles |
| D. store          | P. racks           |
| E. lavatories     | Q. male club room  |
| F. corridor       | R. male cubicles   |
| G. cloakroom      | S. play court      |
| H. male lavs      | T. laundry         |
| I. female lavs    | U. creche          |
| J. entrance       | V. attendant       |
| K. sliding screen | W. first aid       |
| L. servery        | X. sand pit        |

