



For art lovers who want Moore social cachet

A new development in Fulham hopes to satisfy art groupies of the Sloaney variety. It should tick all their household identity boxes. Related to art history? Check. Within walking distance of Kings Road? Check. Reasonably priced with a social cachet? Check. For this is the residential conversion of the old Chelsea School of Art & Design, on Bagley's Lane in SW6.

The sculptor Henry Moore and the painters Patrick Caulfield and Graham Sutherland trained here. The Victorian schoolhouse and its caretaker's cottage, pictured, are still standing, and these will be turned into the site's more expensive flats and houses.

Astral Homes, the developer, is eager to emphasise the site's history, naming the project The Gallery and calling the various wings after these three alumni. While the historic buildings should make fabulous conversions, the rows of new-build flats and townhouses are perhaps less evocative of the site's artistic links.

However, the location should ensure success, as it is close to the river and a short drive from the heart of Chelsea. There may well be plenty

of interest from people renting in Fulham who want to get on to the ladder.

Every home will have a little outside space: some of the townhouses have a decent patch of lawn, the rest have balconies or terraces. There is also a central playground for children and underground parking.

Prices start at £250,000 for a studio flat — which seems fairly reasonable



The Chelsea location should ensure success, close to the river and Kings Road

for London, especially in the SW post-code — and from £800,000 for a townhouse. Homes in the new blocks are available now; those after a home in the old schoolhouse will have to wait until next year.

Kasia Maciejowska
thegallerysw6.com