

NUMBER NINE EXE

Today sees the launch of a flagship office space in central Exeter. Number Nine Exe is a Georgian townhouse in central Exeter's business district, remodeled for the 21st century.

Drawing on their experience in working with listed buildings at Burgh Island, Southernhay House Hotel and in their personal property, Tony Orchard and Deborah Clark have developed four open plan offices, all with the highest levels of connectivity, finishes, presentation and ease of use. Number Nine sits between the traditional lease and a serviced office, with shorter lease terms of three years and transparency on service charges. Both rent and service charge are fixed for the whole term, giving tenants certainty. The extensive nature of the redevelopment means that occupants are assured of the quality of fit-out.

Deborah says: "Each of the trades involved in the project has worked over and above the brief and feels as strongly about the development as we do. There are some old friends on the team and also some new faces who we hope will become old friends. The well being of the future occupants is at the heart of this project; heating, lighting and data points have been introduced to allow employees to move in, relax and enjoy the spectacular views - the higher floors have views over the Cathedral while the front looks over leafy Southernhay Gardens. Our aim is to create a space that is beautiful as well as functional because we think that people need an attractive environment if they're going to achieve their best."

Directly opposite Southernhay House, Number Nine enjoys a very neighbourly relationship with the hotel, with preferential terms for use of its private dining room for board meetings or parties.

For Tony and Deborah, revitalising historic buildings is a life work. They note that, with only a few exceptions (Princesshay being one such) the center of Exeter has not had a lot of love in the past few decades. Older commercial buildings are being neglected or patched up without thought given to their future, while new developments tend to be lumpen and out of proportion to need or scale. They hope that Number Nine will inspire others to respect existing buildings and work with them to ensure their long-term survival.

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Images at https://www.dropbox.com/sh/eolisky8cjlco3x/AAB3uoEksxqgAm406_5x0CZKa?dl=0

Notes: Deborah and Tony bought Burgh Island, with its iconic Grade II Art Deco hotel and 14th Century pub in 2001 and sold it in 2018. They bought Grade II* Southernhay House in 2010, converted it into an hotel and opened in 2011: it is now the only independently owned boutique hotel in Exeter.