

The interpretation scheme for Caewern House will consist of

- the mosaic panel already created as part of the “What One Stood Here” project
- a bilingual interpretation panel measuring 94cm x 94cm produced by Trysor

These will be mounted on a wall within or at the entrance to the complex.

The panel will need to be accessible with a pathway or hard standing where people can stand in safety. It should also be mounted in a position that is accessible to wheelchair users.

PANEL TEXT: ENGLISH

The roots of Caewern House lie with the Redwood family, who lived at Caewern Cottage during the 1800s. Caewern Cottage stood where the Caewern Community Centre now stands.

Isaac and William Redwood were successful Quaker leather manufacturers in Neath. In 1876 Mary Redwood, William's daughter, married Edward Davies, another local leather merchant. They set about building Caewern House that same year, providing them with a grand residence which was the family home for the next 50 years.

The later history of the house is also fascinating. During the Second World War members of the 186th Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment were billeted at Caewern House. Their guns were located near Court Herbert.

After the war the house became the Caewern Hotel, popular for wedding receptions and other functions. The hotel was purchased by the county council in 1953 to become a residential home for the elderly. For over 60 years members of the local community were lovingly cared for here. The residential home closed in 2017 and the house was eventually demolished in 2026, 150 years after its construction.

Caption photo of the architect.

Caewern House was designed by the talented architect John Bacon Fowler, who came to Neath around 1872 to live with his father at Gnoll House. Fowler was an excellent church architect and restored St. Thomas church in the town in 1874.

Caption with image of Iolo Morgannwg

The Redwood brothers were close friends of the poet and antiquarian Edward Williams (Iolo Morgannwg), founder of the modern Eisteddfod tradition. Iolo was a regular visitor to Caewern Cottage in his later years. William Redwood painted an oil portrait of Iolo which was later kept on display at Caewern House.

Image: snapshot of a short text from the building description from The Architect journal**Image: Newspaper advert for the Caewern Hotel**

PANEL TEXT: WELSH

Mae gwreiddiau Tŷ Caewern yn gorwedd gyda theulu Redwood, a oedd yn byw ym "Caewern Cottage" yn ystod y 1800au. Safai 'r hen fwthyn lle mae Canolfan Gymunedol Caewern yn sefyll heddiw.

Roedd Isaac a William Redwood yn Grynwyr a chynhyrchwyr lledr llwyddiannus yng Nghastell-nedd. Ym 1876 priododd Mary Redwood, merch William, ag Edward Davies, masnachwr lledr lleol arall. Aethant ati i adeiladu Tŷ Caewern yr un flwyddyn, gan roi preswylfa fawreddog iddynt a oedd yn gartref i'r teulu am y 50 mlynedd nesaf.

Mae hanes diweddarach y tŷ hefyd yn ddiddorol iawn. Yn ystod yr Ail Ryfel Byd roedd aelodau o'r 186fed Gatradd Gwrth-Awyrennau Trwm wedi'u llesta yn Nhŷ Caewern. Roedd eu gynau wedi'u lleoli ger Cwrt Herbert.

Ar ôl y rhyfel agorwyd Gwesty Caewern yma. Roedd y gwesty yn boblogaidd ar gyfer derbyniadau priodas a digwyddiadau eraill. Prynwyd y gwesty gan y cyngor sir ym 1953 a'i droi yn gartref preswyl i'r henoed. Am dros 60 mlynedd gofaliwyd am aelodau'r gymuned leol yn gariadus yma. Caeodd y cartref preswyl yn 2017 a chafodd y tŷ ei ddymchwel yn 2026, 150 mlynedd ar ôl ei adeiladu.

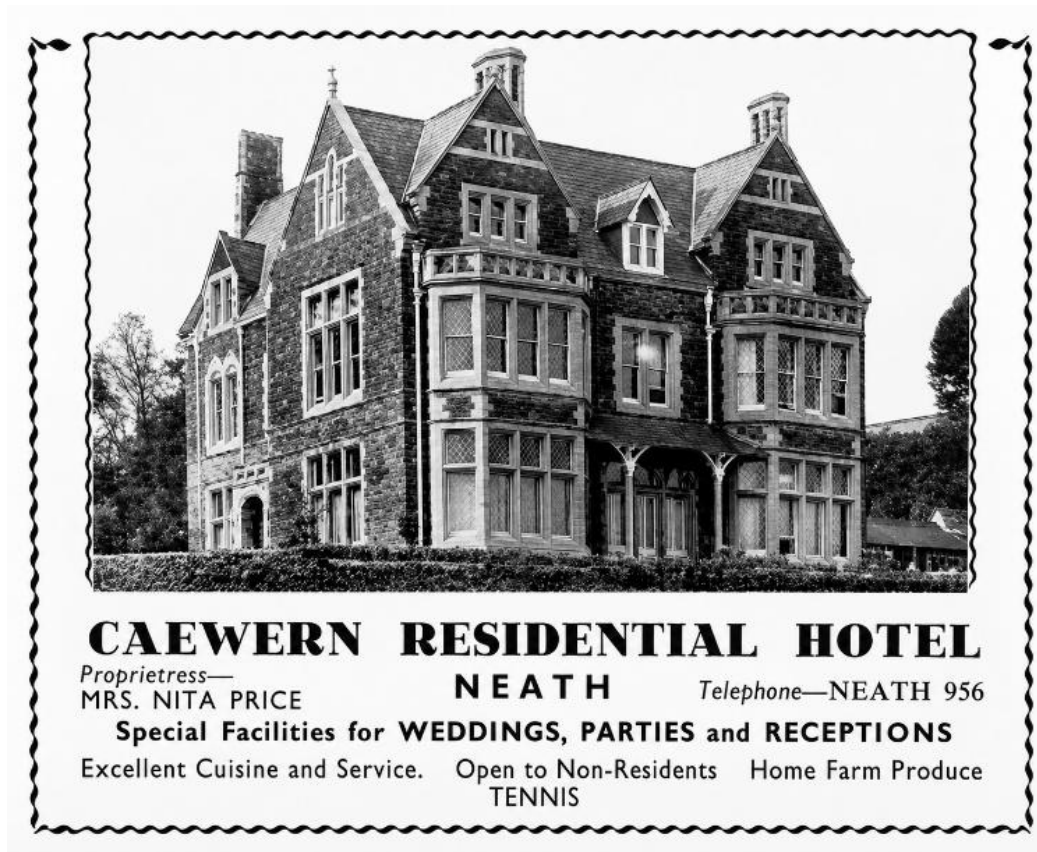
Caption with Architects Drawing of the house and photo of the architect.

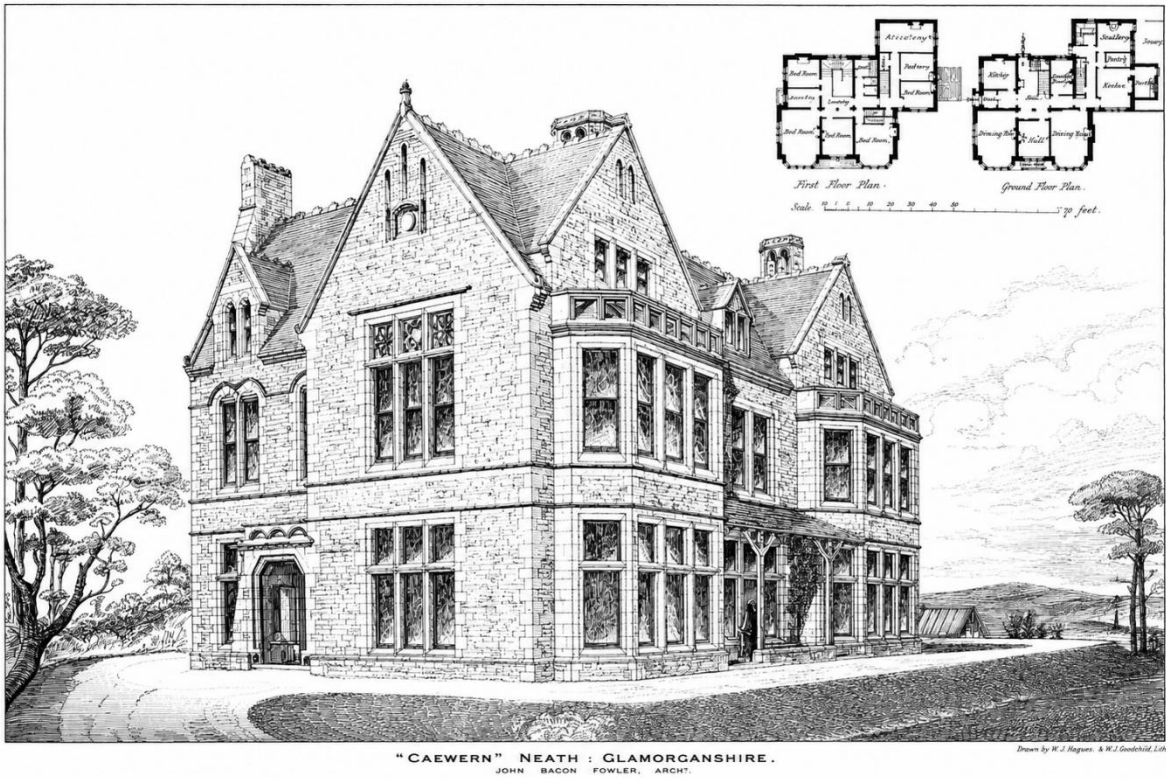
Dyluniwyd Tŷ Caewern gan y pensaer talentog John Bacon Fowler, a ddaeth i Gastell-nedd tua 1872 i fyw gyda'i dad yn Nhŷ'r Gnoll. Roedd Fowler yn bensaer eglwysi rhagorol ac adferodd eglwys Sant Thomas yn y dref ym 1874.

Caption with image of Iolo Morgannwg

Roedd y brodyr Redwood yn ffrindiau agos i'r bardd a'r hynafiaethydd Edward Williams (Iolo Morganwg), sylfaenydd traddodiad yr eisteddfod fodern. Roedd Iolo yn ymwelydd rheolaidd â "Caewern Cottage" ar ddiwedd ei oes. Peintiodd William Redwood bortread o Iolo a gedwid yn ddiweddarach yn Nhŷ Caewern.

Image: snapshot of a short text from the building description from The Architect journal**Image: Newspaper advert for the Caewern Hotel**

PROPOSED PANEL TEXT AND CONTEXT**Images****The Hotel****The Architect****Iolo Morgannwg**



CAEWERN, NEATH.

THIS house is being built on a commanding site near the town of Neath. The planning of the offices was governed to some extent by the requirements of the site. The materials are local Pennant stone of a grey-brown tint for walling, with Combe Down stone dressings. The main quoins and some bands, however, are of red Forest of Dean stone, which adds a good deal of warmth to the tone. The roofs are covered with grey Whitland slates, with red cresting from Cooper. The walls on south and west aspects are built hollow, the inner lining being of brick.

The staircase hall is open to the ceiling, with a gallery running round two sides. The drawing-room has rather an unusual amount of window surface, as it was desirable to take advantage of the fine scenery on all sides.

The architect is Mr. J. BACON FOWLER, of Swansea and Brecon. Mr. THOMAS, of Neath, is the contractor, and Mr. HANCOCK clerk of the works.
