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Rub shoulders with surgeons and barristers in Shard's shadow

THE remains of a Roman temple built during the rule of Emperor Hadrian were discovered during the excavation of a site in Southwark. Centuries later, the spot was occupied by the debtors court where John Dickens, father of novelist Charles, was convicted and sent to nearby Marshalsea jail.

Trilogy, right, a swish block of 27 flats with views of the Shard, is the site's latest incarnation. It's a joint venture between developer Galliard and maritime charity Trinity House, whose landholdings in the area include a splendid early 18th-century estate of houses set around garden squares and an imposing church, now a rehearsal studio for London Philharmonic Orchestra. Trilogy butts up against this handsome, traffic-free enclave which is popular with Guy's surgeons and barristers — proof that this wedge of SE1, between Elephant & Castle and Borough, can still spring a welcome surprise. From £550,000. Call 020 3051 7205.

