

**London Borough of Camden
Development Management Regeneration and Planning
Town Hall, Judd Street
London WC1H 9JE**

FAO Nick Baxter

Dear Officer,

Ref: PP-13623158

**Listed Building Consent Application: The German Historical Institute, London
Details of new MEP and Lighting Strategy as per previous LBC Reference 2023/1044/L**

Introduction

On behalf of The German Historical Institute London, we enclose a Listed Building Consent (LBC) application for a new MEP and Lighting Strategy in various locations at the Grade II Listed Building at 17 Bloomsbury Square, London WC1A 2NJ.

Submission content

This current application has been submitted via the planning portal (ref: PP-13623158). In accordance with Camden's requirements, there is no fee for an LBC application. The supporting documents within the submission include:

- Application form
- Location Plan at scale 1:1250 and Block Plan at scale 1:500
- Design and Access Statement by Studio Charlotte Harris Ltd
- Planning Cover Letter by Studio Charlotte Harris Ltd
- Heritage Statement by Stephen Levrant Heritage Architecture Ltd
- Existing Lighting Layout Drawings by Federica Cammarota Design Studio
- Removals Lighting Layouts Drawing by Federica Cammarota Design Studio
- Proposed Lighting Layouts Drawing by Federica Cammarota Design Studio
- Existing Mechanical Strip Out Layout Plans by Harley Haddow
- Proposed Mechanical Replacement Works Layout Plans by Harley Haddow
- Proposed Mechanical Equipment Schedule by Harley Haddow
- Proposed Containment Layouts by Harley Haddow
- Proposed Emergency and Exit Lighting Layouts by Harley Haddow
- Proposed Small Power and Data Layouts by Harley Haddow

Background to application

The original permissions for the main works associated with the GHI was granted on 3 July 2023. Proposals to rewire, upgrade existing AV, lighting, data, small power throughout the building have already been assessed and approved under application reference number 2023/1044/LBC however details of Lighting and MEP Strategy and were not included in the original application as they were subject to further considerations and recommendations from the MEP and Lighting consultant. The details have now been finalized and listed building consent is now sought for the works.

Proposals

The proposed works include:

1. MEP Strategy, which includes a mechanical strategy and an electrical strategy.
2. Lighting Strategy, which includes the main lighting strategy and emergency lighting strategy.

1. MEP Strategy (mechanical and electrical)

The mechanical and electrical strategy largely aligns to the proposals consented in 2023. The electrical strategy covers all floors in the building, and the mechanical strategy focuses on the ground and first floors. The additions to these proposals include minor changes/additions to the position of radiators – these largely replace existing radiators for new cast iron ones and would reuse existing pipework. Two control panels are proposed to be added to the first-floor conference room, the ground floor switchboard moved to adjacent wall, as well as the introduction of data routes and details of routes and chasing to carry out 2023 consent. The overarching design principles to the MEP works are:

- All existing routes, penetrations are to be reused in new wiring/piping works (where these are proposed to be renewed)
 - All existing fittings points are proposed to be used where practicable. In instances where new wiring is proposed, these are located in areas which are in keeping with design principles previously adopted and consented in this building.
 - Where patch repairs are required as a result of chasing into wall plaster, repairs will be undertaken in a like for like manner, based on plaster analysis to understand the composition.
 - Where piecing in/ repairs to timber works is required, these will be undertaken in a like for like manner, using traditional techniques and methods, and reusing existing timber.
 - All existing pipe work for radiators is being retained; new pipe work for consented radiators (ref: 2023/1044/L) will be installed as sensitively as possible.
 - Existing pipe work for the Fan Coil Unit (in the first floor conference room) is being replaced like for like, following existing routes. Where this will result in the temporary removal of timber dado panelling and skirting, these works will be undertaken to minimise any damage to historic fabric. Existing panelling will be carefully removed (only where required) in full sections, without cutting, and will be reinstated in the same position, using the existing/ historically appropriate fixing method.
- > For full details on Electrical Strategy refer to Electrical Drawings by Harley Haddow (MEP consultant).
- > For full details on Mechanical Strategy refer to Mechanical Drawings by Harley Haddow.

2. Lighting Strategy

The lighting strategy largely aligns to the proposals consented in 2023. New emergency lighting is proposed throughout the building replacing the existing lighting design with a scheme that meets fire regulations and building control requirements for a building in public use.

The lighting scheme proposed in this application focuses mainly on some of the proposed visitor facing areas of the building. These include the Libraries, Reception, Meeting Room and Circulation spaces on the ground floor and the Libraries, Conference, Common Room and Circulation spaces on the first floor. The Institute offices and ancillary space are also reassessed and included in this scheme.

The GHI proposed to provide further details on the approved lighting scheme and introduce other lighting to better meet the requirements of the Institute and help visitors navigate through the building now that more is known about the operations and requirements. The lighting of the Reception, Conference and Meeting Room, are of critical important to the GHI delivery of spaces in which to enjoy lecture seminars and exhibitions. The lighting strategy has been devised with this, and the architectural and historical significance of the listed building, in mind. The works include:

- The lighting design utilises existing fixing points wherever possible and energy efficient LED light fittings.
 - In specific rooms such as the ground floor reception room, ground floor octagonal room and some library spaces, track lighting is proposed, suspended on cables from the existing ceiling and use of lux levels. These will integrate several light fittings for efficient lighting of these proposed library and exhibition spaces.
 - Pendant lights are also proposed for the more significant spaces featuring the same circular contemporary design. Where pendant lights are proposed, they align to a window and are centralised to the room.
 - Spotlights are proposed to be removed and replaced with surface mounted downlights.
 - New light fittings, fixed to the later library joinery, is proposed in the library spaces.
 - The existing lanterns above the two elliptical staircases are proposed to be illuminated by discreet, flexible linear fitting placed between the cornice and lantern – this would better reveal the architectural interest of the feature.
- > For full details of Lighting Strategy refer to Existing, Removals and Proposed Lighting Layout Drawings prepared by Federica Cammarota Design Studio.
- > For full details of Emergency and Exit Lighting Strategy refer to the Proposed Emergency and Exit Lighting Layouts prepared by Harley Haddow.

DAS and Heritage Statement

A Design and Access Statement by Studio Charlotte Harris accompanies the application and provides descriptions on the MEP proposals by Harley Haddow and lighting proposals Federica Cammarota Design Studio. The Heritage Statement by Stephen Levrant Heritage Architecture Ltd has been submitted as part of this application. It provides a summary of the proposals; significance of the areas and an assessment of the potential heritage impacts of the proposal. It concludes that the minor loss

of fabric due to fixings will have a neutral impact on significance. The proposal will have an intangible heritage benefit as the proposed lighting scheme will better reveal the interior architecture and help to increase the appreciation of the listed building. The proposals are sympathetic to the significance and will help to secure the building's long term viable use as a public institute.

Conclusion

Overall, the proposal will have no external impacts, the appearance of the building will not be altered as a result of the proposed lighting and MEP scheme. The proposals have been carefully designed to ensure it is sympathetic and enhances the architecture of building. Proposals are balanced against the heritage gains and public benefits that will be delivered. The lighting scheme will improve visitors' experience which in turn will help the GHI maintain its international reputation.

If you have any questions, please contact me at ch@studiocharlotteharris.com.

Yours faithfully

Charlotte Harris
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