

Application ref: 2025/0447/L
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Dear Sir/Madam

DECISION

Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990

Listed Building Consent Granted

Address:
Philips Building
Thornhaugh Street
London
WC1H 0XG

Proposal:

Formation of new librarian hubs on Levels A, B, C, D & E. Formation of new meeting room on Level D. Refurbishment of the desk. Conversion of existing office on Level E into event space. Formation of Audio Visual Room with new partially glazed partition and door. Reorganisation of Special Collection Reading Room and associated refurbishment on Level F. Refurbishment of ceiling.

Drawing Nos: Planning statement, J1163/LD-P-045, J1163/LE-P-156/B, J1163/LF-E-205/A, J1163/LF-E-212, J1163/LE-P-005/A, J1163/LE-P-056, J1163/LE-P-104/B, J1163/LD-P-44, J1163/LE0E-207/A, J1156/LE-E-213, J1163/LE-P-059, J1163/LE-P-159, J1163/LF-E-211, J1163/LF-E-206/A, J1163/LA-A-100, J1163/LA-A-110, J1163/LA-P001/A, J1163/LA-P-010/A, J1163/LA-P-100/B, J1163/LA-P-110i/C, J1163/LA-P-110ii/A, J1163/LB-A-101, J1163/LB-A-111, J1163/LB-E-200/A, J1163/LB-E-206/A, J1163/LB-P-002/A, J1163/LB-P-021/A, J1163/LB-P-101/B, J1163/LB-P-121/B, J1163/LC-A-102, J1163/LC-A-112, J1163/LC-E-201/A, J1163/LC-E-207/A, J1163/LC-P-003/A, J1163/LC-P-031/A, J1163/LC-P-102/C, J1163/LC-P-131/B, J1163/LD-A-103, J1163/LD-A-113/A, J1163/LD-E-202/A, J1163/LD-E-203/A, J1163/LD-E-207, J1163/LD-E-208/A, J1163/LD-P-004/A, J1163/LD-P-041/A, J1163/LD-P-043/A, J1163/LD-P-103/C, J1163/LD-P-141/B, J1163/LD-P-143/B, J1163/LE-A-104, J1163/LE-A-114, J1163/LE-E-204/A, J1163/LE-E-210, J1163/LE-P-051/A, J1163/LE-P-055/A, J1163/LE-P-057/A, J1163/LE-P-151/B, J1163/LE-P-155,

J1163/LE-P-157/B, J1163/LF-A-105, J1163/LF-A-115/A, J1163/LF-P-006/C, J1163/LF-P-061/B, J1163/LF-P-105/C, J1163/LF-P-161/D, J1163/L-P-001, Cover Letter, J1163_250131_DAS-compressed, The Philips Building Heritage Impact Assessment January 2025.

The Council has considered your application and decided to grant Listed Building Consent subject to the following condition(s):

Conditions And Reasons:

- 1 The works hereby permitted shall be begun not later than the end of three years from the date of this consent.

Reason: In order to comply with the provisions of Section 18 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

- 2 The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the following approved plans:

Planning statement, J1163/LD-P-045, J1163/LE-P-156/B, J1163/LF-E-205/A, J1163/LF-E-212, J1163/LE-P-005/A, J1163/LE-P-056, J1163/LE-P-104/B, J1163/LD-P-44, J1163/LE0E-207/A, J1156/LE-E-213, J1163/LE-P-059, J1163/LE-P-159, J1163/LF-E-211, J1163/LF-E-206/A, J1163/LA-A-100, J1163/LA-A-110, J1163/LA-P001/A, J1163/LA-P-010/A, J1163/LA-P-100/B, J1163/LA-P-110i/C, J1163/LA-P-110ii/A, J1163/LB-A-101, J1163/LB-A-111, J1163/LB-E-200/A, J1163/LB-E-206/A, J1163/LB-P-002/A, J1163/LB-P-021/A, J1163/LB-P-101/B, J1163/LB-P-121/B, J1163/LC-A-102, J1163/LC-A-112, J1163/LC-E-201/A, J1163/LC-E-207/A, J1163/LC-P-003/A, J1163/LC-P-031/A, J1163/LC-P-102/C, J1163/LC-P-131/B, J1163/LD-A-103, J1163/LD-A-113/A, J1163/LD-E-202/A, J1163/LD-E-203/A, J1163/LD-E-207, J1163/LD-E-208/A, J1163/LD-P-004/A, J1163/LD-P-041/A, J1163/LD-P-043/A, J1163/LD-P-103/C, J1163/LD-P-141/B, J1163/LD-P-143/B, J1163/LE-A-104, J1163/LE-A-114, J1163/LE-E-204/A, J1163/LE-E-210, J1163/LE-P-051/A, J1163/LE-P-055/A, J1163/LE-P-057/A, J1163/LE-P-151/B, J1163/LE-P-155, J1163/LE-P-157/B, J1163/LF-A-105, J1163/LF-A-115/A, J1163/LF-P-006/C, J1163/LF-P-061/B, J1163/LF-P-105/C, J1163/LF-P-161/D, J1163/L-P-001, Cover Letter, J1163_250131_DAS-compressed, The Philips Building Heritage Impact Assessment January 2025.

Reason: In order to safeguard the special architectural and historic interest of the building in accordance with the requirements of policy D2 of the Camden Local Plan 2017.

- 3 All new work and work of making good shall be carried out to match the existing adjacent work as closely as possible in materials and detailed execution.

Reason: In order to safeguard the special architectural and historic interest of the building in accordance with the requirements of policy D2 of the Camden Local Plan 2017.

- 4 Detailed drawings, or samples of materials as appropriate, in respect of the following, shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority before the relevant part of the work is begun:
- a) Plan, elevation and section drawings of all new doors at a scale of 1:10 with typical moulding and architrave details at a scale of 1:1.
 - b) Samples of the wood used for the hub insertions to be provided and retained on site throughout the course of the works.
 - c) Notwithstanding the approved drawings the Sil Acospray DC3 is not approved and additional details and samples of replacement ceiling materials shall be submitted to and approved by the LPA.

Reason: In order to safeguard the special architectural and historic interest of the building in accordance with the requirements of policy D2 of the Camden Local Plan 2017.

Informative(s):

- 1 The Phillips Building is the library building that supports SOAS. It was designed by Denys Lasdun and constructed in 1973. The building is grade II* listed and is within sub section three of the Bloomsbury conservation area.

The Philips Building is eight storeys and is constructed on a reinforced concrete frame, it has interlocking structural pre-cast concrete panels with a white cement and Ballidon limestone aggregate mix, with a grit-basted finish. The windows are mostly horizontal sliding sashes with aluminium and bronze anodised finish, set back from the precast panels.

The building does not have its own external ceremonial entrance, as it has always been accessed through the grade II listed College Building which is to the south of the site. The roof of the Philips Building is flat, with a series of diagonally-arranged north-facing roof lights, hidden from the outside. A service moat around the building provides light to the basement levels and a delivery entrance on the west side.

Internally, the set piece is the central, top-lit library. This features three levels of concrete-fronted balconies with natural light coming in through a diagonally-set grid of slender concrete ceiling beams. On the lower floors, rooms lead off the central space to provide study and tutorial space, and computer areas to which the centre of the lower level is now dedicated.

The library was extended in 2003 and 2012 by John McAslan and Partners. The extension is double height and glazed, extending over former external terraces.

The proposals are for the formation of librarian hubs on levels A, B, C, D and E and the formation of a new meeting room on level D. Modern partitions are also rearranged on level E to create an events space and an audio visual room. At level F the special collection reading room is reorganised. In addition, the

ceilings are refurbished.

The 'hub' spaces are located on levels A, B, C, D and E. The spaces create a secure area for books to be borrowed and returned and allow for a librarian to be located at each level, being a point of contact and expertise for student inquiries. The 'hubs' are discreetly located on each floor ensuring the spatial qualities and plan form of the library are not compromised. The 'hubs' are also designed to be almost freestanding pieces of joinery, slotted in between historic walls and concrete columns.

To levels A, B and C the historic ceilings are repaired, with textured tiles taken from floor D to replace damaged tiles and create a uniform ceiling. The textured tiles are then spray painted white to give a clean and refreshed appearance. To levels C and D modern ceiling tiles are removed within the McAslan extension and the concrete soffits revealed. Acoustic panels are then inserted. To level D the historic textured tiles are removed to repair the ceilings on A, B and C. It is proposed to replace the tiles with a textured ceiling spray as the original tiles are no longer manufactured. It is not clear at this stage if the spray is the right solution. A condition has therefore been added to the consent requesting further potential solutions for the tile replacements.

To level D the historic librarian's desk in the centre of the floor plate is repaired. A meeting room is also created in a space currently used for IT equipment.

At level E a hub is formed by replacing a glazed partition with timber joinery and the current librarians office is turned into an events space. The event space is finished in dark timber panelling and acoustic baffles are hung from the ceiling. An accessible space is also created in one of the perimeter rooms at this level. A new AV room is also formed and the ceilings are lightly refurbished.

- 2 To level F the alterations impact the special collections reading room and involve some changes to partitions and door openings. The area has already undergone previous alteration, the changes will therefore not impact the historic fabric or plan form. The ceiling is slightly altered at this level with modern ceiling tiles removed to expose the concrete soffit.

The proposed works will not harm the special interest of the grade-II*-listed building.

The application has been advertised in the press and by means of a site notice, whereby there were no consultation responses. Historic England have been consulted and have not commented on the application, this has been approved by the Secretary of State. The site's planning history has been taken into account in making this decision.

Special attention has been paid to the desirability of preserving the special interest of the listed building, under s.16 of the Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Act 1990 as amended by the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act (ERR) 2013

As such, the proposal is in general accordance with policy D2 of the Camden Local Plan 2017. The proposed development also accords with the London Plan 2024 and the NPPF.

- 3 You are advised that any works of alterations or upgrading not included on the approved drawings which are required to satisfy Building Regulations or Fire Certification may require a further application for listed building consent.

In dealing with the application, the Council has sought to work with the applicant in a positive and proactive way in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework. The council publishes its adopted policies online, along with detailed Camden Planning Guidance. It also provides advice on the website for submitting applications and offers a pre-application advice service.

You can find advice about your rights of appeal at:

<http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/planning/appeals/guidance/guidancecontent>

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DPope', is positioned above the printed name and title of the signatory.

Daniel Pope
Chief Planning Officer