

Project

SOAS – 53 Gordon Square Developed Design

Date

26.03.2025

Reference

MM/AD/240244

To

Turnberry Consulting
41-43 Maddox Street
London
W1S 2PD

For the attention of Zaza Cooper

Dear Sirs

As part of the refurbishment scheme for 53 Gordon Square, a fireplace has been proposed on the ground floor as a replacement for a feature which it is assumed at some point in the past was removed.

The London Borough of Camden have requested information in regard to the research carried out and the proposed choice of fire place, to support the listed building consent application (**reference: 2025/1138/L Condition 4a**).

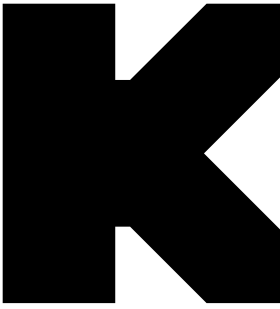
SOAS obtained specialist advice from Vicky Webster, Associate, Historic Building Consultant, IHBC, BA (Hons), MSc on behalf of:

Heritage Architecture Ltd, 62 British Grove, Chiswick, London, W4 2NL.

A deliberate engagement process was undertaken with Vicky on the fireplace, providing guidance in terms of the detailing and acknowledgement of motifs either already present in the room or sympathetic to the period. The alternative of a salvaged or 'off the shelf' fireplace would have resulted in less control over the sizing of the surround, the motifs and the stone type. A bespoke solution would better suit the proportions of the room and allow more control over the stone type to complement the finishes. The supplier, Renaissance London, would be engaged to design, make and install a bespoke surround, sized to suit the chimney breast.

As a starting point Vicky forwarded images of historic fireplaces taken from houses in Gordon Square which illustrate the features associated with this period (see enclosed London Picture Archive documents).

The client and interior designer subsequently visited the showroom of a specialist supplier of fireplaces, Renaissance London (<https://www.renaissancelondon.com/reproduction-fireplaces/>) to review suitable designs (see enclosed Renaissance Fireplace Options document which shows the preferred designs) in terms of size and detail, both stone options were forwarded to Vicky.



A floral motif (examples below) was considered appropriate



To reflect the existing coving (below).



The Heritage Specialist advised that the acanthus/floral motifs would be appropriate. The fluting was noted as a common detail along with beading/egg and dart as shown on the chimneypieces at 52 Gordon Square. Both stone types proposed (light Calacatta marble or Painswick stone) were considered acceptable as they were used in this period. For illustration further mostly late-Georgian examples with similarities to those found at No.52 (see attached Heritage Architecture examples document) were forwarded which showed the variation typical of the period, both plain and with motifs, often set within an outer stone or marble insert.

With the agreement of SOAS a final design (refer to Q25 drawing document enclosed) was agreed based on this advice by the supplier which incorporated the following features:

- Surround made from Painswick stone
- Corner pieces with either acanthus leaf, waterleaf or rose boss
- Fluted details on the legs/verticals

To conclude, the above process outlines the steps which have been taken to ensure historical authenticity and appropriate design for this significant feature.

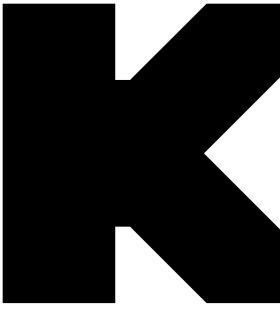
Yours Faithfully

Mary Moran

BSc | BA(Hons) | MRICS | IMaPS

Principal Chartered Building Surveyor

For and on behalf of KENDALL KINGSCOTT LIMITED



Enclosed:

- London Picture Archive Documents:
 - o 108023 52 Gordon Square 2F FP 1972 (pdf)
 - o 108026 52 Gordon Square FP 1972 (pdf)
- Renaissance Fireplace Options Document (pdf)
- Q25 Drawing Document (pdf)
- Heritage Architecture Examples Document (pdf)

CC:

- Brian Cronin (SOAS)
- Tom Ashley (Turnberry UK)
- James White (Kendall Kingscott Ltd)
- Zoe Trevett (Kendall Kingscott Ltd)
- Marta Loureiro (Kendall Kingscott Ltd)