

Delegated Report		Analysis sheet		Expiry Date:		12/03/2013	
		N/A / attached		Consultation Expiry Date:		21/02/2013	
Officer				Application Number(s)			
Antonia Powell				2012/6775/L			
Application Address				Drawing Numbers			
Congress House 23-28 Great Russell Street London WC1B 3LS				See decision letter.			
PO 3/4	Area Team Signature	C&UD	Authorised Officer Signature				
Proposal(s)							
Replacement of mosaic tile facing to plinth on East side of main entrance to match existing, and main entrance stainless steel handrail with bronze finished handrail, to offices (Class B1).							
Recommendation(s):		Approve Listed Building Consent					
Application Type:		Listed Building Consent					
Conditions or Reasons for Refusal:		Refer to Draft Decision Notice					
Informatives:							
Consultations							
Adjoining Occupiers:		No. notified	00	No. of responses	00	No. of objections	00
				No. electronic	00		
Summary of consultation responses:		English Heritage have responded with a letter of Authorisation dated 28/01/2013 duly signed and dated on behalf of the Secretary of State 01/02/2013. Press and site notice displayed – no responses received.					
CAAC/Local groups* comments: *Please Specify		No responses received					

Site Description

Description:

Trades Union headquarters building and sculptures. 1953-7. By David du R Aberdeen. Sculptures by Jacob Epstein and Bernard Meadows. For the Trades Union Congress.

Polished granite and blue tile cladding; aluminium windows.

EXTERIOR: 7 storeys, 28 windows in a continuous strip. E-shaped plan round an internal courtyard on restricted site bounded by 3 streets; imposed height limitation of 80 ft. Building houses the Memorial Hall, Library, Secretariat and Council Chamber.

Principal elevation to Great Russell Street a rectangular block on pilotis; recessed ground floor glazed, upper floors continuous strip windows alternating with bands of granite cladding, those at top floor being large rectangular lights with a band of half lights above. Plinth in front of entrance supporting bronze sculpture by Bernard Meadows. Side elevation to Dyott Street more boldly modelled. Small balconies to the five main storeys at the north end, the glazed drum of the horse-shoe staircase to the basement in the centre, and a projection of the first floor beneath which is the Memorial Hall.

INTERIOR: is of interest spatially and retains most original fixtures and fittings. Top-lighting of the hall is provided by glazed hexagonal coffers which form part of its space-frame roof. On the west wall of the courtyard a pyramidal screen of green marble acts as a backdrop for the TUC War Memorial by Jacob Epstein (1955-6).

HISTORICAL NOTE: widely regarded, at the time of its completion and since, as one of the most important institutional buildings erected in London, and one of the most significant 1950s buildings in Britain. (Architectural Review: December 1957; Jacob Epstein: Sculpture & Drawings: London: -1987).

Relevant History

2012/2072/P and 2012/2261/L

Alterations to the tiled plinth on East side of main entrance, with mosaic tile facing to be refurbished. Replacement of glass block lighting feature and brass plaque with brass clad plinth. Granted 14/09/2012.

Relevant policies

LDF Core Strategy and Development Policies

London Borough of Camden Local Development Framework Core Strategy, Policy CS14 (Promoting high quality places and conserving our heritage)

London Borough of Camden Local Development Framework Development Policies, DP24 (Securing high quality design) and Policy DP25 (Conserving Camden's heritage).

Assessment

This application concerns the replacement of the mosaic tile facing to the plinth on the east side of the main entrance of Congress House.

The existing 1950's mosaic surface is very fine with slightly irregular, possibly hand cut, glass mosaic tiles which give the surface an attractive rich faceted appearance. The colour of the historic glass mosaic is varied with a range of subtle tones of gentle grey and very pale blue.

The condition of the existing original mosaics is poor and the surface is failing in a number of places. It is clear on site a number of repairs have been carried out and there is a marked variation in the quality and type of mosaic repair to date.

Considerable research has gone into sourcing as close a match for the replacement mosaic as possible. Disappointingly the early irregular mosaics are no longer available and a more regular square version is now proposed. The proposed colour mix has been specified to reflect the grey blue tones of the original and the sample that has been provided is now considered the closest that can be achieved.

This application is recommended for approval.

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