

University of London, Senate House, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU
Proposed internal alterations to MacMillan Hall on ground floor of south block

DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT to accompany an application for Listed Building consent, submitted to the London Borough of Camden on 12 January 2011

To be read with drawings 242/L2A, S1C, P1C and D1B

The MacMillan Hall is the smaller of two large reception spaces located on the ground floor of Senate House South Block. It has a flat floor area of ~260m², compared with the Beveridge Hall, which is located on the opposite side of the crush hall, and has a stepped floor area of ~400m².

In Charles Holden's original scheme for the building, dating from 1932, the MacMillan Hall was part of a processional route leading from the entrance beneath the tower to the University Hall, which was to be built on the site of what is now Stewart House, fronting onto Russell Square to the east. The MacMillan Hall was subsequently used as a refectory, connected to a servery and kitchen on the east side through 3 large openings in the travertine faced internal dividing wall. Following the recent refurbishment of the surrounding areas, the Hall is now being used for conferences and meetings. The adjoining servery and kitchen have been retained and are used independently from, and in conjunction with, the Hall and are separated from it by heavy curtains hung on the Hall side of the existing openings.

The University now wishes to provide more permanent and effective visual and acoustic separation between the two areas by installing acoustic fire doors within the existing openings. The openings are lined with travertine, with fluted pilasters between, and are deep enough to accommodate the full width of an equal pair of door leaves, when open. It is proposed to mount the doors on the servery side of the openings to maintain deep reveals visible from the Hall side when closed. This is similar to a sketch, dating from 1936, which shows the original decorative scheme for this area.

It is proposed that the new doors will be faced and framed with teak, to match the existing joinery in the surrounding area, and each leaf will be inlaid with a geometric marquetry pattern, in a contrasting hardwood, to match the decorative tapestry sidewall panels, shown on the 1936 sketch. Similar patterns are to be found elsewhere in the building. Each door leaf will incorporate clear glazed vision panels and be fitted with bronze finished hinges, pull handles and push plates.

..... AHP architects : 110111