

Development Control  
Planning Services  
London Borough of Camden  
Town Hall  
Argyle Street  
London  
WC1H 8ND

23 May 2007

**Reading Room Jade Ring  
Design Statement for the Listed Building Application**

*Introduction / Brief History*

The British Museum is planning a season of two significant exhibitions exploring the nature of Imperial Power in the East and West, starting with the First Emperor China's Terracotta Army who established the Chinese Empire and followed by an exhibition on the Roman Emperor Hadrian under whose reign the Roman Empire reached its greatest extent. The exhibition season will last from September 2007 to October 2008.

The British Museum has received listed building consent to erect a temporary stage within the Round Reading room and the opening of the reading room North door in order to provide a temporary exhibition space. London Borough of Camden reference number 2006/3731/L

As part of the exhibition design the British Museum wishes to install an additional temporary structure within the stage structure to support a jade ring above the platform. The jade ring will be removed when the temporary stage is taken down at the end of the exhibition season and the museum will reinstate the reading room. The jade ring will not be fixed to the historic fabric of the reading room.

The jade ring will be fabricated from a combination of steel, timber and fabric. It will support services such as lights, cameras and projectors. The jade ring is designed to help define the exhibition space and provide some acoustic

deadenning. The jade ring covers a relatively small area of the stage and will no prevent the view of the ceiling.

#### *Structural Considerations*

Structural engineers, Alan Baxter associates, have considered the existing floor construction and set strict parameters that need to be adhered to by the staging designer and the fabric ring designer. Atelierone have designed the temporary stage within these parameters and have worked with ARUP, the jade ring designers to ensure

co-ordination with design and the permissible loads on the existing floor are not exceeded.

#### *Emergency Escape*

The emergency escape and fire implications of the jade ring have been reviewed by Lawrence Webster Forrest, the Fire Engineers for the museum. The ring will not affect the fire evacuation plan as originally design for the temporary stage.

#### *Design Statement*

It is proposed to install the low level and high level spreader structure under the temporary stage. The new spreaders will not interfere with the temporary stage structure and will not be fixed to the historic fabric of the space. Six columns will be installed to support the ring and the ring will be installed.

The ring will be removed at the end of the exhibition season.

I look forward to hearing from you shortly

Simon Neale  
Head of Capital Projects and Estates

#### *Attachments*

Temporary Structure Design,  
Advice By Atelierone

Temporary Structure Design  
Advice by ARUP

Fire Protection

Advice By Lawrence Webster Forrest (LWF)

Appendices/ Drawings

As existing

PMT Drawing 230838-006 Rev B

ABA 699/301/13 April 2006

As proposed

ARUP 75744-61 S001 - Rev T1

ARUP 75744-61 S003 - Rev T2

Metaphor 100-006

Metaphor SK 001

Metaphor SK 002

Your ref CI  
Our ref 75744-61/JT  
Date 21 May 2007

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Caroline Ingham  
Senior Designer  
Department of Exhibitions  
The British Museum  
Great Russell Street

ARUP

Dear Caroline

**Jade Ring**  
**Structural Design Statement for the Jade Ring in the First Emperor Exhibition**

We confirm that the structural design of the Jade Ring and the structural design of the Stele (an exhibit designed to look like an upright slab for commemorative purposes) has been undertaken by us according to current codes of practices and the building regulations.

These structures, namely the ring and the stele, have interfaces with the raised steelwork deck designed by Atelier One which forms the temporary floor of the exhibition. The stele sits completely on the raised steelwork deck and the ring is laterally restrained by the steelwork deck. The vertical load of the ring is transferred directly down to the original floor of the British Library Reading room. The interfaces, i.e. connection details, forces transferred and the required stiffness have been agreed with Atelier One. Atelier One is the designer carrying responsibly for the overall stability of the structure (see also British Standard 5950-1:2000 2.1.1.2) as the ring and the stele are attachments to the raised deck.

The maximum vertical load of the ring that we are imposing on the original Reading Room floor at any one location is not greater than 300kg. This is a limit requested by Alan Baxter Associates, who have assessed the load carrying capacity of the existing reading room floor.

The design of the ring and the stele is a temporary installation and will be removed at the close of the exhibition.

Yours sincerely

David Lewis  
Director

Jens Tandler  
Structural Engineer

Mr. David Meinck  
Capital Projects & Estates  
The British Museum  
Great Russell Street  
London WC1B 3DG

Dear David,

**Re: First Emperor Exhibition, Jade Ring**

We reviewed the submitted information about the Jade ring.

In the event of a fire in a location on the platform below the Jade ring, the ring is considered to be an obstruction within the rising plume of the fire. Smoke would be buoyantly driven, flow along the soffit of the ring section above the fire location and would then spill over its edges. The disturbance of the buoyantly driven vertical rising of the smoke due to the ring would cause additional turbulences at the edges of the ring and as such entrain a slightly higher amount of ambient air into the plume. Hence, the smoke volume will be increased in comparison to a design omitting the Jade ring.

However, the worst case fire scenario that has been considered to calculate the time available for a safe evacuation is located at ground level of the RRR and not on the higher platform level. Due to the greater rising height and in accordance with BRE 368 the smoke volume that has been assumed as worst case scenario is approximately 20% greater than the smoke volume produced by a fire at platform level (considering an identical fire load in both scenarios).

The fact that the smoke volume of a platform fire below the Jade ring will slightly increase due to additional air entrainment at the Jade ring is therefore deemed to be acceptable as the smoke volume will not exceed the volume considered for the initial worst case scenario calculations.

As such, from a fire safety point of view there are no objections to the provision of the Jade ring as proposed.

Kind Regards,

Markus Cosmann *Dipl.-Ing. VDI*  
Senior Fire Engineer

# atelier one

4 Goodge Place, London W1T 4SB  
Telephone: 020 7323 3350  
Fax: 020 7636 3350  
E-MAIL: mail@atelierone.com

22 May, 2007

1578/CB/cb/3337

David Meinck  
Project Manager  
The British Museum  
Great Russell Street  
London  
WC1B 3DG

Dear David,

## **PROJECT 1578 – BRITISH MUSEUM ROUND READING ROOM**

Further to your recent request we return the following information regarding the loads applied by the Jade Ring onto the existing structure of the Round Reading Room at the British Museum.

The Jade Ring consists of circular steel and timber construction to be erected above the platform. This construction is supported by 6No. columns evenly spaced around the circumference of the ring. The design of the ring, supporting columns and their associated spreader beams has been undertaken by Arup who have supplied reaction loads to Atelier One.

The maximum vertical reaction load is 46kN which is to be supported by a spreader beam. The spreader beams are located so that they are supported at two points by the spider walls of the existing building, therefore imposing a load of 23kN onto the spider walls.

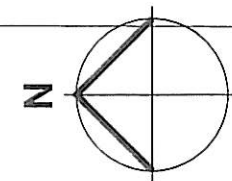
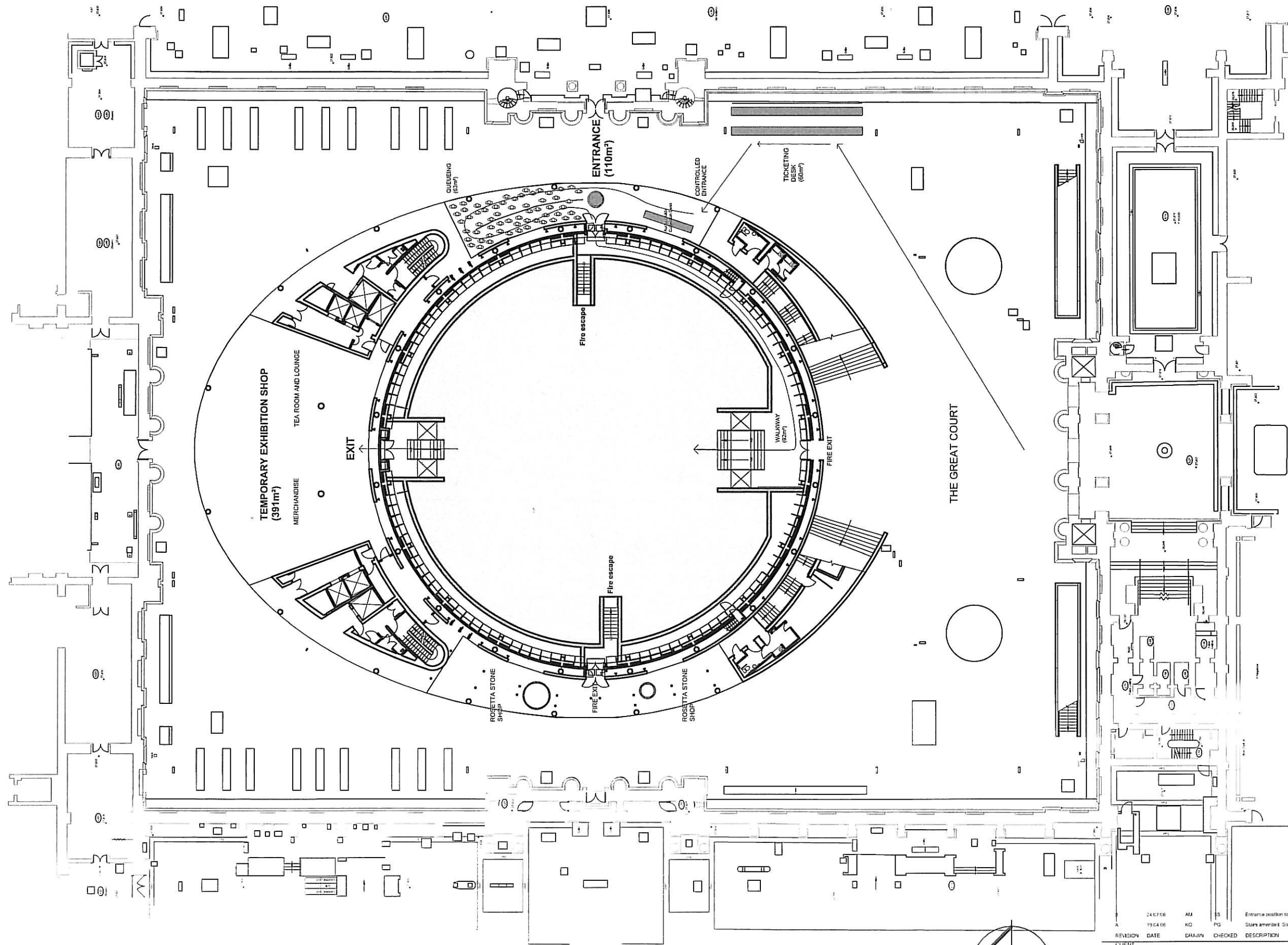
The limiting load that can be carried by the spider walls is 30kN with a minimum spacing of 1m between adjacent point loads. This load allowance has been supplied by Alan Baxter and Associates.

The positions of the Jade Ring spreader beams have been generally located at distances greater than 1m from the spider walls supporting the platform therefore loads applied to the spider walls comply with the loading restriction. In 2No. instances the Jade Ring spreader beams are located immediately adjacent to platform spreader beams but in this instance the combined load of both pieces of structure does not exceed 30kN.

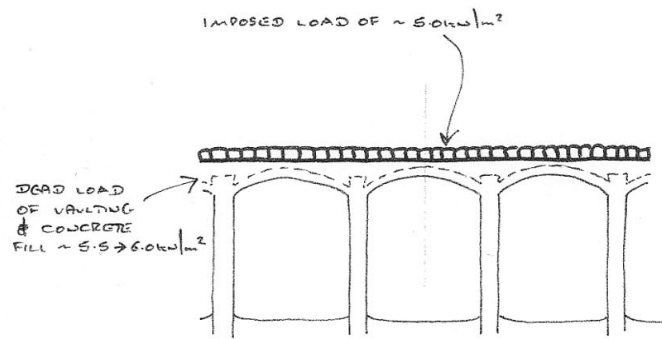
Yours sincerely,

Dr. C.J. Brown  
Associate

Atelier One Limited  
Registered in England: Number 283 5918  
Durkan House, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, 155 East Barnet Road, New Barnet, Hertfordshire, EN4 8QZ

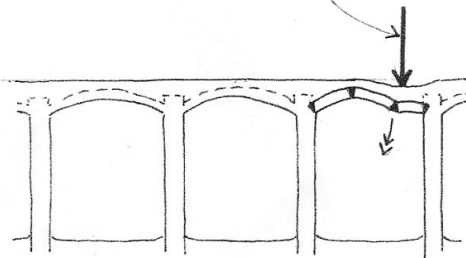


REVISION	DATE	DRAWN	CHECKED	DESCRIPTION	SCALE	DATE
24.07.06	AM	PG		Entrance position to exhibition changed. More detail added to scheme	1:200 @ A1	March 2006
19.04.06	KD	PG		Stairs amended. Screening removed		
PROJECT	British Museum				DRAWN	CHECKED
DRAWING TITLE	Reading Room Feasibility Study				ML	
JOB NUMBER	230838				DRAWING NO.	REVISION
Round Reading Room					006	B
Proposed Plan						



UNIFORM LOAD

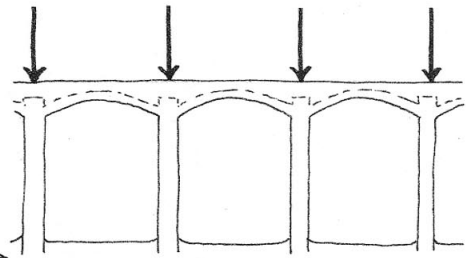
POINT LOADS ABOVE ABOUT 3kN COULD MAKE VAULTED STRUCTURE SUSCEPTIBLE TO COLLAPSE IF PLACED INDISCRIMINATELY ON FLOOR



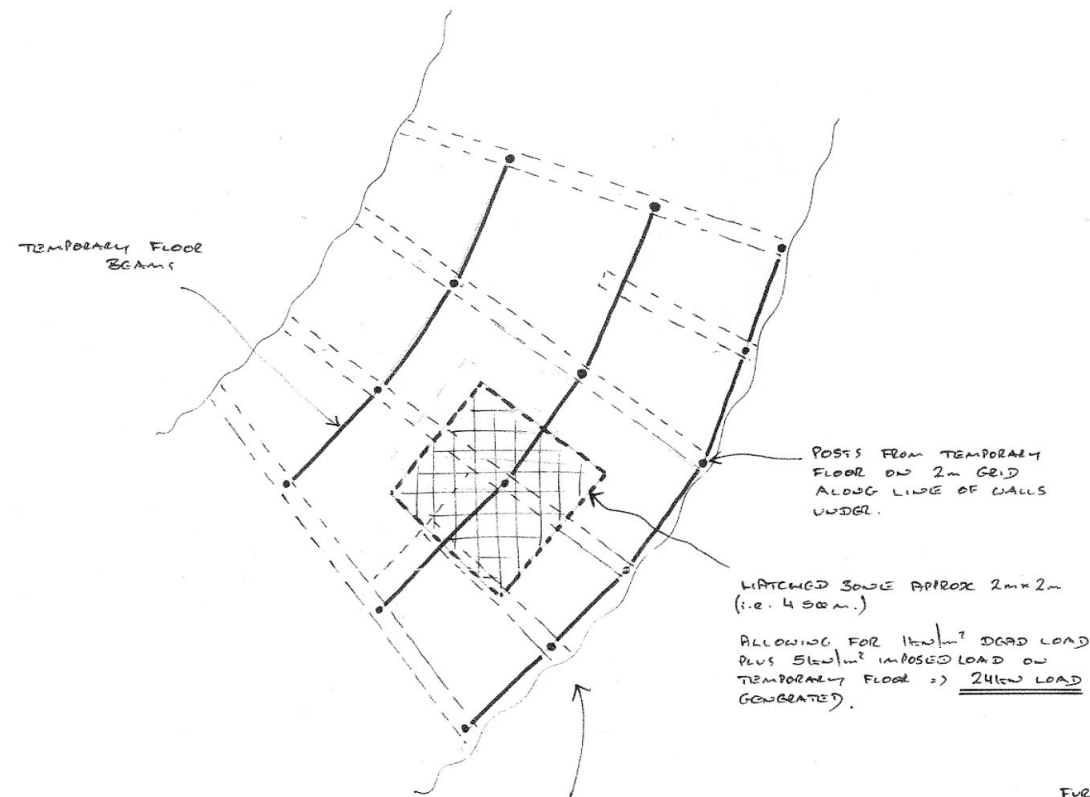
POINT LOAD ANYWHERE

POINT LOADS OF UP TO 16kN SPREAD ON TO FLOOR VIA STEEL SPREADERS PROVEN ON FLOOR. LOADS OF UP TO 30kN UNLIKELY TO OVERSTRESS CONCRETE FILL AND BRICKWORK PROVIDED POINT LOAD HAS ADEQUATE BASE PLATE AND SPREADER. ASSUMES LOAD BEARING WALL UNDER IS 215mm WIDE.

OVERALL LOADING NOT TO EXCEED EQUIVALENT UNIFORM DISTRIBUTED LOAD OF 6kN/m² SO FOUNDATIONS ARE NOT OVERLOADED.

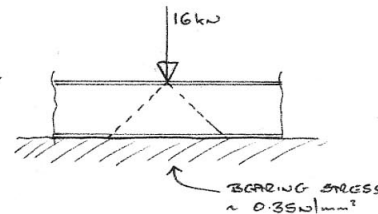
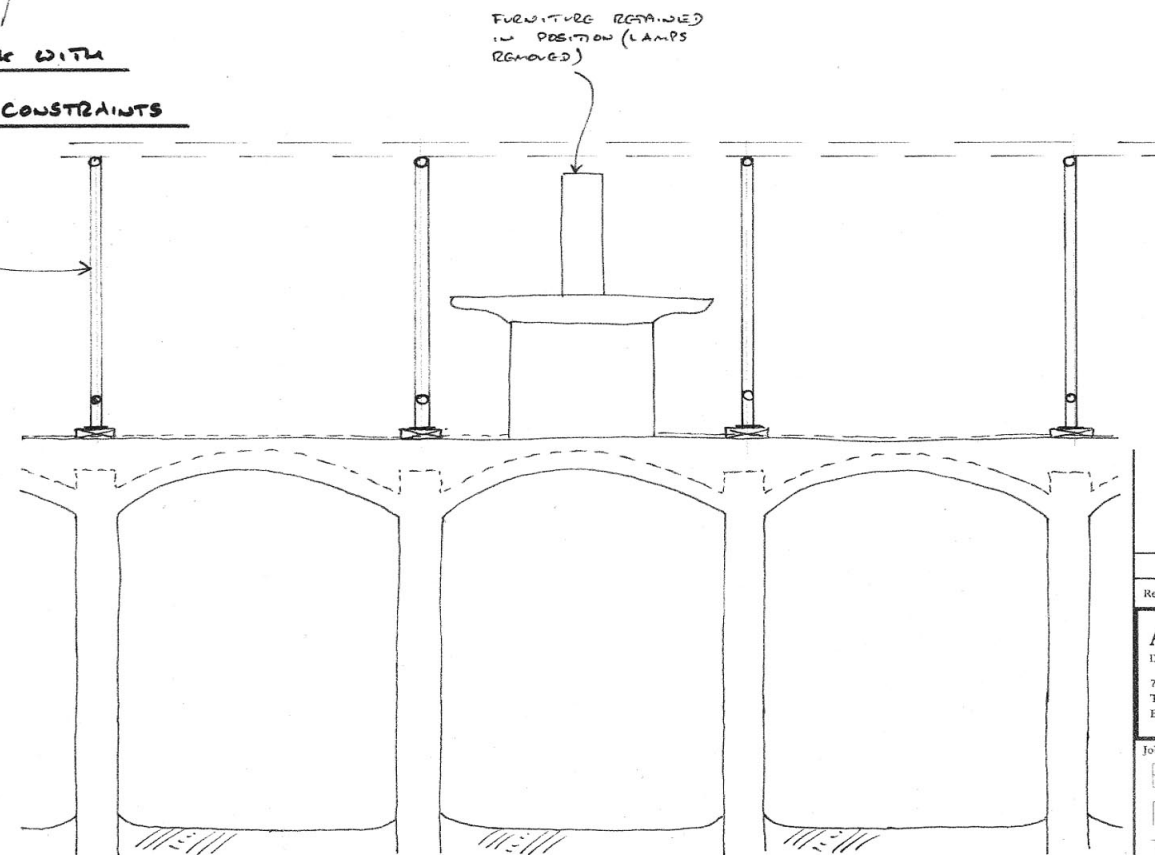


POINT LOAD ON WALL LINES UNDER



LAYOUT THAT COULD WORK WITH STRUCTURAL CONSTRAINTS

TEMPORARY EXHIBITION STRUCTURE

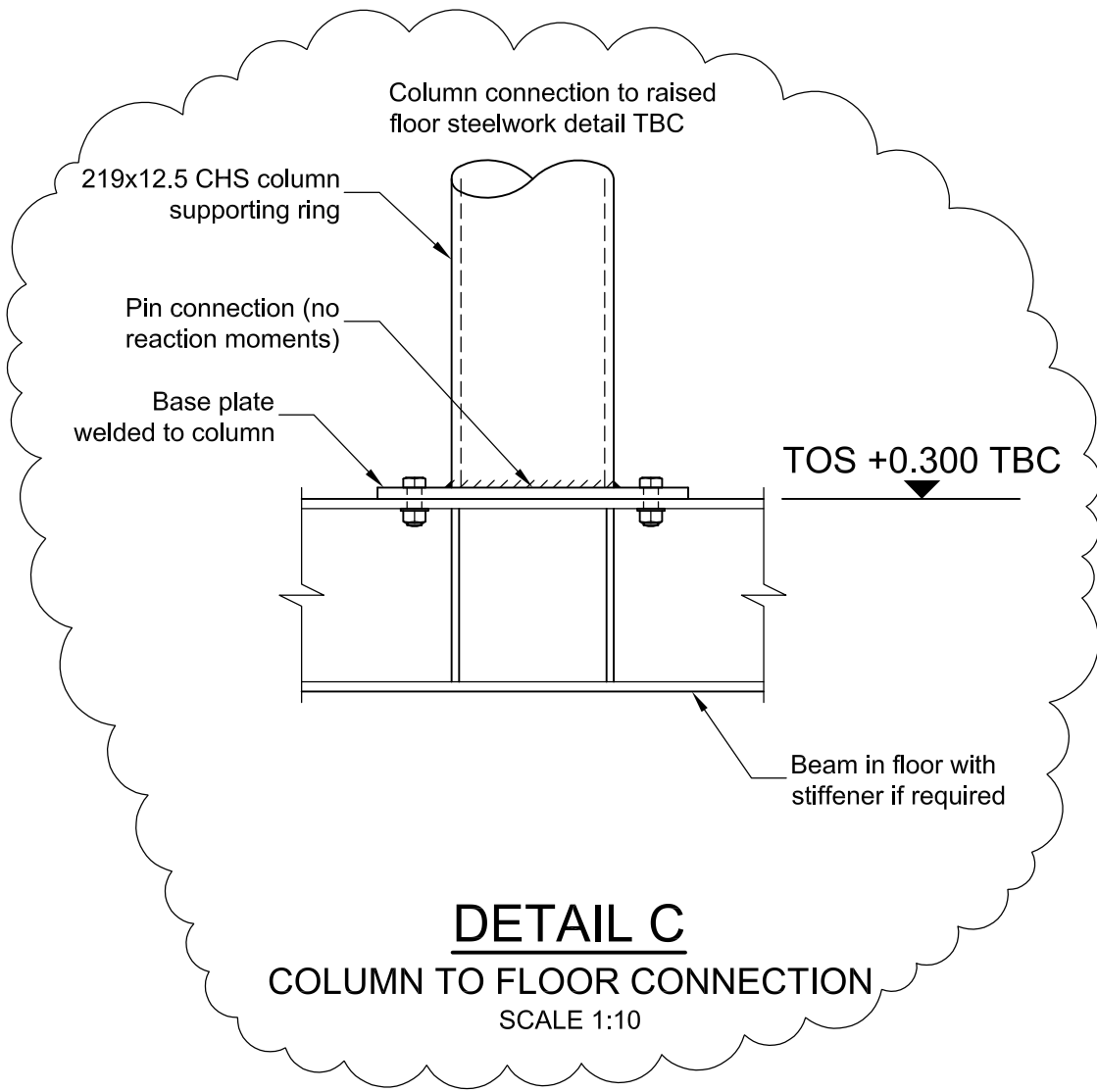
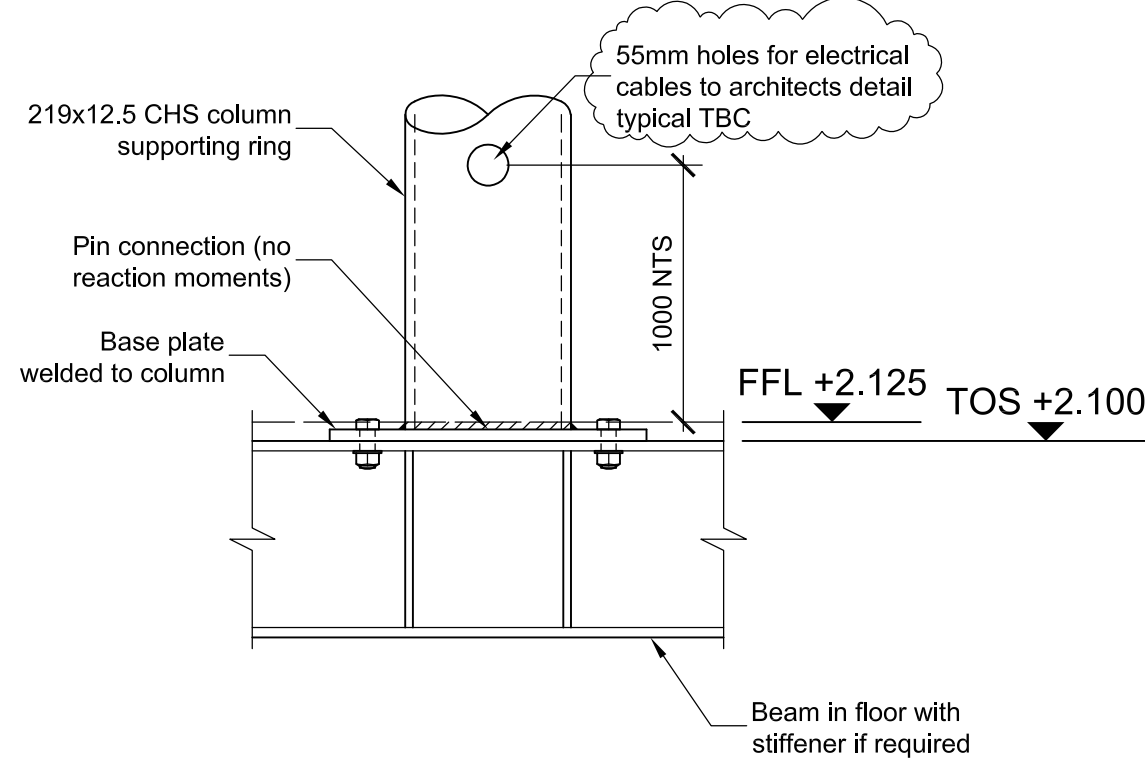
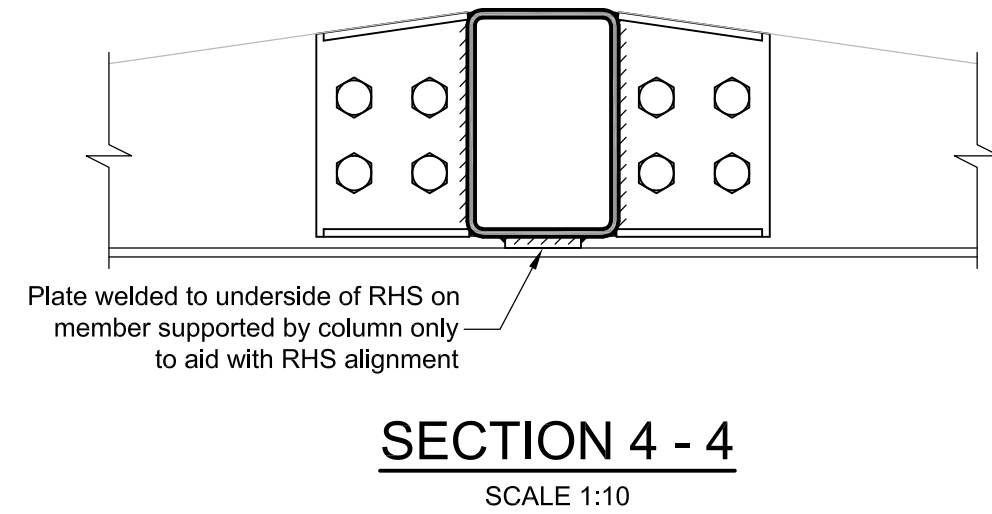
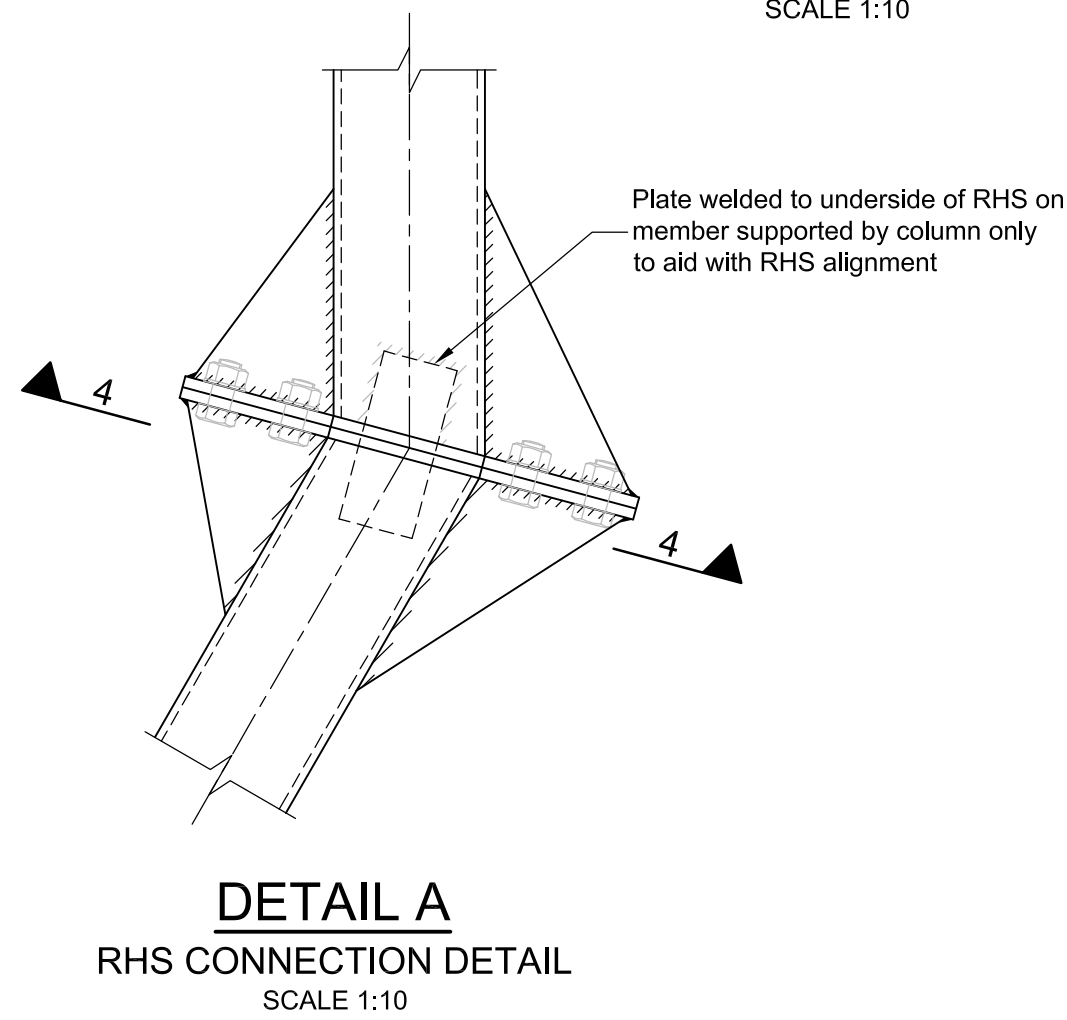
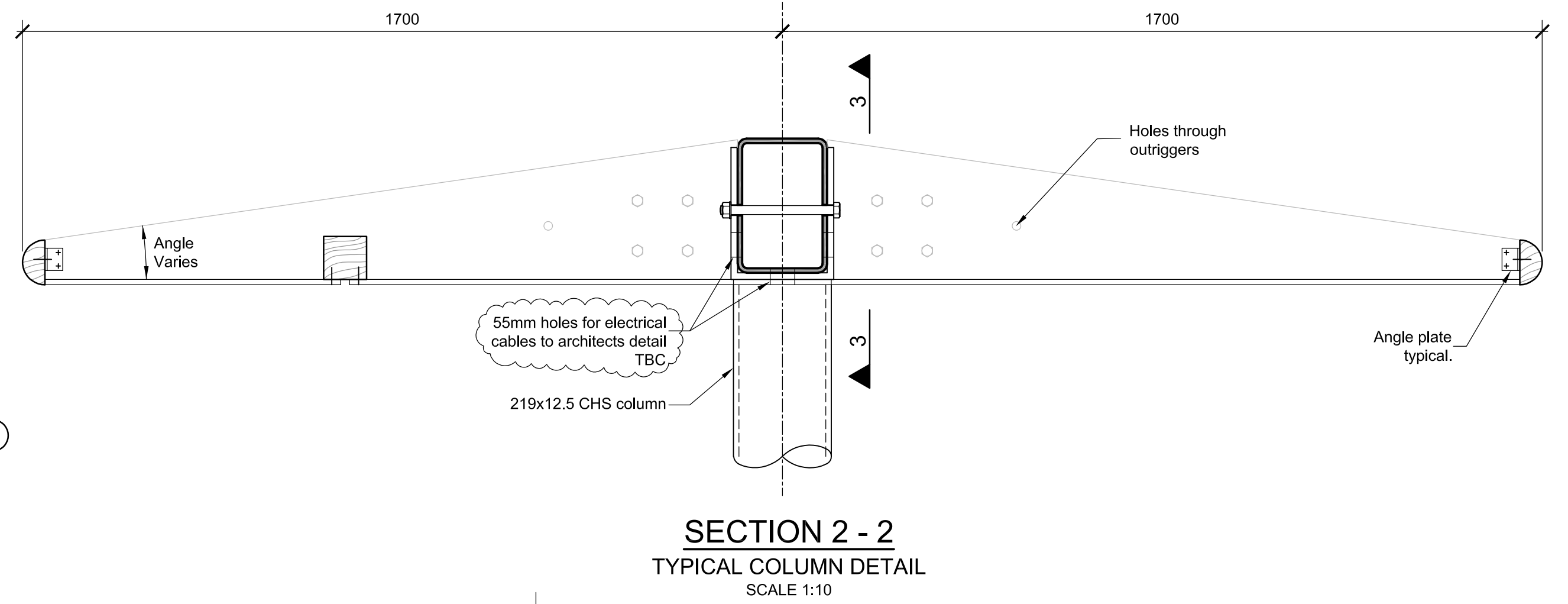
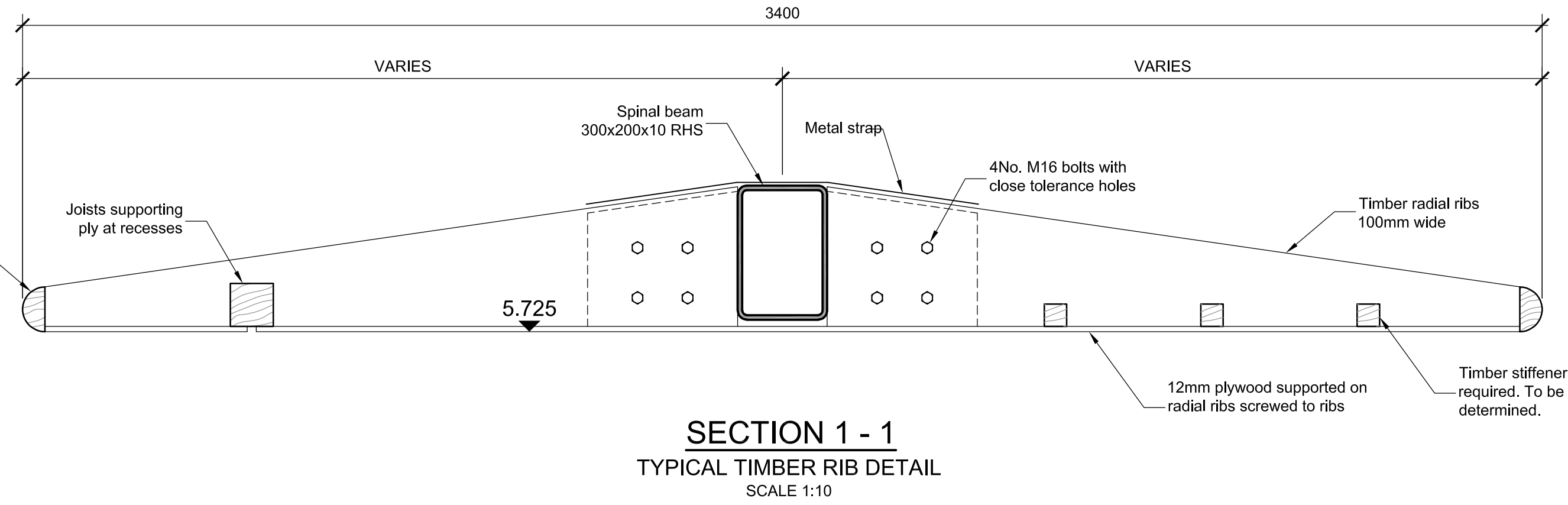
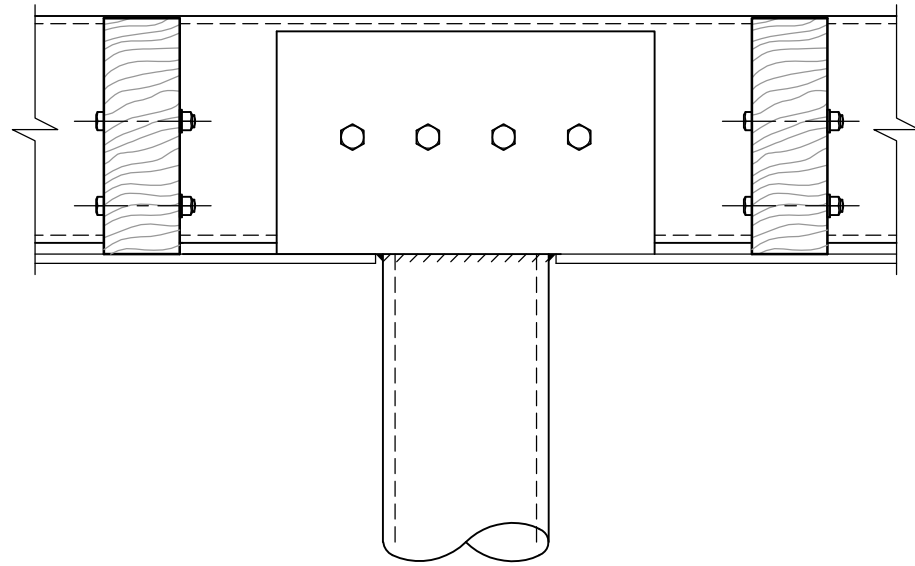
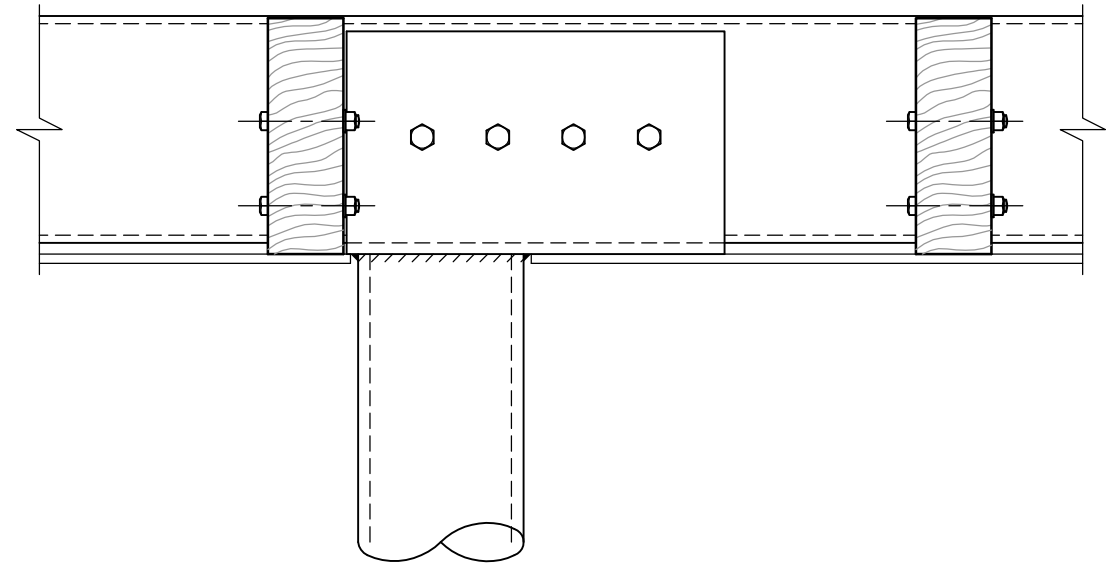
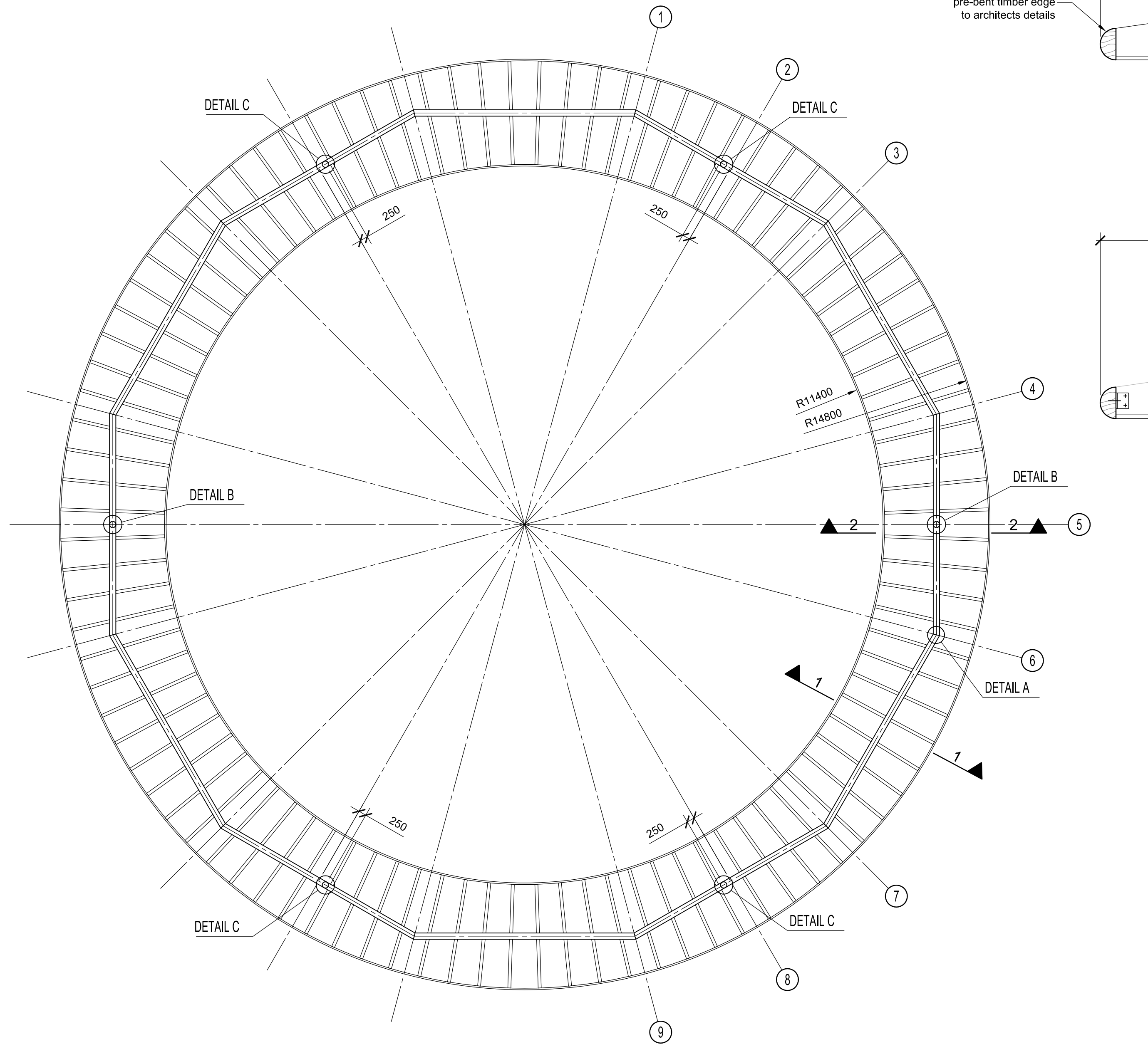


ASSUMED 100 SQ BASE PLATE  
NOT CLEAR HOW DEEP BRICKWORK IS BELOW FLOOR LEVEL.

TIMBER SPREADER SAY 225 x 37mm DEEP.  
LIMIT BEARING STRESS IN CONCRETE TO 2.0 kN/mm² TO ALLOW FOR LOCAL AREAS OF POOR COMPACTION.  
LIMIT BEARING STRESS IN BRICKWORK TO 0.7 kN/mm² ← LIMITING FACTOR.

Revised ISSUED FOR INFORMATION			
Rev:	Date:	Amendment:	Chkd:
<b>ALAN BAXTER &amp; ASSOCIATES</b> INTEGRATED DESIGN FOR THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT 75 COWCROSS STREET, LONDON EC1M 6EL TELEPHONE 020 7250 1555 FAX 020 7250 3022 EMAIL: aba@alanbaxter.co.uk			
Job: <b>BRITISH MUSEUM</b> <b>ROUND READING ROOM</b> <b>TEMPORARY EXHIBITION</b>			
Drg. Title: <b>ACCEPTABLE FLOOR</b> <b>LOADING ON EXISTING</b> <b>FLOOR</b>			
Scale: (original - A1)	Date:	Drawn:	Checked:
AS SHOWN	APR '06		
Drg. No.	699/301/13		Rev.





Notes

1. Steelwork S275
2. Timber as in specification

T2	30/03/07	GT	JT	DL
REVISED AS CLOUDED				
T1	26/03/07	GT	JT	DL
TENDER ISSUE				
Issue	Date	By	Chkd	Appd

ARUP

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London W1T 4BQ  
Tel +44 (0)20 7636 1531 Fax +44 (0)20 7580 3924  
www.arup.com/securityconsulting

Client  
The British Museum

Job Title  
Jade Ring

Drawing Title  
Plan and Details Ring

Scale at A1  
1:100 1:10

Plot ID  
63180FFB-3457-4616-A16A-B9DE50F33C11

Drawing Status

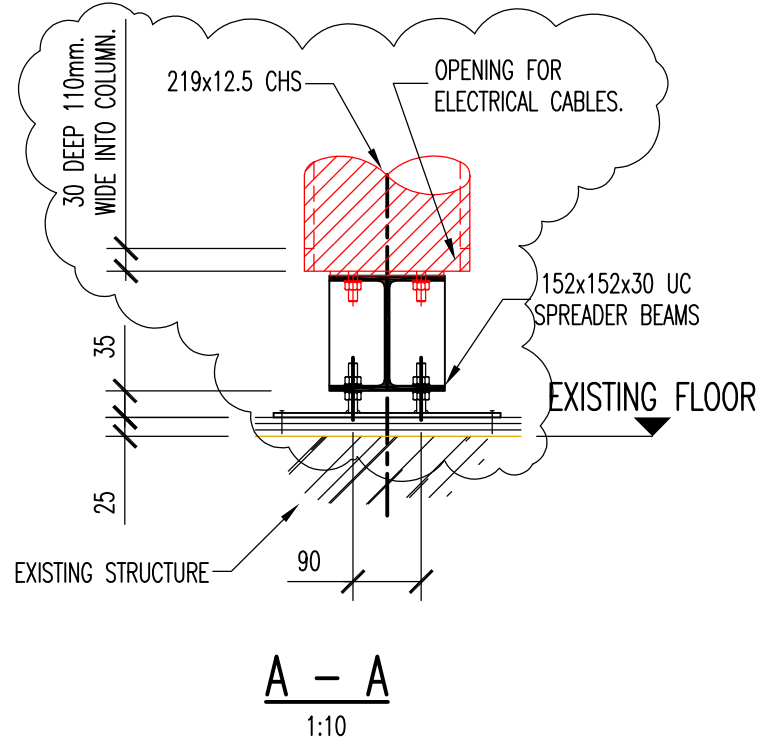
Tender

Job No  
75744-61

Drawing No  
S001

Issue  
T1





- ## General Notes
1. This drawing must not be used for construction or installation purposes unless expressly stated.
  2. Do not scale off this drawing. **Always work to noted dimensions.**
  3. All dimensions must be verified on site before completing shop drawings and setting out the work.
  4. This drawing to be read in conjunction with the technical specification and associated schedules prepared by Arup.
  5. This drawing to be read in conjunction with architectural and service engineer's drawings and Aletier one drawings.
  6. All forces shown ULS design forces.

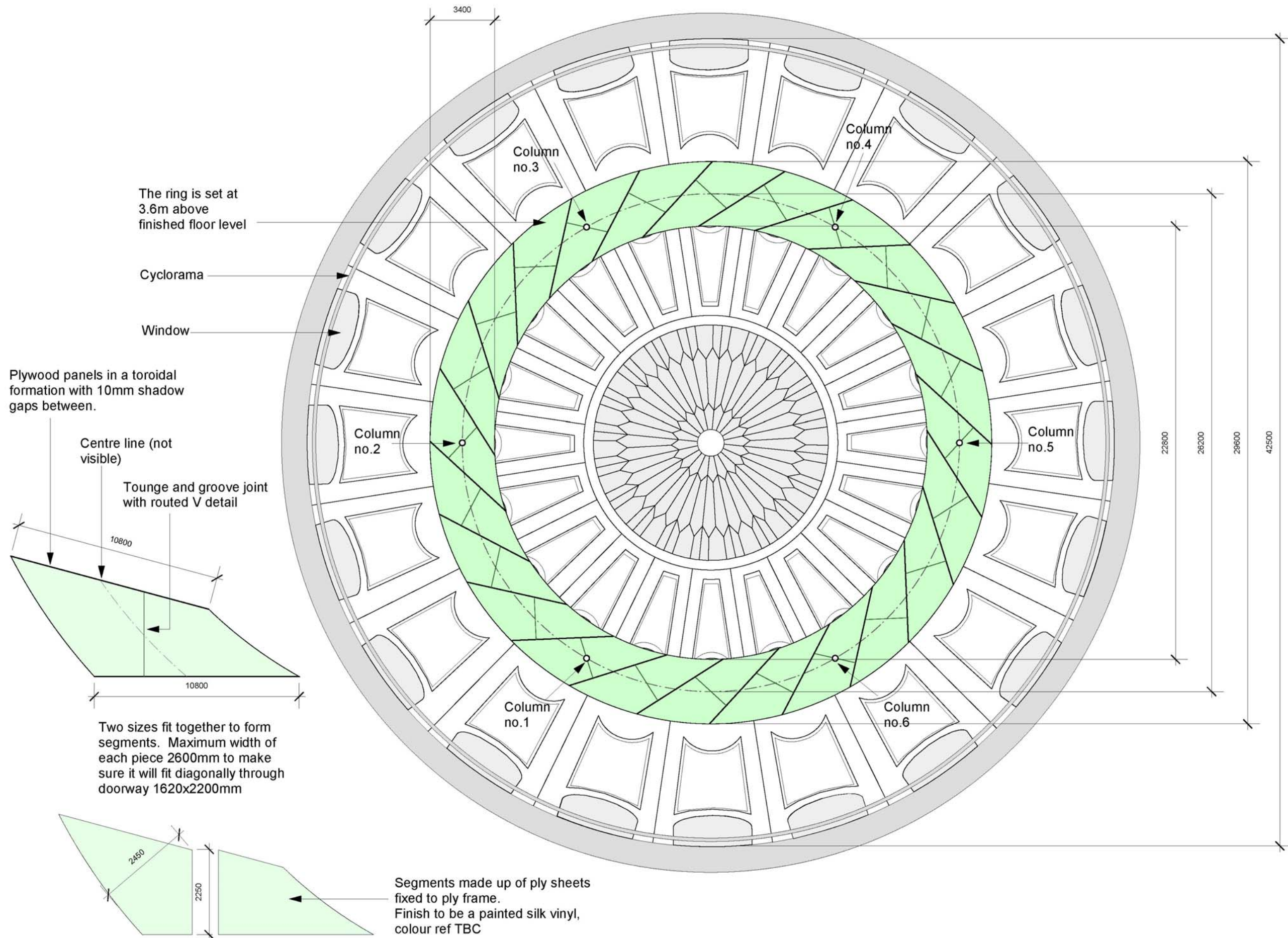
<b>ARUP</b>			
Arup Security Consulting 13 Filzroy Street London W1T 4BQ Tel +44 (0)20 7636 1531 Fax +44 (0)20 7580 3924 www.arup.com/securityconsulting			
Client			
The British Museum			
Job Title			
Jade Ring			
Drawing Title			
Spreader Beams Details			
Scale at A1			
1:100 1:20 1:10			
Plot ID			
CB0143C3-4ECD-410E-9D26-EFF1D3BDEBEA			
Drawing Status			
Tender			
Job No		Drawing No	
75744-61		S003	
Issue		T2	



**Notes:**

Contractor to ensure sizes fit through  
door opening prior to manufacture

See Ove Arup and Partners' drawing  
S001 for construction method and  
support details



**FOR TENDER**

issue	date	description	drawn	checked
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47 St John's Wood  
High Street  
St John's Wood  
London NW8 7NJ  
t: 020 7449 2949  
f: 020 7449 2924  
e: info@mpor.co.uk  
w: www.mpor.co.uk

**metaphor**


client	The British Museum
project title	First Emperor
project address	The British Museum Great Russell Street London WC1B 3DG
job number	BR11-003

scale	paper size	drawing title	no.
1:200	A3	Reflected ceiling plan	100/006

**Segments 1:100**



issue	date	description	drawn	checked
		47 St John's Wood High Street St John's Wood London NW8 7NJ  t 020 7449 2949 f 020 7449 2924 e info@mphor.co.uk w www.mphor.co.uk		



client	The British Museum
project title	First Emperor
project address	The British Museum Great Russell Street London WC1B 3DG
job number	BR11-003

scale	paper size	Drawing title	type	number	revision
1:100	A1	Ring Plan	-	SK_001	

47 St John's Wood  
High Street  
St John's Wood  
London NW8 7NJ

t 020 7449 2949  
f 020 7449 2924  
e [info@mphor.co.uk](mailto:info@mphor.co.uk)  
w [www.mphor.co.uk](http://www.mphor.co.uk)

**metaphor**

client The British Museum

project title First Emperor

project address The British Museum  
Great Russell Street  
London WC1B 3DG

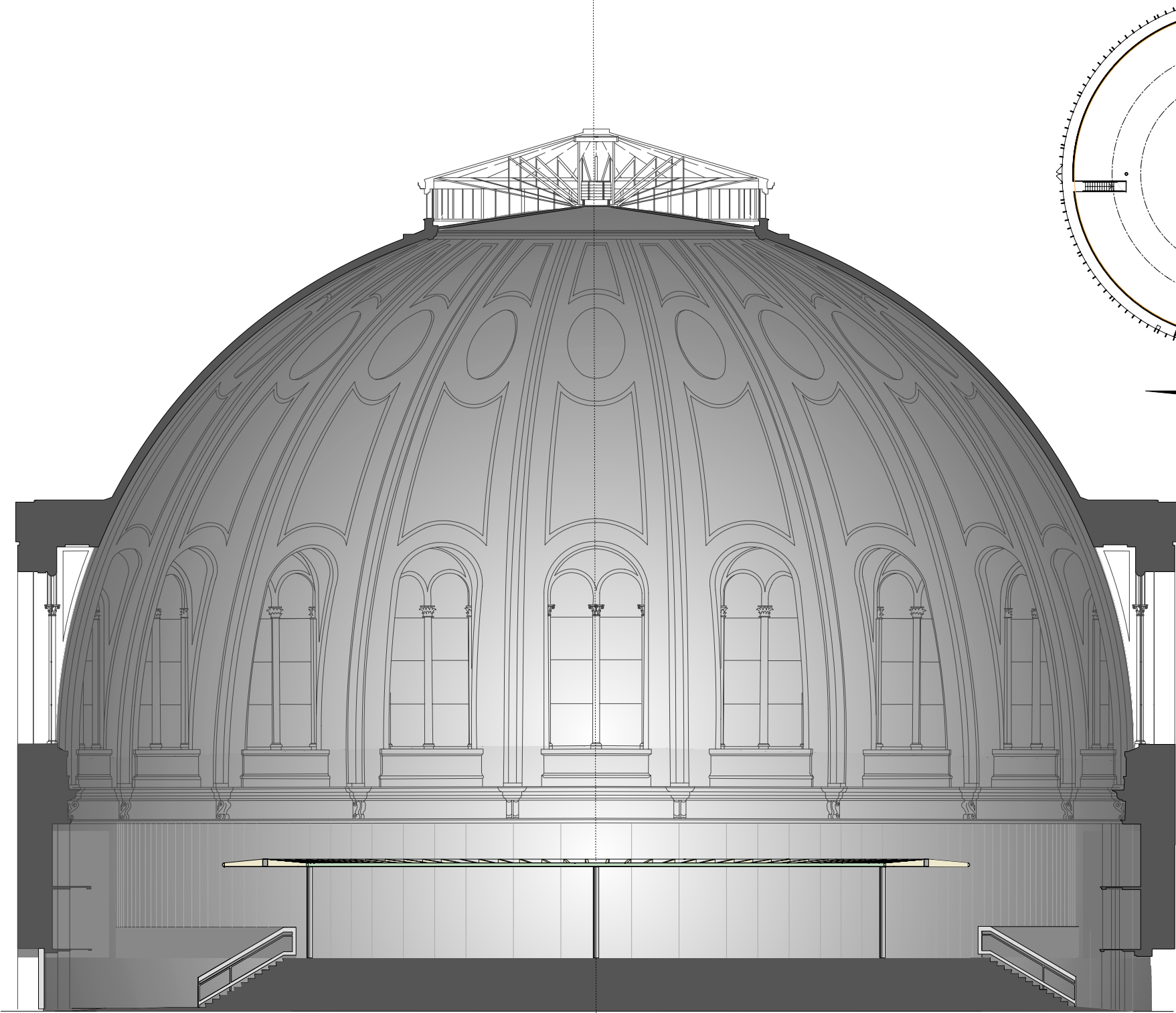
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The British Museum

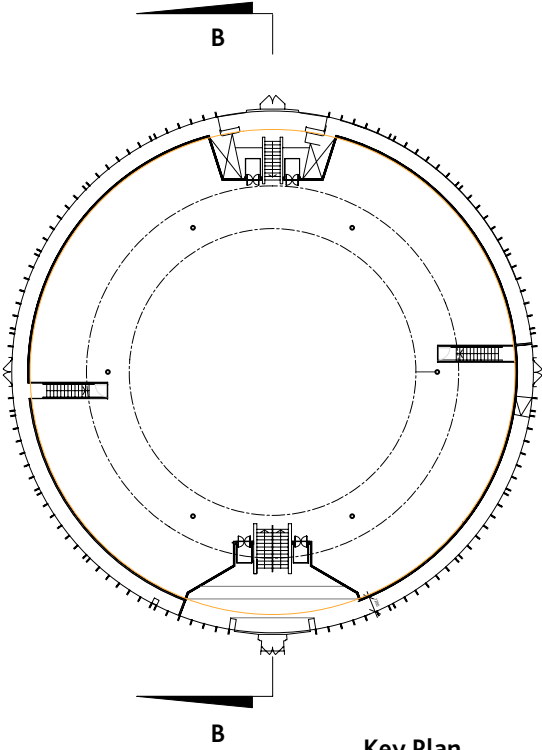
project address The British Museum  
Great Russell Street  
London WC1B 3DG

job number	BRI1-003
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scale	paper size	Drawing title	type	number	revision
1:100	A1	Ring Plan	-	SK_001	



Section B-B



Key Plan

DO NOT SCALE: ALL DIMENSIONS TO BE CHECKED ON SITE  
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**metaphor**

client The British Museum  
project title First Emperor  
project address The British Museum  
Great Russell Street  
London WC1B 3DG  
job number BRI1-003

scale	paper size	drawing title	no.	revision
1:100	A1	Section B-B	SK002	