

Design, Access & Heritage Statement

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UCL Physics F14-F15 Laboratory Refurbishment

UCL Bloomsbury Campus

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1.1: Introduction and Setting

The proposed works are to be undertaken for the Physics Department, in rooms F14 & F15 in the basement floor within the Physics Building at UCL Bloomsbury Campus.

As the building is classed as Grade I listed, it will be necessary to seek approval for Listed Building Consent for any of the proposed works. Wilson Mason have submitted a request with Camden Council for some initial guidance via the 'Pre-Application' service on 20.12.13 (Ref:2013/0250/PRE). A site visit was undertaken by the appointed Conservation Officer, Antonia Powell and her response to the proposals were encouraging.

We were previously advised by Tina Garratt, Conservation Officer of different project on the same building, that although the Physics Building is a fairly modest, but well-mannered looking building, it has obtained its status as Grade I listed, due to it being a later extension to the adjacent Grade I listed Wilkins Building.

The Physics Building has 6 floors and that the original building was steel framed. The steel beams and columns are cased in concrete. There are columns in the external brick piers. Since it was built in 1953, some alteration work to the structure has been undertaken. A reinforced concrete stair has been added between the Physics and Maths buildings at ground floor, rising from ground floor to concrete flat roof at first floor.



Physics Building Elevation
facing rear services yard

The Consultant team were requested in October 2013 to look at the feasibility of providing a new laser laboratory in the basement rooms F14/ F15 of the Physics Building. They are two existing rooms combined into a single space and is currently being used as a Wet Chemistry lab. The rooms are found to be in good decorative order, having undergone a full refurbishment only a few years ago.

The University College London is committed to a programme of refurbishment and upgrades across the whole of their Bloomsbury Campus, and these rooms form part of their wish to bring their laboratories up to a common standard that meet the requirements for modern teaching environments, with new services, equipment, furniture, fittings and decorations, as well as improvements, where possible, Statutory Requirements under the Building Regulations, in terms of fire safety and disability access.



Existing Wet Chemistry Lab



Existing Room F14



Existing Room F15

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1.2: Proposed Works

The proposed layout places the Laser Lab function into F14, with a separation blackout curtain and door interlock for safety purposes. There will be new Trespa lab benching and underbench cupboards/ drawers on one wall, and a heavy-duty laser table in the middle of the space. Existing lab furniture is re-used in the re-configured F15 space, and this will be modified to fit.

The works involves a partly demolition of the existing stair wall in the middle of F15, additional steel structure will be provided to support the stair above. The rooms will be stripped out of existing built-in furniture, new vinyl flooring will be provided, as the existing flooring is likely to get damaged during the works. There will be new power, data, and mechanical ventilation installations, as well as new decorative finishes to walls and new perforated metal ceiling to suit ventilation strategy.

There will be no external works and the proposals envisage very little disturbance to the original fabric.

1.3: Internal Alterations

There will be only minor re-configuration of the existing laboratories. The internal refurbishment will generally comprise of the following:

Walls: partly demolition of an existing wall in F15.

Doors: existing access door from the corridor will be retained.

Ceilings: new perforated metal ceiling to suit ventilation strategy.

Skirtings: new coved vinyl skirtings.

Floors: new 2mm light anti-static vinyl flooring

Furniture: existing lab furniture will be re-used and modified to fit

Services: mechanical and electrical services presently serving the rooms will be adapted/replaced to suit the new layout, including provision of new data outlets and general and emergency lighting and controls.

1.4: External Alterations

No external alternations involve in this proposal.

2.0 Access Arrangement & Provisions under the Equality Act

The new refurbished labs in the basement can be accessed via a passenger lift and the corridor from the lift to the labs is wide enough for wheelchair access.

All new surfaces will have sufficient contrast for visually impaired users, as required under the Building Regulations.