

Application No:	Consultees Name:	Consultees Addr:	Received:	Comment:	Response:
2015/4999/P	Andrew Holden	24 Old Buildings Lincoln's Inn London WC2A 3UP	23/09/2015 14:11:59	OBJEMPER	<p>The proposal to replace the floor in the Old Hall with limestone paving is in principle a sensible attempt to revert to the likely original flooring material. However, the decision to apply a honed finish to the flooring, which will therefore have a sheen, is not.</p> <p>The applicant asserts that the manufacturer of its chosen flooring stone advises the use of a honed material indoors and to prevent staining. However, if the result is that the floor has a sheen (i.e. that it is slightly shiny), the inevitable effect will be to give the floor a modern appearance that will be incongruous with its setting.</p> <p>Every effort should be made by the applicant to ensure that the finish to the replacement floor is in keeping with the age and appearance of the building, but the applicant has provided no evidence of attempts to find an alternative solution which would enable the installation of a floor with a matt, flagstone finish. In particular, no other manufacturers appear to have been approached, and other methods for achieving the desired finish have not been investigated.</p> <p>Whilst a stain-proof floor would be desirable, that should not be at the expense of achieving a finish that is in keeping with the building's interior. As a Grade 1 listed building, it is particularly important to avoid a 'modern' finish that would detract from the overall impact of the space.</p> <p>In my view, the applicant should at the very least be required to demonstrate that it has approached a range of manufacturers, and that it has exhausted other possible options for achieving a matt, flagstone finish for the floor.</p> <p>Without such evidence I would object to the application in its present form.</p>

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