

The Pool Hall



Image 1: Proposed northern extension showing pool hall. Author: SHH.



Image 2: Historical photo showing glass house to the north. Author: Unknown.

The Pool Hall:

Until its demolition in the early 1950's, the glass house to the north contrasted the solidity of the main house with its heavily glazed, steel framed construction, as was typical in this type of architecture (image 2). A glass house being present in a residential home of this scale was seen as a luxurious addition where the user would their spend leisure time and have a literal and transparent display of their affluence. In the 21st century, the modern interpretation of both the architecture and the internal use is most appropriately a pool and leisure wing, thus the northern extension in this restoration will acknowledge this original purpose of such a such structure whilst addressing the requirements of a contemporary modern home.

The design of the proposal therefore follows the precedent set by the glass house by incorporating high levels of glazing and a modern use of materials, contrasting itself as a later addition to Athlone House. The west facade facing Hampstead Heath has three tiers of horizontal glazing, increasing in fenestration as each line sits above the other. Each tier will be recessed in from one other to create a similar stepped profile to the original structure. The larger panels at terrace level will be sliding walls allowing the pool space to open out onto the terrace area.

As discussed earlier in this document, the Walled Garden that wraps around the entire northern extension has been "interrupted" by the glazed elements of the pool hall, as if the glazed structure has "burst through" the wall to have a presence on the western facade. Within the pool area are two open-air light wells that act as fernery's, creating a dual aspect of nature when within the space. The woodland on the site's northern boundary will extend into the fernery space, reinforcing the building's relations with its environment and providing a further acknowledgement to the glass house accommodation in the original glass house.

The 'Transitional' Window Bay



The 'Transitional' Window Bay:

At the north-west corner of Athlone House there is a important architectural junction where the "traditional" of the western facade meets the "contemporary" northern extension. As the design for the pool hall is a modern interpretation of the glass house, the space between the extension and the traditional architecture of the western facade calls for a "transitional" bay between the two to bridge both architectural styles.

As the eye moves along this elevation from south to north, the solid, more traditional massing of Athlone House begins to break down into the more lightweight contemporary glazing of the extension. The transitional bay is a visual representation of this break down by deconstructing the composition of the window bay itself. This corner bay is therefore split into separate two storey panels, one facing the west and one facing the north. Each panel has a dialogue with its respective facade by its use of fenestration and materials. The western panel is clad in stone to match the bays across this facade and the window sizes match the proportions across these window bays. The northern panel is clad in brick, has limited stone detailing and smaller scale fenestration to match the style and hierarchy of the north facade.

In between each panel are thin strips of glazing that begin to introduce the lightweight massing extensively used in the pool. Each glazing strips runs the length of both the walls and roof of the transitional bay, creating a light touch against the existing structure. The glazing strip is also an element that we see used across the proposed walled garden structure which also wraps around into the western facade.

Proposal

the site
new access - design
ground floor
first floor
second floor
tower and roof
basement

east elevation
south elevation
west elevation
north elevation

Caenwood Cottage
the Gate House

area table



The Site:

The proposed site plan will be dictated by the restoration of Athlone House and its surrounding gardens. Elements new to the site will include a new entrance off Hampstead Lane to the north, driveway access to the entrance of the house and a BBQ pavilion nestled within the woodland gardens.

Before the site was subdivided in 2005, the driveway leading to Athlone House came directly from the east, leading through what is now Caenwood Court. During this subdivision, the entrance to the site was moved to its current location on the site's north-eastern corner, a shared driveway with the neighbouring residents of Caenwood Court. The proposed new driveway will lead from both the existing entrance and the new entrance directly off Hampstead Lane. Both will lead directly to the entrance of Athlone House, as well as the service entrance within the northern extension.

The position of the new entrance will allow the redeveloped Caenwood Cottage and Gate House to act as security checkpoints of the main house, conveniently positioned at either side of the proposed entrance.

Athlone House will reinstate the wings to the north of the main building that were previously in existence until after World War II. This, along with the redevelopment of the main building and terrace, are the only works proposed to the house itself.

The surrounding gardens will be restored in line with the design of Edward Milner dating back to 1870. A full and detailed description of this restoration can be found in the "Landscape" section of this document.

New Access - Design



Image 1: Beechwood entrance off Hampstead Lane. Author: Google.



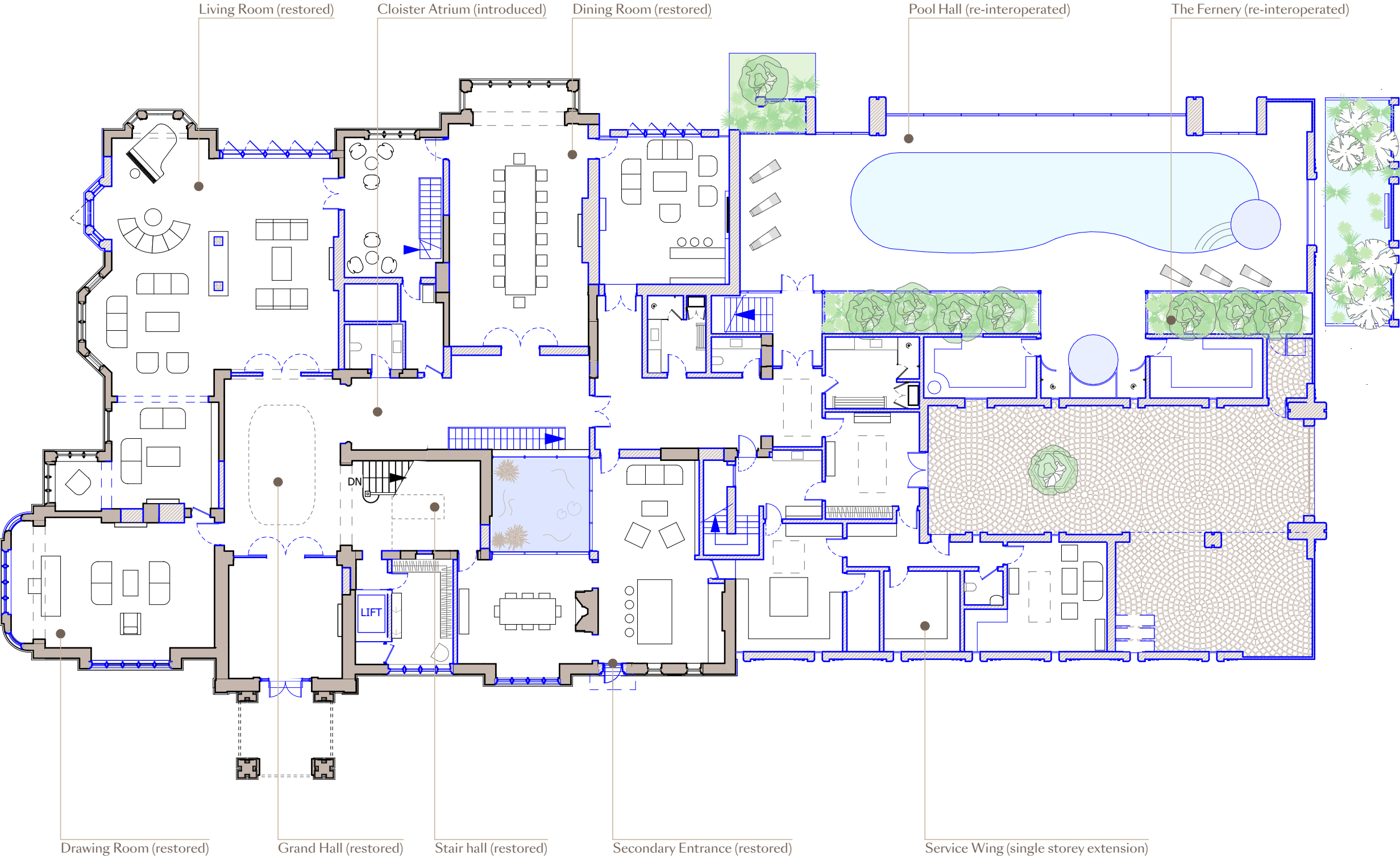
Image 2: Artist impression of proposed entrance to Athlone House on Hampstead Lane. Author: SHH.

The Design:

After discussions with Camden Council regarding the design of the proposed entrance, the precedent that was given most validity was the entrance to Beechwood, 350 metres to the east of Athlone House.

For reasons of style, safety and limited visual permeability, the proposed entrance to Athlone House will follow Beechwood's approach in its design. To define the extent of the opening in the existing wall, two brick piers with modest detailing will be erected on each side. Immediately adjacent to the entrance itself, an additional two brick piers with increased detailing will be positioned next to the gates. Curved walls in matching brickwork will follow the semi-circular boundary leading between the primary and secondary piers.

The gates themselves will be in painted wrought iron with a solid metal panel backing as is the arrangement at Beechwood. This design approach to restrict visual permeability into the site was a request from the local authority.



Ground Floor Plan:

The accommodation on the ground floor will follow the traditional layout of the original house with the majority of the principle rooms deemed to be historically significant to be restored as part this application.

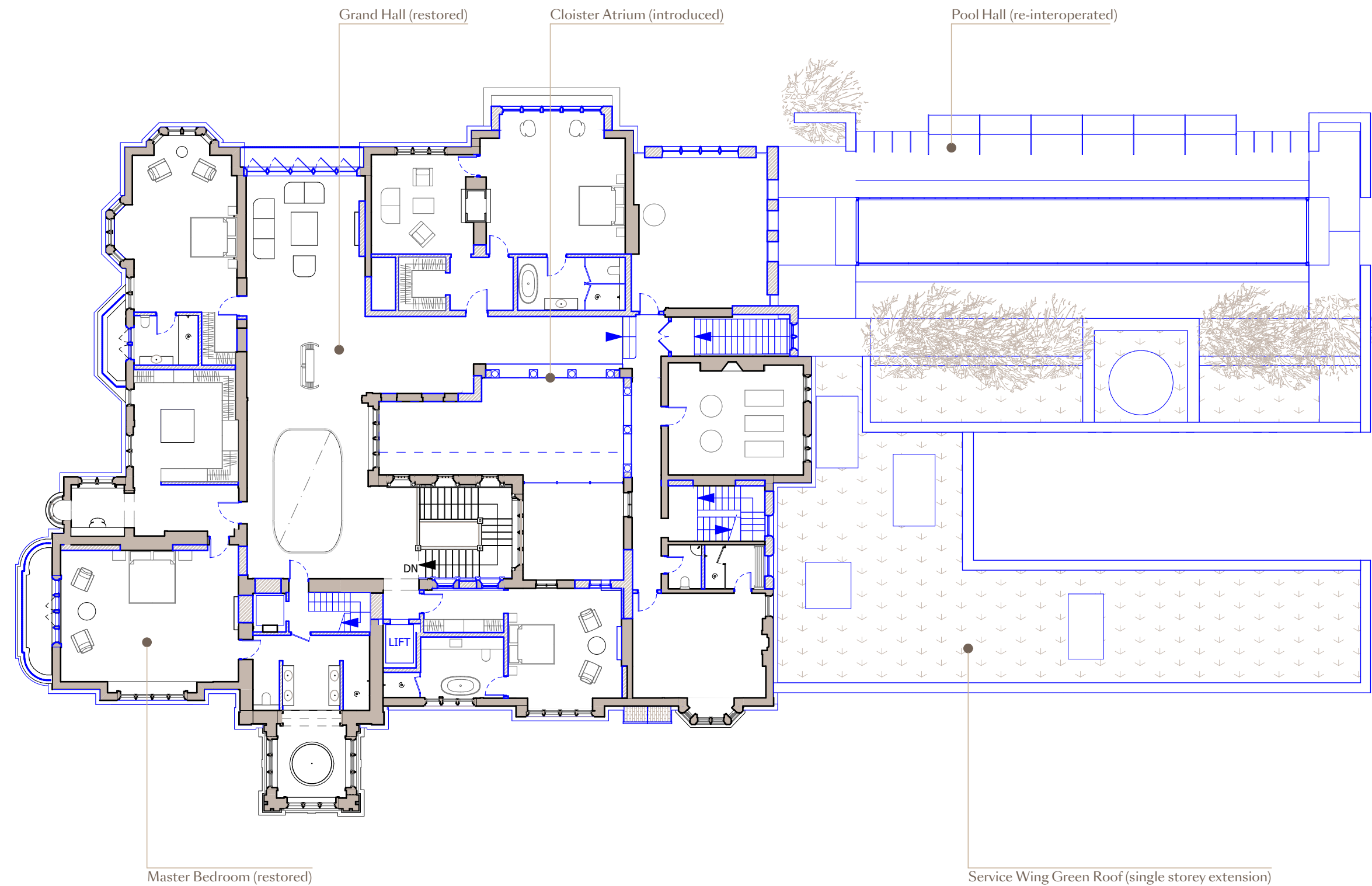
The formal entertaining rooms remain located directly off the Grand Hall with a void created in the floor above to establish a double-height volume befitting the scale of the house.

Access to the Dining Room is via an internal atrium with a cloister hall at first floor level. A double-height volume with a glazed wall and ceiling directly abuts the external face of the stair hall, allowing its external decorative windows to be in full view.

The less formal family accommodation is located to the east, taking advantage of the morning sun and the restored entry point adjacent to the kitchen garden outside.

The extensions to the north accommodate the leisure and service facilities appropriate for a house of this magnitude. The pool hall location is in reference to the glass house that once stood in the same position, as its use is a modern interpretation of what was deemed to be a leisure activity in the period of its construction.

The service accommodation is located away from the more formal areas of the house. Vehicle access is located within an internal courtyard that is housed within the subservient "Walled Garden" extension.



First Floor Plan:

Following the traditional hierarchy of the ground floor, the first floor reflect's Athlone House original arrangement housing the primary sleeping accommodation.

The Master Suite is located on the south-east corner to incorporate its uses within the tower and porte cochère. Balcony access will also be restored on the south elevation.

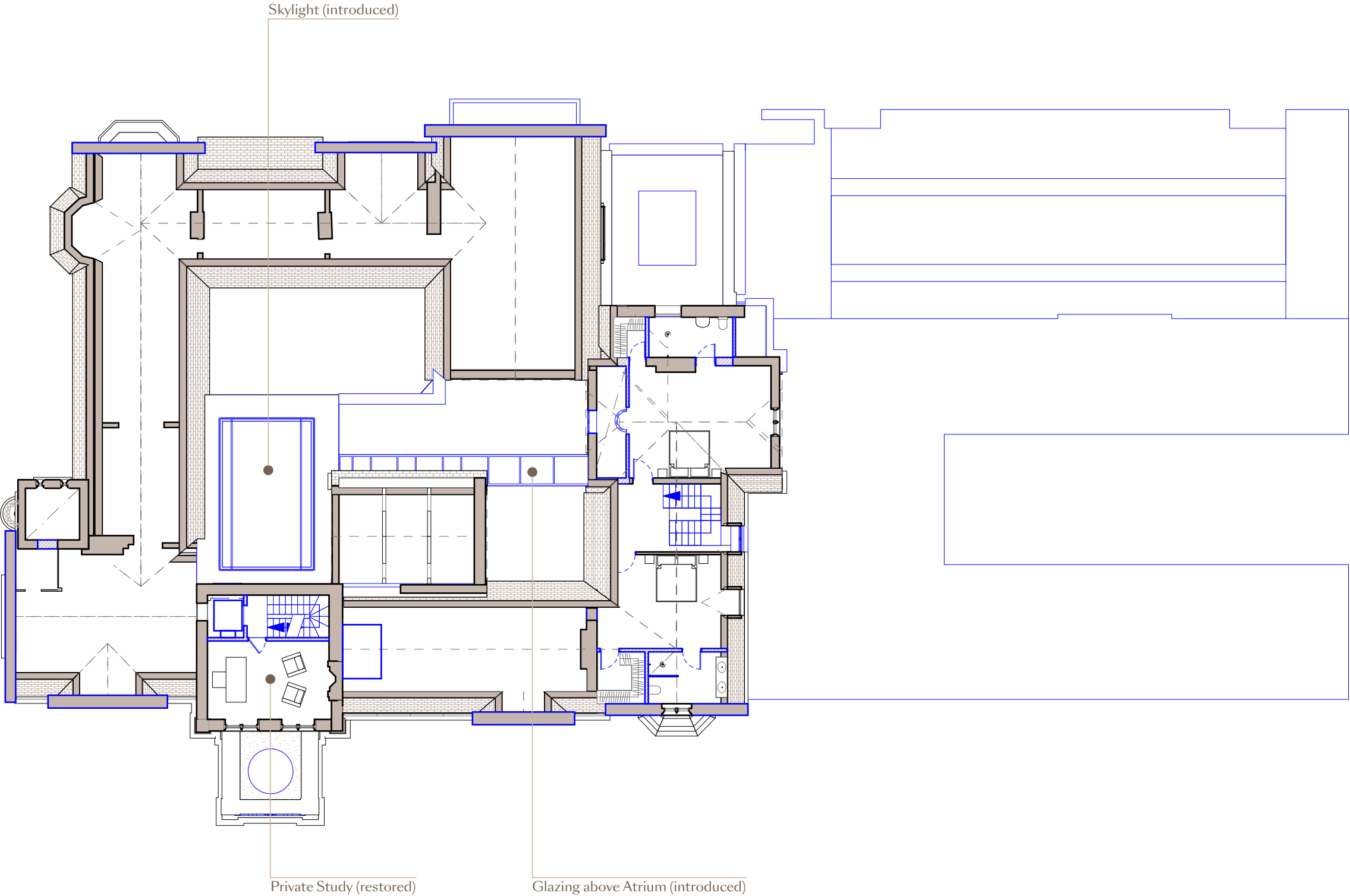
Generous bedroom suites along the south and west will take full advantage of views towards Hampstead Heath.

A large skylight above the Grand Hall's two-storey volume established views of the east tower, allowing the scale of Athlone House to be appreciated from inside as well as out.

The internal, double-height Cloister Atrium directs sight toward the external face of the Stair Hall.

As occurs on the Ground Floor the gym, yoga and treatment leisure facilities remain toward the north.

Second Floor



Second Floor Plan:

The majority of the second floor is attic space, governed by the roof forms of the building. The application is not to introduce habitable rooms into these loft spaces rather to maintain them as overflow storage and service spaces.

Moving higher up the tower, a Private Study is accessed via a restored stair and single-passenger lift.

Towards the north, the existing rooms are converted into additional bedroom suites.

