

Design and Access Statement



57-58 Russell Square, London WC1B 4HS

25 October 2016

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1. Introduction

The proposal being put forward is the renovation of the toilets in Nos. 57 and 58 Russell Square.

These buildings are Grade II listed buildings within the Bedford Estates and are in the Bloomsbury Conservation Area. They are in the Borough of Camden.

The buildings house the London Mathematical Society which comprises 57–58 Russell Square, London WC1B 4HS.

2. Design Principles and Context

The design principle for the proposal is to update the toilets for the use of the Society while respecting the existing fabric of the Grade II listed building.

The toilets are currently in need of modernisation and refreshing. The current toilets are not original to the building but were installed to suit the Society's needs. In a similar way, the proposal is to refresh the existing facilities in order to better serve the Society.

Some toilets will be re-planned to better suit the Society's needs, with unisex toilets replacing existing women's and a men's toilets. The remaining toilets will be updated with new fixtures, fittings and finishes, but with similar layout to the existing.

One toilet in the lower ground floor is re-planned in a way that allows for a small cupboard to be created for storage. This space is required by the Society to supplement its on-site archive facilities.

The original fabric of the toilets will be preserved where relevant. Cornices will be retained. Existing doors above lower ground level will be retained. Existing double hung windows will have new sash weights fitted and will be repainted and restored.

3. Approach to Access

Access to the toilets will not change from the existing. A lift and a staircase serve No. 58 Russell Square. No 57 Russell Square is accessed by a staircase.

The existing disabled toilet will remain accessible. The existing door is wide enough at 0.93 metres to accommodate a wheelchair and ambulant disabled people.

4. Local Planning Policies

The Local Authority (London Borough of Camden) were consulted about this proposal: both the Planning Team and the Conservation Team were approached and gave guidance on how to proceed. It was advised that although Planning Permission would not be required, a Listed Building Consent Application would be needed.