

DESIGN & ACCESS STATEMENT – SENATE HOUSE, STORAGE MEZZANINE

AMOUNT

The proposal is for the addition of a timber mezzanine level within a large storage room (93sqm) on the first floor of Senate House, at the University of London.

CONTEXT

The storage area within the grade II* listed Senate House is on the first floor and runs along the rear of the senate room. It has a high ceiling at 4.5m and is therefore a large enough volume to accommodate an additional half level to increase the area for storage. The space is only accessed by staff of the University. It currently has a single access door and therefore requires an additional door for escape at the opposite end.



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3 Location for new escape door in plaster-board partition

DESIGN PROPOSAL

The design proposes a timber mezzanine level at half-height within the space, which has 2 sets of timber access stairs as well as a lifting hoist in the northeast corner. An additional area of floor deck, also constructed in timber, is proposed over the south stair to provide access to a new escape door into the senate room lobby. From the lobby the door would appear as concealed doors within the existing plasterboard paneled partition (fig. 3,4 and 5).



Figure 4 - Location for new concealed escape door in plasterboard partition



Figure 5

ACCESS

The mezzanine intervention is intended to comply with all current legislation with regards to access. Access into the space is unchanged other than the addition of an additional escape door.

MATERIALS

The mezzanine is proposed in treated softwood timber as a lightweight intervention within the space. The additional escape door is proposed as a concealed door within the plasterboard paneled partition to the lobby area.

HISTORIC BUILDINGS/LISTED APPROVAL

The scheme has been designed to minimize any adverse impact to the existing building. The space is a storage area only accessed by staff and the intervention is lightweight and could be deconstructed at any later date. The new escape door will be a concealed door to minimize visual change within the lobby. It has been located in a plasterboard non-structural partition to avoid any demolition to masonry walls and travertine marble.