The British Museum

Visitor Search Facilities Proposed Cladding

Design and Access Statement: 21/12/2016

1. Background Information

Applications for planning and listed building consent were made by The British Museum earlier in 2016 for the erection of security search structures at the north and south entrances to the Museum. In order to serve our immediate need for improvements to security for visitors, staff, the collection and the listed building temporary buildings were constructed on the site to provide a secure environment for searching visitors before allowing them access into the Museum building. The building at the south entrance was constructed in May 2016 and the building at the north entrance was constructed in August 2016. Applications for consent were made 04/05/2016 and 25/07/2016 respectively. The Museum's intention has always been to clad these buildings in a material more in keeping with the context of the Grade I listed building and we have since presented various options for covering the structures to the statutory bodies' teams at our quarterly meetings.

2. Design Options

We appointed Dannatt Johnson Architects, in October 2016, to review options for cladding both the structures. The architects visited site to review the context of the north and south structures and prepared options for discussion with the project team. The preferred option is for a design which incorporates individual cladding panels in the form of rainscreen cladding attached to the outside of the buildings. The coursing and pattern of the cladding is to be similar to the ashlar blocks to the King Edward VII Building and colonnade elevations.

3. Material Options

Several materials have been considered for the rainscreen cladding including the following:

- Eternit composite panels
- Pictureperf mesh screen
- Dibond coated aluminium panels
- Alucobond Terra panels

Samples of the materials were presented by our architect and we considered that the preferred options were Dibond aluminium panels with a matt finish in 'Light Ivory' or Eternit Equitone Tectiva with a subtle linear textured finish in 'Calico'.

Samples of the Dibond panels were tabled at the December 8th quarterly meeting along with images form the architects indicating the cladding pattern for the building screens. HE and Camden indicated that these proposals would be considered for temporary approval for the Museum to retain the structures.

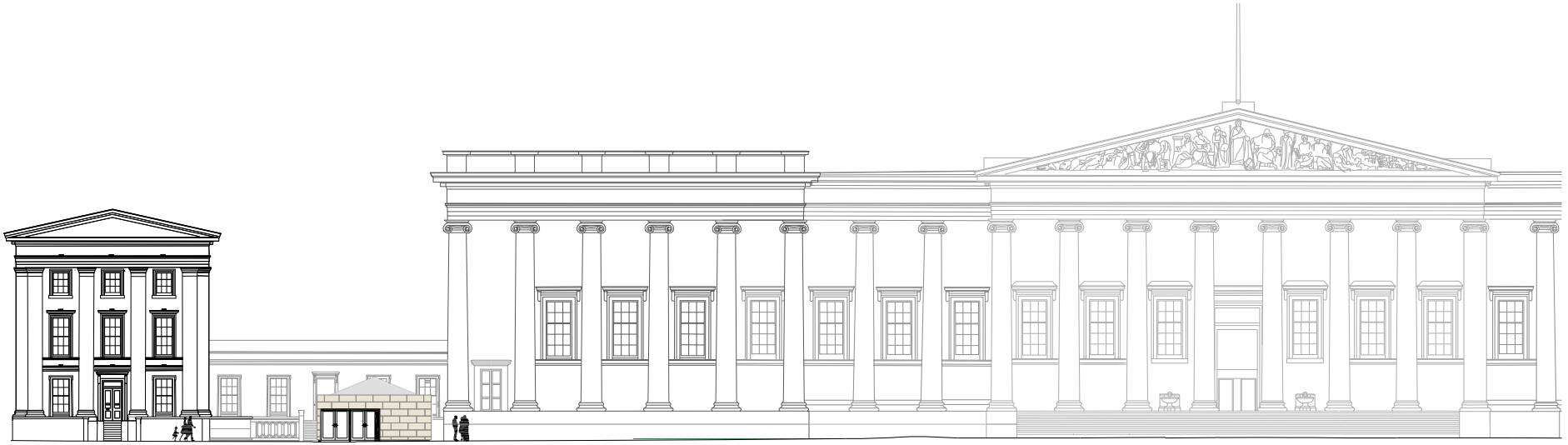
We subsequently presented the alternative Equitone samples to Camden at a separate meeting 20th December and it was agreed that this material is more in keeping with the Portland stone of the buildings principal elevations.

4. Proposal

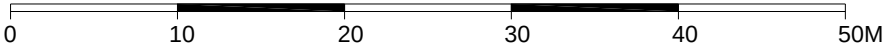
We propose to clad both structures with rainscreeen cladding in the form of Eternit Equitone panels on a metal frame attached to the building structure. The Architect's drawings indicating the pattern of the cladding for the buildings are included in Appendix A and photo-montage images are included in Appendix B. DJA have designed geometric pattern elevations for the south structure but have made the pattern more random for the north structure to be in keeping with the coursing of the stone on the King Edward VII Building principal elevation.

The material proposed is Eternit Tectiva in Calico, data sheets with images of the cladding material are attached in Appendix C. We have compared the Calico colour with the Portland stone and consider it to be a close match.

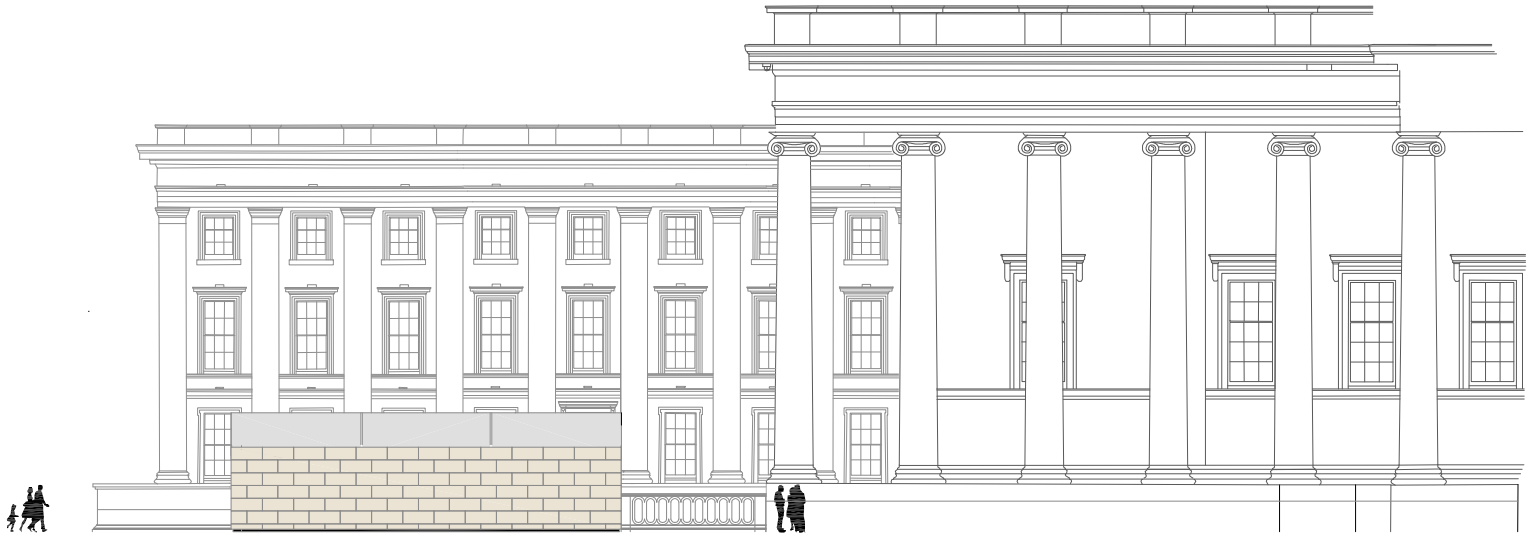
Appendix A: Indicative Drawings



SOUTH ELEVATION

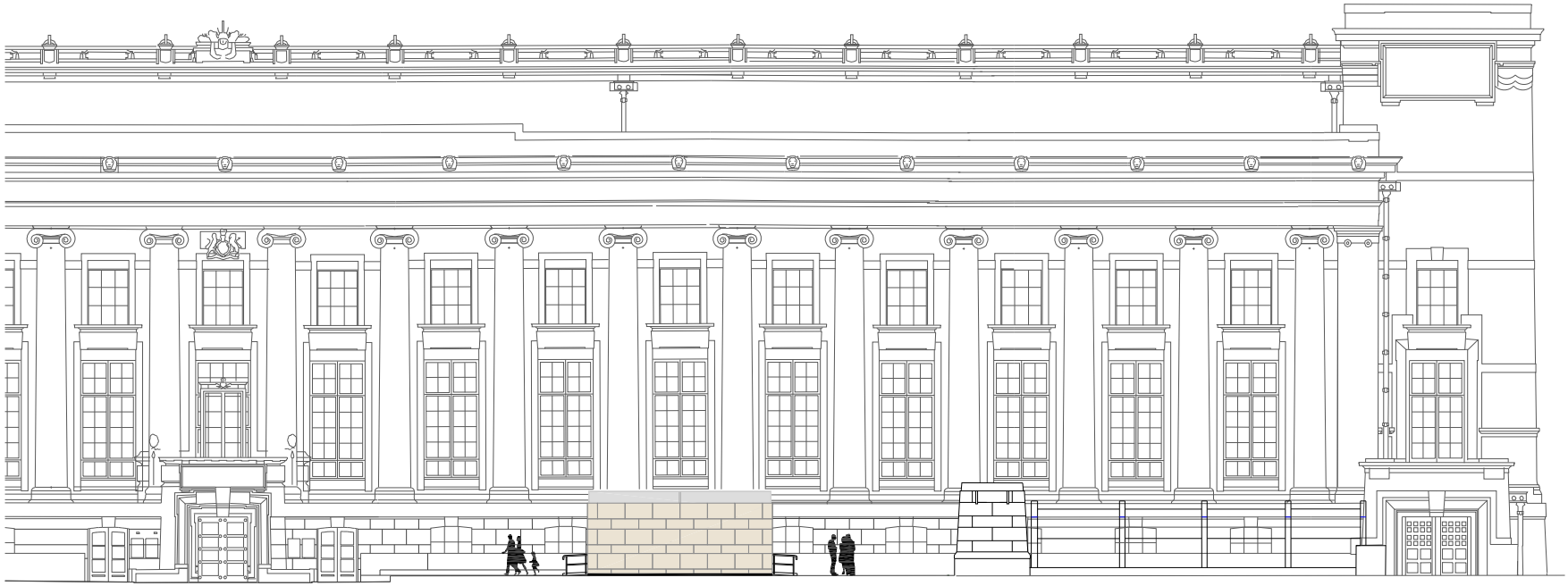


South Security Structure Image 1



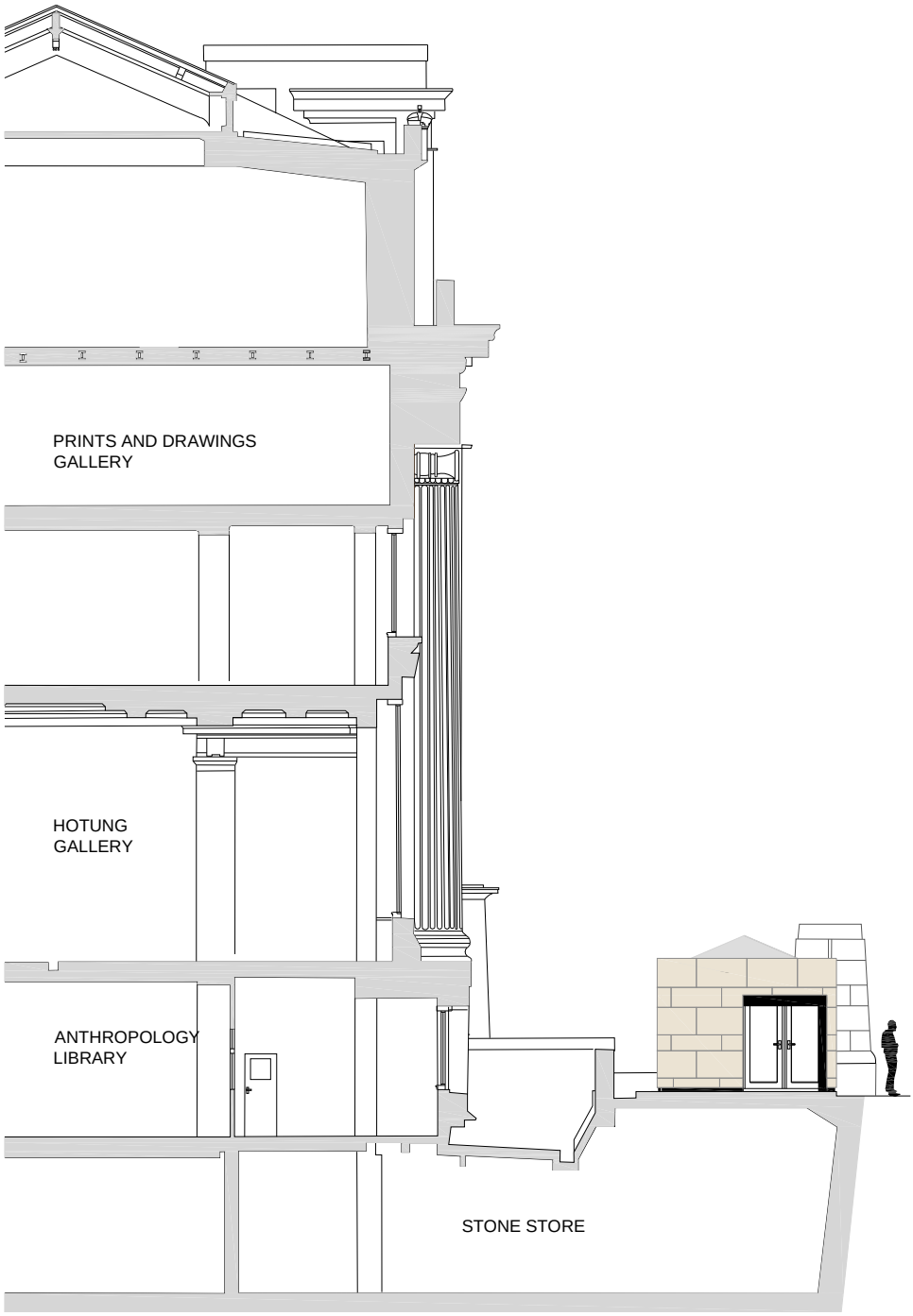
EAST ELEVATION

South Security Structure Image 2



NORTH ELEVATION

North Security Structure Image 1



EAST ELEVATION

North Security Structure Image 2

Appendix B: Photo-montage images

South Security Structure

North Security Structure

Appendix C: Eternit cladding images:

Equitone rainscreen cladding

Eternit Equitone Tectiva colour range