



Sent by email: Kristina.Smith@camden.gov.uk to kindly forward to Reed Watts Architects

05 August 2021

Dear Kristina and Reed Watts Architects,

2021/1621/P - ACLAND BURGHLEY SCHOOL, 93 BURGHLEY ROAD, LONDON, NW5 1UJ

The Twentieth Century Society writes to support the proposals for a 'Single storey extension to south-east facade of main assembly hall building to provide accessible WCs and buried earth duct associated with new ventilation system'. While we understand that the application for Listed Building Consent has been granted, we wish to still write to outline our support for the scheme.

Acland Burghley School was built in 1963-7 by the leading post-war architects Howell, Killick, Partridge and Amis (HKPA). The importance of the school architecturally and historically was recognised in its Grade II listing in 2016. The list entry describes its assembly hall as "jewel-like", and "a particularly notable feature where the use of timber and concrete gives a rich texture". This hall has a striking and dramatic interior, reminiscent of the firm's university dining halls being built at Oxford and Cambridge at the same time. Hexagonal in shape, it is designed as double ended to serve a variety of functions, with considerable care taken over the acoustics and lighting. The walls and ceiling are lined with timber with deep concrete soffits below clerestory glazing.

The Society welcomes the proposed alterations to the listed assembly hall to improve its capacity and performance as a venue and enable it to be enjoyed by the school and wider community. We have no objections to the principal changes which include a single storey extension and the replacement of the non-original floor and stage area. The extension will be modest and well-designed, and the new timber floor will be more in keeping with the original while the proposed stage and seating set-up will be more flexible, ensuring its continued use. Other aspects of the proposed scheme have clear heritage benefits, such as the removal of paint from interiors to expose original concrete finishes, the timber infilling of non-original holes cut into the walls, and removal of unsympathetic later lighting.

To summarise, the Society is of the opinion that the scheme will allow the assembly hall to better perform as a venue, providing a fantastic asset for the school and local community, while conserving its special interest as a Grade II listed building. As such, the scheme has the Society's full support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Coco', written in a cursive style.

Coco Whittaker
Caseworker
Twentieth Century Society

Remit: The Twentieth Century Society was founded in 1979 and is the national amenity society concerned with the protection, appreciation, and study of post-1914 architecture, townscape and design. The Society is acknowledged in national planning guidance as the key organisation concerned with the modern period and is a constituent member of the Joint Committee of the National Amenity Societies. Under the procedures set out in *ODPM Circular 09/2005*, all English local planning authorities must inform the Twentieth Century Society when an application for listed building consent involving partial or total demolition is received, and they must notify us of the decisions taken on these applications.