

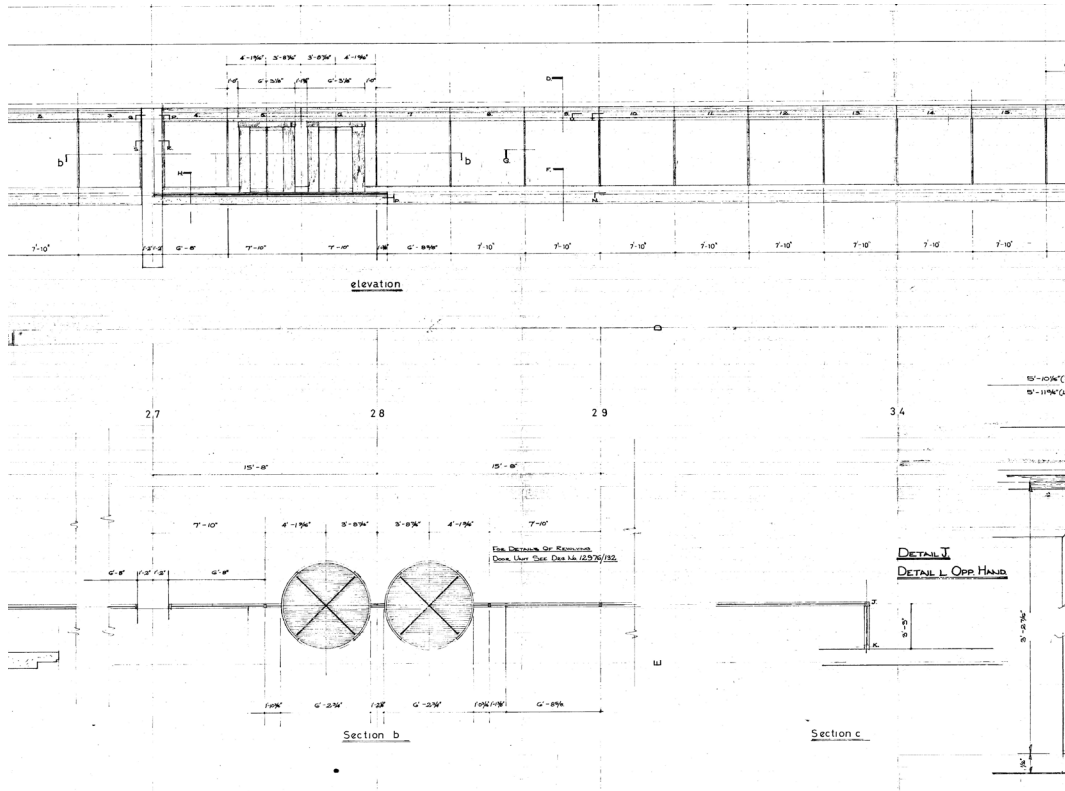
## 2.3 Existing 20 Bedford Way

### Thornhaugh Mews Entrance

A secondary entrance leads pedestrians from the terrace from Thornhaugh Mews, to level 4. The original entrance was through a pair of revolving doors. This was changed to a single revolving door and automatic opening pass door to provide an accessible entrance.



Photograph of terrace to Thornhaugh Mews entrance



Drawing - Original Elevation/Plan Drawing of UCL IOE Thornhaugh Mews entrance

### Entrance Foyer, Level 3 and 4

The existing entrance sequence allows for three points of entry into the building. The West entrance from Thornhaugh Mews and the stairs from Bedford Way are most commonly used by staff and students, while the east entrance from Bedford Way to level 3 is used more commonly by conference guests and those accessing the Halls.

The split level entrance foyer connects the Bedford Way and Thornhaugh Mews entrances through a grand atrium and staircase. The giant columns, deep stair well and flat expanses of concrete are of significant architectural interest.

Over time, the original high-quality concrete has been covered with plaster, blue paint and modern finishes such as carpets, skirtings, signage and light fittings mask the original finishes and detract from the architectural experience.

Photograph from of the central atrium and grand columns circa 1977

Photograph from of the central atrium and grand columns in 2020



## 2.3 Existing Bedford Way

### Accessibility

#### Bedford Way, Level 3 Access

The existing arrival from Bedford Way is neither fully accessible nor inclusive. Building users arriving through the level 3 entrance, arrive at an interim level, with a set of stairs leading down through the main atrium, and towards the circulation cores.

To provide access to wheelchair users, a folding stair lift has been installed to the side of the steps. The existing stair lift cannot be operated independently, is heavy, slow to operate and prone to breakdown. The current lift is unable to take the weight of some larger, heavier power wheelchairs and their occupants. As one of the first barriers it does not create a welcoming and inclusive experience for disabled users.

On entering the building at level 3 the current platform stair lift is fairly dominant in the view through the building. At weekends this entrance is the only entrance available for external visitors and needs to provide suitable independent access for all.



Photograph of existing folding stair lift

Photograph of existing folding stair lift

#### Bedford Way, Level 4 Access

The existing direct access from the main entrance to Level 4 is via a platform lift located to the far side of the existing computer cluster. The lift can only be accessed externally, via a ramp and secondary entrance to the far side of the main entrance.

Wheelchair users visiting the building have to use an intercom located next to the door to provide access through the door. Once within the building through this entrance, there is no accessible route to level 3, with a step between the lift and the computer cluster.

This secondary access route, is not inclusive and requires wheelchair users to experience their arrival in a very different way.



Photograph of external ramp and door to existing platform lift



Photograph of internal route to existing platform lift



Photograph of existing platform lift