

**Rafi Miah**

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Dear Jennifer Walsh,

**Land to the North of the British Library**

**Your references: 2022/1320/L and 2022/1041/P**

I write to express my dismay at the proposals for the land to the north of The Grade 1 listed British Library.

The proposed demolition of the Library's Conservation Centre is bad enough but the destruction of the circular drum and the impact of the new building on the carefully designed north elevation of the Library is horrendous. Moving south, I note that the new building will be visible above the Library's entrance hall roof!

How can the setting of a Grade 1 major public building be destroyed in this way – in direct contravention of planning legislation (Section 66 of the Planning Act 1990)?

When, in 1975, the Library was being designed, the Director of Planning for Camden, Bruno Schlaffenberg, was most insistent that the new building should not obstruct the view of the St Pancras Hotel and Chambers (as seen from the

steps of the Shaw Theatre – now a Novohotel). It is for that reason that the south end of the Library (the Conference Centre) is so low. Likewise, very strict sunlight and daylight criteria had to be met along the Ossulston Street frontage in order to [protect the housing opposite – which explains the pitched roofs and low eaves level along that frontage. It is deeply ironic that today, 47 years later, no such protection is being afforded the Library.

I urge you to recommend the rejection of this proposal.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Carolin

*Peter Carolin CBE  
Emeritus Professor of Architecture  
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