

Design Access Statement

Re: refurbishment works at 3 Verulam Buildings, Gray's Inn, London, WC1R 5NT

The proposed refurbishment works are minor amendments to the reception and waiting room areas to improve the space utilisation and overall aesthetic of the two rooms.

The current reception area consists of a large joinery island unit utilised as a reception desk and storage unit for front of house purposes with circulation around its perimeter. Within the section which runs from the floor to the ceiling is the waste pipe from the toilets on the floor above.

The proposed reception removes this central island unit in its entirety, a new reception desk is installed in the corner and a wall cabinet unit from floor to ceiling is installed. The detail at the top of the cabinet will be carefully scribed around the existing cornice to avoid any damage.

The now-exposed waste pipe will be re-routed c.800mm towards the wall by cutting a channel in the ceiling avoiding the floor joists (ceiling not original, modern plasterboard) and routing the pipework through it. The channel will stop short of the cornice and enable the pipework to route downwards, through the wall unit, concealed in one of the cupboards.

The rationale for the works to the reception area is to improve the overall natural light within the room which in turn highlight the original features. The proposed design is intended to improve the visitor experience of the building.

Within the waiting room, furniture is being removed and replaced with new, more contemporary versions. Enhancements in the room relate to the plant-on dado to create the effect of decorative panelling as per the drawings. This is again to enhance the heritage nature of the building. New rugs will be installed, and the lighting will be upgraded to suit the design. All existing historical features such as the fireplace will be retained in their entirety.