

Evolution
Chartered Architects

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Design, Access and Heritage Statement for Proposed internal alterations to Barbican Library to form a Community Room



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I Introduction

- 1.1 This Design and Access Statement has been prepared by Evolution Architects for the City of London Corporation – Commissioning and Partnerships, with input from the Stakeholders/Client and Design Team, in support of a Listed Buildings Application for the site.

This statement contains an explanation and assessment of the site, the planning context in which these details are submitted and justification for the design approach.

This statement should be read in conjunction with the other supporting documentation included in the submission.

The site is in the Barbican Library which is within the Barbican Arts Centre, and forms part of the Grade II Listed Barbican Estate.
The Barbican Library is located on Level 2 within the Barbican Centre and the proposal is in the location of the Arts Library.

- 1.2 The proposal outlined in this document is for the creation of a multi-functional, hireable community room which will enable library-organised and community-organised events to take place and is ancillary to the Barbican Library.

2 The Project Team

- 2.1 This application is being made on behalf of joint stakeholders, Barbican Library and Barbican residents association.

- 2.2 Barbican Library
Barbican & Community Libraries is the service name for the City's three lending libraries. These are:
Barbican Library
Situated on level 2 of the Barbican Centre, this is a major London library and the City's largest public library. It has a separate children's library and contains one of the UK's biggest and best used public music libraries.
Shoe Lane Library
Shoe Lane Library is a popular and well-used library, housed in the Deloitte building in the heart of the business City.
Artizan Street Library and Community Centre
This is the City's newest library, located in the east of the City. It has four hireable rooms and the staff provide a public library, a community centre and frontline housing services to the local community.

- 2.3 Barbican Association
The Barbican Association (BA) is the recognised Tenants Association for the Barbican. Approximately 60% of its residents are members. It represents all who live here – leaseholders and their subtenants.

Barbican residents comprise approximately half of all residents within the City of London. The City consults with the BA on strategic developments such as Climate change, the Local Plan, Conservation, Planning, Traffic Management, Governance and Licensing.

The BA works in conjunction with the Barbican Residential Consultation Committee

(RCC) which deals with the City (the landlord) on all matters pertaining to leases. The Barbican provides a unique environment for residents. The BA's role is to maintain, protect and enhance the Estate in many ways.

Many Barbican residents meeting have taken place in the Lilac Room, a meeting room with a large central table and chairs, which is located below the podium between the entrance to Lauderdale Tower and the Barbican Estate Offices. The basement room is windowless and fairly small for gatherings.

Community use is outside of the office hours of 08:30am to 17:00pm. Therefore it is available to residents from 18:30pm until 22:00pm. There is no direct lift access for people who are not Barbican residents because the access routes go through Barbican blocks which are only accessible to residents, and it is not available at weekends. There are no rooms within the Barbican Estate which can be used by Residents to organise functions during the day or at weekends.

2.4 During this project, the design team have consulted with others to discuss and review the proposals, as follows:

- Library staff
- Barbican Association
- City of London Planning
- City of London Building Control
- City of London Access Officer
- Barbican Protection Operations
- Barbican Engineering

3 The Existing Barbican Library

3.1 Barbican Library is a vibrant public library in the heart of the Barbican Centre with books, spoken word recordings, DVDs, CDs and scores available for loan to all library members.

The Library prides itself on particular strengths in music (including listening facilities and practice pianos), arts, children's and financial sections as well as free Wi-Fi, Internet access and self-service photocopying.

Within Barbican Library, located on Level 2 of the Barbican Centre, there is the Barbican Music Library and Barbican Children's Library, along with places to sit, read and work.

Membership is available to those who live, work or study in the City of London, and regular visitors to the City.

Facilities available include:

- A dedicated children's and music library
- Special collections in art, music, finance and London
- Graphic novels, books and audio books
- CDs, DVDs and language sets
- Free Wi-Fi and computers with internet access
- A programme of events and activities for adults and children
- 2 exhibition programmes
- Reading groups

3.2 Presently, the Library offers the following community activities:

- Lunchtime and evening talks - recent topics include 'The Great Fire of London - The burning city and its rise from the ashes' and 'Poetry as Protection' - Creative writing sessions. These are free events, and take place in-library and online, due to limited space.
- Reading groups, literacy support, coding tuition and supporting STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics) education activities.

- Family activities, such as rhyme times and school holiday craft sessions.
- Digital skills support and training.
- Foyer Art exhibitions in the entrance foyer, featuring the work of amateur and semi-professional artists, individuals and collectives via a variety of art forms, which are free to view.

The Music Library has received four Excellence Awards from The International Association of Music Libraries, Archives and Documentation Centres. It has a programme of high-profile exhibitions which have featured regularly in national media.

- 3.3 The Library is literally suspended within the main foyer of the Barbican Centre, and is open sided internally. Whilst this intervisibility across the interior provides great views, there are no walls separating the Library from the Foyer on Level 0, and noise travels through the atrium space to the library which is not conducive for reading/working/studying or hosting events.

Typical activities in the foyer include graduation ceremonies with live jazz music, piano recitals, and business activity events with catering and live/recorded music.

To quantify the noise within the library when the events are taking place in the foyer, a number of sound pressure levels were undertaken on 23 July 2018 by Anderson Acoustics, and further details are shown in item 10.1.

- 3.4 Presently there is soft seating and tables in the area of the Arts Library. As there is less unwanted noise heard from the foyer and it is a less disturbed part of the Library, this area is used for small gatherings and, with a rearrangement of the furniture, for talks and community events.

- 3.5 The Library opening hours are as follows:

Mon: 9.30am - 5.30pm
 Tue: 9.30am - 7.30pm
 Wed: 9.30am - 5.30pm
 Thu: 9.30am - 7.30pm
 Fri: 9.30am - 5.30pm
 Sat: 9.30am - 4.00pm
 Sun & Bank Holidays: Closed

4 The Future Barbican Library

- 4.1 Barbican Library is not a modern public library, but must adapt to the current and future needs of the community. The aim is to bring the library up to date by optimising the use of a specific existing space. The published CoL Library Strategy 2021-2023 references three notable pieces of research which have informed the current direction for British Public Libraries, one of which is as follows:

- 4.2 'Libraries Deliver: Ambition for Public Libraries in England 2016 to 2021' is a report written by the Libraries Taskforce, a group established within DCMS as a direct outcome of the Independent Library Report for England. It was published in Dec 2016. It outlined a vision for public libraries as vital community hubs -bringing people together and giving them access to the services and support they need to help them live better lives.

The ambition described is for everyone to:

- Choose to use libraries because they see clear benefits and positive outcomes from doing so.

- Understand what library services offer, and how they can make the most of what's available to them.
- Be introduced to new ideas and opportunities, then given confidence and quick and easy access to tools, skills and information they need to improve their quality of life.
- Receive trusted guidance through the evolving landscape and build the skills needed to thrive in a changing world.

4.3 This report also lists seven outcomes that are critical to the individuals and communities in their areas and to which library services make strong contributions. These are:

1. Cultural and creative enrichment.
2. Increased reading and literacy.
3. Improved digital access and literacy.
4. Helping everyone achieve their full potential.
5. Healthier and happier lives.
6. Greater prosperity.
7. Stronger, more resilient communities.

4.4 For 11 years, Barbican Library staff have been actively involved in pursuing the requirement to create a Community Room, which can be used to fulfil a number of these outcomes. The present design team has been involved since 2017.

5 The need for a Community Room and Community benefit

5.1 The proposed community room will equip Barbican Library with a flexible, hireable, discrete space to enable a range of community and other activities. Such facilities are standard in modern public libraries, but were not included in Barbican library when it was designed and developed.

The City's communities on Golden Lane Estate, Middlesex Street Estate and Mansell Street Estate all benefit from hireable community space. The Barbican Estate is the City's largest residential concentration but they do not have a community space available to them. Local clubs make some use of the Lilac Room - a basement room located beneath Lauderdale Tower and within the City Corporation's estate offices. It is windowless, inaccessible to those with limited mobility, and has very limited availability as it is utilised by housing staff, and only available outside office hours, Monday to Friday 8:30am - 5pm.

Current community spaces in the Square Mile allow for a variety of activity including clubs, workshops, talks, adult and community education, resident/community meetings (e.g. CoL police public consultations), health & wellbeing activities (AA, Narcotics anonymous, health checks, smoking cessation) and use by private hirers. They enable the City to serve the diversity of its community – through activities such as youth services, dementia clubs, a Bangladeshi women's group, an Afghan women's group and Age UK groups.

The proposed community space will extend the opportunity and reach for such groups into the Barbican Centre. Out of hours access will ensure the operation and reach of groups provides opportunities those who may otherwise be excluded by the limitation of the library's opening hours.

It will also provide quiet study space/group study space for library customers to use outside of scheduled activities/hires.

Current community space provision in the City also supports one-off, more ad-hoc resident-led

events, which range from social gatherings to open days, resident meetings and information sharing events. It is anticipated that this room will provide for such demand on the Barbican estate.

To remain sustainable, all City community spaces seek to generate an income – as will the proposed Barbican library community space. Income generation is carefully balanced with ensuring community use and is supported by a sliding scale of charge in which residents pay the lowest, local community and charity organisations pay more, and commercial hirers pay the highest rate. This ensures we are able to balance the needs of the community whilst also ensuring the space is sustainable.

Income from the proposed space will also be used to bring forward a plan to abolish library fines. Fines are known to be a major barrier to library membership – and increasing cost of living pressures will exacerbate this, especially for low income users. An increasing number of library authorities are now opting to abolish fines. It is the Library Service's intention to use the additional income from room hire to offset the income generated by fines and enable their abolishment.

6 Why residents support the making of a community room in the library

6.1 The Barbican Estate has long lacked a community space:

In the past a disused flat in one of the blocks has been used, and the old church hall by the columbarium – but this became unusable because of flooding and is now rented permanently to a children's nursery.

Over the years the Barbican Association (the recognised tenants association for residents of the Barbican Estate) has long campaigned for a proper community space that can be used by Barbican residents, and it is a topic that arises repeatedly at its annual general meetings. There is community space available on the nearby Golden Lane estate that is available to any City resident, but in the past it has been difficult to find out how to book it (that is not the case now), and it is well used and therefore often not available.

When the City's Housing Office moved to its current position within the Barbican Estate in 2006-7 and accommodation was built on level 02, the Lilac Room – a meeting space for the office – was made available for residents' use. It is well used, but is mainly available only in the evenings, is an underground room with no natural light, has limited capacity, and is only suitable for limited uses.

In 2016 the Barbican Association organised a public meeting for all residents in the northwest of the City (the Barbican, Golden Lane, and housing within the surrounding wards), followed by a survey to assess demand. The public meeting was well attended and the survey got 242 responses, not all of them from the Barbican, which was considered a good response. Both the meeting and the survey results showed strong support for a community space for people living in the area.

The survey showed strong demand for a space that could be used for different community based activities – notably community organising activities, together with adult education and local clubs and societies, with some support for space that could provide for older people and people with long term conditions such as dementia and their carers. It also showed that most of those surveyed thought that current provision for these activities was inadequate or poor.

Three models for providing community space were offered in the survey:

- A neighbourhood civic centre (combining public services and community space and uses),
- a community hall (like a traditional village hall), or

- a virtual community centre (a variety of spaces made available for community uses on a limited basis).
The neighbourhood civic centre was the most preferred option, with the virtual community centre the least favoured.

Although the proposed library community room doesn't quite fit any of these models, it is closest to the neighbourhood civic centre, being owned and run by the local authority and providing library services. "It would bring together publicly funded services...In addition there would be meeting rooms available at a low rate for community services."

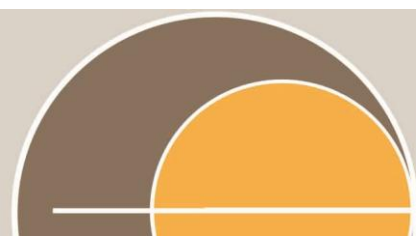
When the Head of Barbican and Community Libraries put forward a proposal to turn space in the Barbican Library into a room for community use, similar to space that exists at Artizan Street Library, the Barbican Association gave the proposal its full support, stating that it would provide the sort of community facility the association has been seeking for many years, for the benefit of residents in general, both in the Barbican Estate itself and in the surrounding area.

7 Options appraisal of locations considered

7.1 During the feasibility design process, other areas of the library were considered for community space provision within the Barbican Library.

This project has been in the making for more than 11 years. In that time, all library spaces were considered and rejected in favour of the current proposition. Reasons are many and varied:

- Library foyer
 - mechanical and ventilation difficulties, since there are no openable windows to provide purge ventilation
 - restricts physical access to the library
 - loss of a major exhibition programme that is high profile and brings in substantial income
- Music Library
 - access to the Music Library is restricted for people in wheelchairs. It is on a mezzanine floor, down a flight of steps and with a lift which does not have dual power and therefore cannot be used in the event of a fire
 - this is a library with 4 international awards for excellence and consequently, has a large stock of books, scores and CDs which cannot be reduced to house such a room
 - the current Music study /listening booths area is in constant use by students
 - unable to provide a dedicated entrance for out of hours activity that ensures the security of the library stock
- Other side of the Arts Library
 - unable to provide a dedicated entrance for out of hours activity that ensures the security of the library stock
 - this location would require significant reorganisation of library stock and furniture
 - poor sight lines from the rest of the library
 - very noisy area – quite close to The Fountain Room
- People's Network area
 - very low ceiling - mechanical and ventilation difficulties
 - unable to provide a dedicated entrance for out of hours activity that ensures the security of the library stock
 - poor sight lines from the rest of the library
- Arts Library



- o has good sight lines from the desk
- o located where a dedicated entrance for out of hours activity that ensures the security of the library stock can be provided
- o has natural light and ventilation to ensure a good environment from occupants
- o the area has existing walls on three sides, which require minimal intervention to create an acoustically separated space
- o it is an underused library space. The reference books located in this area of the library are not accessed frequently. The book stock from this area will be integrated into the rest of the library stock as appropriate
- o part of the floor space is already used for groups and meetings on soft seats, so there would be minimal nett reduction in library space
- o the room can continue to be used as a quiet area for Library users when not booked.

7.2 Based on this appraisal, the reference library is the only suitable location.

8 Assessment of heritage significance

8.1 The Barbican Estate is a mixed-use development built between 1963 and 1982 by the City of London Corporation, and designed by architects Chamberlin, Powell and Bon. It includes the Barbican Centre , City of London School for Girls, Guildhall School of Music & Drama , St Giles Cripplegate Church and more than 2,000 flats.
In 2001, it was designated Grade II for its special architectural and historic interest.

8.2 Below is the official list entry held by Historic England. This briefly describes how the Library sits within the heart of the Barbican Centre and is accessed from within.

Heritage Category: Listed Building

Grade: II

List Entry Number: 1352667

Date first listed: 05-Sep-2001

Statutory Address 1: BARBICAN

The scope of legal protection for listed buildings

This List entry helps identify the building designated at this address for its special architectural or historic interest.

Unless the List entry states otherwise, it includes both the structure itself and any object or structure fixed to it (whether inside or outside) as well as any object or structure within the curtilage of the building.

For these purposes, to be included within the curtilage of the building, the object or structure must have formed part of the land since before 1st July 1948.

Location

Statutory Address: BARBICAN

The building or site itself may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

County: Greater London Authority

District: City and County of the City of London (London Borough)

Parish: Non Civil Parish

National Grid Reference: TQ 32298 81752

Details TQ 321 NW BARBICAN

627/3/10212

8.3 The Arts Centre was largely designed in its present form in 1968, and was built 1971-82. Peter Chamberlin and Christoph Bon were architects in charge, with John Honer and Gordon Ruwald as project architects. Reinforced concrete, with innovative diaphragm walling, largely set below podium level. The principal spaces comprise a theatre designed for the Royal Shakespeare Company; a studio theatre -The Pit -added as the plans were evolved; a concert hall designed in conjunction with the London Symphony Orchestra; a public lending library; an art gallery for temporary exhibitions; three cinemas; a conservatory; offices; restaurants; shops and foyers.

Principal entrance from Whitecross Street under canopy added to the designs of Diane Radford and Lindsey Bell in 1993-5, with glazed doors and security entrance to side; driveway over timber setts to left, with stage door for theatre beyond that. Above is the podium, and glazed conservatory wrapped around the theatre flytower (and that of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama) with aluminium glazing and doors. Beyond, on the higher podium of North Barbican, entrance to Barbican Exhibition Halls via glazed single-storey building, highly glazed under deep frieze. The halls are set below the podium. To the lake, bank of cafes and restaurants to right, clad in vertical white tiles. Stepped profile, with first-floor balcony over projecting ground-floor 'waterside' cafe, and landscaped roof terrace to upper level. Four storeys (three with restaurants), four main bays wide. To left, rounded staircase tower, and main arts centre of six and seven bays stepped behind Defoe House. Four bays facing lake expressed in square areas of vertical white towers over roof-garden, with fascia and metal glazed foyer areas below.

Foyers on three main levels including balcony, with theatre foyers on mezzanine level, now with wheelchair access bridge across. Woodblock floor at stalls (service road) level. Regularly spaced stairs either side of central lifts, and forming open wells through the three levels. Suspended iridescent perspex sculpture by Michel Santry, and busts of Shakespeare by Roubiliac (1760) and of Vaughan Williams by Jacob Epstein. Alterations and additional sculpture by Pentagram 1993-5.

To the west of the foyer, separated from it by internal glazed partitions, the library is set on two main levels, including areas for children's library and music library. There are internal staircases (one of which is now blocked) and natural timber fittings.

The broad external staircase from North Barbican has entrance to the side. The Art Gallery is on two floors over the library and foyer. The main, upper level has a small galleries opening off a central core around central staircase, which overlooks the foyers below. A separate lower gallery curved round the Barbican Hall, marks the form of Frobisher Crescent above. There is a sculpture Court over the Barbican Hall, with doors (not used) into the art gallery which is backed by Frobisher Crescent. Frobisher Crescent houses offices for the Barbican Arts Centre's administration.

9 Design Proposals and Assessment of Impact

9.1 The Library is located on the first (mezzanine) and second floors of the Barbican Arts Centre and is largely an open sided area suspended within the main foyer atrium. Public access is from the second floor lobby through the exhibition space and the enquiries desk. Staff can also use an alternative entrance.

The location for the new community space overlooks the Lakeside on the south facade and currently contains original double-sided wooden book shelves, a display cabinet, computer benching and some soft sofas. The area is already used for other purposes including library talks, when furniture is relocated to provide theatre style seating. However, the space is open to the library and does not provide any privacy or sound isolation from the surroundings.

The open nature of the Library to the Arts Centre allows unwanted noise from events below to be heard within the Library. Library users have a tendency to find the quietest corners to study when events are being held below. The Acoustic Engineer has taken noise level readings during a graduation ceremony, and our proposals have been based on this data.

The Library uses a limited palette of materials with pick hammered fairfaced concrete walls, exposed concrete waffle slab with white wall tiles on the external wall. The lowered services bulkhead contains the HVAC and has a dark brown metal ceiling grid with continuous side grilles.

Apart from a power socket on the external wall and a more recent computer bench, all power is within floor boxes. General lighting is integral to bookshelves which are plugged into the floor sockets. There are some downlighters within the ceiling grid and a multi spotlight adjacent to the external wall. A recent addition is a suspended luminaire over the computer benching. The existing carpet is throughout the Library, and until furniture is removed it is difficult to ascertain the condition.

There are five bookstacks located in this area.

- 9.2 From discussion with the Client, the brief is to provide a hireable multi-functional community space. The objective is to provide a space that is suitable for talks, meetings, classes and private study. The room will be used when the Library is open, and also out of hours. It may be privately hired.
- 9.3 The floor area of the space identified is 93sqm. Based on the Building Regulations Approved Document B 2 Table C1.4 where the use is a conference room, the floor space factor of 1.0m² per person suggests that the room could potentially be occupied by 93 people. The floor space factor for a library is 7.0m² per person. When a room contains more than 60 people, it is a requirement that there are at least two fire exits with a 45 degree angle between them. The aim for the layout of the room has been to provide two fire exits to enable the maximum occupancy to be achieved.
- 9.4 There is a requirement for an overhead projector, and screen. The choice of a high lumen projector which is permanently fixed to structure, projecting directly onto the new partition without the need for a projection screen to maintain clean lines.
- 9.5 The following new elements are proposed to be introduced to the existing fabric.
1. New glazed steel entrance door, D01, formed within the existing lift lobby entrance screen to the Barbican Library, to form an out of hours entrance to the community room.
 2. New partially glazed steel lobby screen to give a secure route to the community room out of hours
 3. Forming an opening in the existing glazed full height steel screen to access the community room.
 4. Creation of a new solid partition behind the full height steel screen, to provide an improved sound reduction between the Library and the community room, with a timber door, D02 and an integral store for twelve tables, fifty stacking chairs and AV equipment. The high level element of this partition which is visible from the entrance will have a mirrored surface to reflect the entrance ceiling. The lower section of the partition will not be visible from the entrance as the existing screen is solid at low level.
 5. Timber double doors, D04, within the existing smooth concrete opening.
 6. New glazed steel acoustic screen and door, D05, to enclose the room between the concrete core and the external wall.
 7. New suspended lighting to the coffer ribs.
 8. Overhead projector to be fixed adjacent to lowered ceiling, with four speakers for the

soundfield system.

9. New white ceiling mounted acoustic ceiling rafts fixed to the existing white ceiling coffers.

9.6 Please refer to the submitted drawings which illustrate these in detail.

10 Justification and Mitigation

10.1 The Library is literally suspended within the main foyer of the Barbican Centre, and is open sided internally. Whilst this intervisibility across the interior provides great views, there are no walls separating the Library from the Foyer on Level 0, and noise travels through the atrium space to the library which is not conducive for reading.

Typical activities in the foyer include graduation ceremonies with live jazz music, piano recitals, and business activity events with catering and live/recorded music.

To quantify the noise within the library when the events are taking place in the foyer, a number of sound pressure levels were undertaken on 23 July 2018 by Anderson Acoustics.

The event taking place was a graduation ceremony which comprised large crowds, announcements and a jazz band.

Measurements were taken on the Library stairs, balcony, Library Reception/Periodicals section and at the doorway to the proposed Community Space area.

When large crowds are gathered, the sound pressure levels at the Library Reception/Periodicals section were generally 68 dB LAeq,T. When the jazz band was playing, sound pressure levels were generally 8-9 dB higher.

The measurements conducted at the doorway to the proposed Community Space (Library Reception/Periodicals section) were in the order of 60-62 dB LAeq,T. Maximum levels when the jazz band was playing were in the order of 70 dB L_{Amax}.

The library operational level is in the order of 40 dB LAeq,T when there are no events taking place in the foyer.

To achieve a room which can be used for meetings, the desired internal target level is 35 dB with a reverberation time of 0.8 seconds for speech.

From this technical data, it can be seen that for the Library to hold a successful event where all attendees can hear the presentation/talk being made, and not be disturbed by unwanted noise from the foyer, the options are;

1. for Library staff to either hold the event when there are no activities taking place in the foyer. This is not possible when producing regular, weekly organised events. There are numerous events organised in the foyer, and the timetable is published monthly, sometimes at late notice which does not help with forward planning.
2. Create an acoustically separated space from the Library which will enable Library events to take place unhindered by the noise generated from the foyer.
3. Locate the community room furthest from the foyer, to reduce the acoustic performance required by the new doors and partitions. Presently there is a group of soft seating and tables which is used for small gatherings and events in the area of the Arts Library for this purpose, as it is a less disturbed part of the Library.

- 10.2 Previous planning consultation and design review.
The initial brief was to allow for classical music rehearsals to be undertaken in the community space, however the sound-break out from the community space would have been in the order of 90 dB LAeq,T.

It was highlighted early on in the proposals to include sound lobbies to control sound break-out from music rehearsal to the existing library areas. This is essential where standard double doors are only capable to achieve moderate acoustic reduction at best. It was advised that both doorsets to the sound lobbies were acoustically rated by a minimum of 35 dB Rw. The scheme required two sets of doors to be located adjacent to the lakeside elevation to meet the sound reduction levels.

The first scheme that was presented to the Heritage Officer used partly solid partitions to form a furniture storage area. This was not acceptable, however a single glazed screen was accepted and drawings were revised to show this. However, the reduction in acoustic performance from having a single door did result in the brief being revised, and the community space is not able to be used for any musical performance or practice space during library opening hours, since the noise generated would be disturbing to the library users.

The relevant extract from the Barbican Management Guidelines is as the follows:

“The views over Lakeside are an important part of the Library experience and no interventions, such as new partitions or full height shelving, should be introduced that would obscure or diminish these. Any enclosure of floor areas to provide offices or self-contained rooms should be located on the north edge, ensuring that Lakeside views are not interrupted and floor voids are not infilled. Any enclosure on void edges should be glazed, not solid.”

- 10.3 The design which is proposed reflects compromises which have been made to limit the impact of the new elements to lessen impact to this historic building.

New screens and doors will be fixed directly to the pick hammered fairfaced concrete, with fire and acoustic mastic backing, with mineral fibre quilt and mastic within the frame back to provide acoustic and fire resisting properties. This detail is shown in the submission, and can be removed without harm to the structure.

Where the two existing steel screens are being altered, we are working closely with a steel fabrication specialist who can undertake the alterations carefully to the existing screen, in a manner which can be reversed if required.

Whilst the proposed alterations may undertake a low level of harm to the building fabric, the community and public benefits of forming this community room must be given due weight consideration.

11 Access

- 11.1 The Library has level access from the lift lobby, which serve Level 0. During Library opening hours, the double Library entrance doors provide a level route into the library to the new room which is entered by a new single steel door and new double timber doors. The steel door will be operated by an automatic opener, with surface mounted non-wired ‘wave to open’ pad. The steel doors are fully glazed, with transoms which provide contrast visually with the background seen through the glass in all light

conditions.

The manual controls will be located between 750mm and 1000mm above floor level.

- 11.2 Outside of Library opening hours, the new steel door D01 provides access to the Community Room. The door is operated by an automatic opener. The second lobby access door, D02 is a leaf and a half timber door. Calculation suggest these require a free swing device to ensure the opening force when measured at the leading edge of the door, is no more than 30N from 0 degrees (The door in the closed position) to 30 degrees open, and no more than 22.5N from 30 degrees to 60 degrees of the opening cycle. A free swing device will be interlinked to the fire alarm, and on activation doors will fail safe.
- 11.3 Door controllers used to open doors will be wireless controlled, to avoid cable routes or trunking fixed to the concrete wall surfaces.
- 11.4 Good lighting is crucial for ensuring people with visual impairments are able to use the building conveniently and safely. New lighting will be installed, as the existing lighting is fixed to the bookstacks.
- 11.5 There is good natural lighting from the south facing windows. A high lumen projector (5000 lumen proposed) with vertical and horizontal keystone lens shift will allow the projector to be used all light conditions provided there is no bright daylight on the screen. There will not be a requirement to close blinds in order to view the projected image.
- 11.6 The flooring material should be firm and smooth so that it is easy to traverse by a wheelchair user. The existing carpet will remain.
- 11.7 One possible solution might be to provide a portable hearing induction loop available for a person should this be required.
We are, however, proposing a sound reinforcement system to benefit all participants as well as those with hearing impairments.
- The sound reinforcement system locates 2no. speakers on each side of the room to provide even sound levels throughout the room. This system will benefit all participants, and the speakers do not have to be set at a sound level as high as would be required with just two speakers at the front.
- In addition, there will be a portable wireless system comprising a radio microphone transmitter for the person speaking and receivers for up to twelve people listening. With the receiver, hearing aid wearers use a neck loop with their aids on the 'Loop' program and others can listen using headphones. This does require management of the system with careful allocation and collection of the units.
- The audio visual systems require a transmitter for the sound reinforcement system and an amplifier for the projector. These require an AV lectern to house the equipment which is shown in the store.
- 11.8 Furniture choice has been considered, and seat height is between 450 and 500mm, with at least 20% of chairs having arm supports as they provide positive aids to ambulant people particularly when rising. Tables have at least 700mm under table clearance for a wheelchair user to sit comfortably under the table.
- 11.9 In-room acoustics, or reverberation control, is also important for users who have hearing difficulties and those who do not. The ideal internal acoustic condition differs depending on what the space is to be used for, and for speech, the ideal environment

is less reverberant at 0.8 seconds, to ensure clarity and intelligibility of conversation.

Anderson Acoustics undertook an initial assessment and the reverberation time of the space has been calculated using engineering grade calculations. Initially, the space has been predicted without any treatment and then scenarios are considered to enable comparison depending on the intended use of the space, i.e. lecture, meeting etc.

No treatment

With no treatment, the empty space is predicted to have a reverberation time of circa 2.5-3 seconds, which is not ideal for speech. This is assuming an empty room, with existing surface finishes.

No treatment with seating

To understand what the condition would be like with seating, both unoccupied and occupied, with no additional acoustic treatment, the calculations show the following results:

	Reverberation time
25 seats (50% capacity) unoccupied:	2.3 seconds
25 seats (50% capacity) occupied:	1.7 seconds
50 seats (100% capacity) unoccupied:	1.6 seconds
50 seats (100% capacity) occupied:	1.1 seconds
Target	0.8 seconds

This demonstrates that further acoustic treatment is needed to create conditions good for speech, rather than relying on the seats being occupied.

In order to achieve reverberation times in line with the criteria of 0.8 seconds, a minimum of 35m² of Class C acoustic treatment or equivalent is needed.

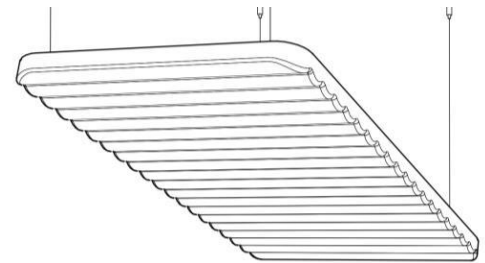
Considering the space/surface constraints, this could be achieved with acoustic ceiling rafts within the coffered ceiling. Panels would match with the existing aesthetic where white ceiling areas are present in the existing library space (see photo). These have been shown on the reflected ceiling plan and this is the manufacturer.

BuzziPodMedium (1600mm x 800mm) (https://buzzi.space/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/PSS_BuzziPod_v03.pdf)

11.20



Existing white ceiling areas at the Barbican



BuzziPod by BuzziSpace (ceiling hanging sketch)



Library

- 11.21 Seating, where upholstered, can provide acoustic absorption and aid reverberation control. Currently, 50 chairs are currently proposed and this has been considered in the above calculations.

In order to achieve acoustic criteria for good speech conditions it is advised that in addition to the treatments suggested above further acoustic treatment in the order of minimum 5 m² Class C or equivalent, should be provided. The possibility of additional acoustic blinds and furniture has been included into the budget.

12 **Relevant Design and Conservation Policy Documents**

Relevant points from The City of London's Adopted Plan are noted below.

12.1 "Policy DM I 0.8 Access and inclusive design:

To achieve an environment that meets the highest standards of accessibility and inclusive design in all developments (both new and refurbished), open spaces and streets, ensuring that the City of London is:

- inclusive and safe for of all who wish to use it, regardless of disability, age, gender, ethnicity, faith or economic circumstance; convenient and welcoming with no disabling
- barriers, ensuring that everyone can experience independence without undue effort, separation or special treatment;
- responsive to the needs of all users who visit,
- work or live in the City, whilst recognising that one solution might not work for all:'(p99)

12.2 "Policy DM I 1.1 Protection of Visitor, Arts and Cultural Facilities

To resist the loss of existing visitor, arts and cultural facilities unless:

- replacement facilities are provided on-site or within the vicinity which meet the needs of the City's communities; ... " (p 104)

"Core Strategic Policy CS 12: Historic Environment

To conserve or enhance the significance of the City's heritage assets and their settings, and provide an attractive environment for the City's communities and visitors, by:

1. Safeguarding the City's listed buildings and their settings, while allowing appropriate adaptation and new use " (p 108)

12.3 "Policy DM 12.3 Listed buildings

1. To resist the demolition of listed buildings.

2. To grant consent for the alteration or change of use of a listed building only where this would not detract from its special architectural or historic interest, character and significance or its setting 3.12.17 In the Barbican and Golden Lane estates, developers should take account of the Listed Building Management Guidelines SPDs" (p 111)

- 12.4 The Barbican Listed Building Management Guidelines Volume III will cover the Barbican Arts Centre, City of London School for Girls and Guildhall School of Music & Drama, and although it is not published yet, the document has been referred to.

13 **Out of hours access strategy**

Barbican Protection Operations have been consulted regarding the strategies to enter the community room by the out of hours access route.

During Library opening hours, the community room will be accessed via doors D04 and

5 as shown on the plan.

Outside of Library opening hours, access will be via door D01 from the lift lobby. Security will be remotely managed from the existing monitored CCTV and automated access systems. This removes any need for routine security staff to be present.

From a security and operational perspective it is proposed that the new controlled entrance through door D01 will be enabled through a variety of technical solutions. A kiosk will dispense key cards activated by a QR Code for example.

A telephone will be placed within the room that dialled directly through to the Barbican security control room when lifted for use in the event of an emergency.