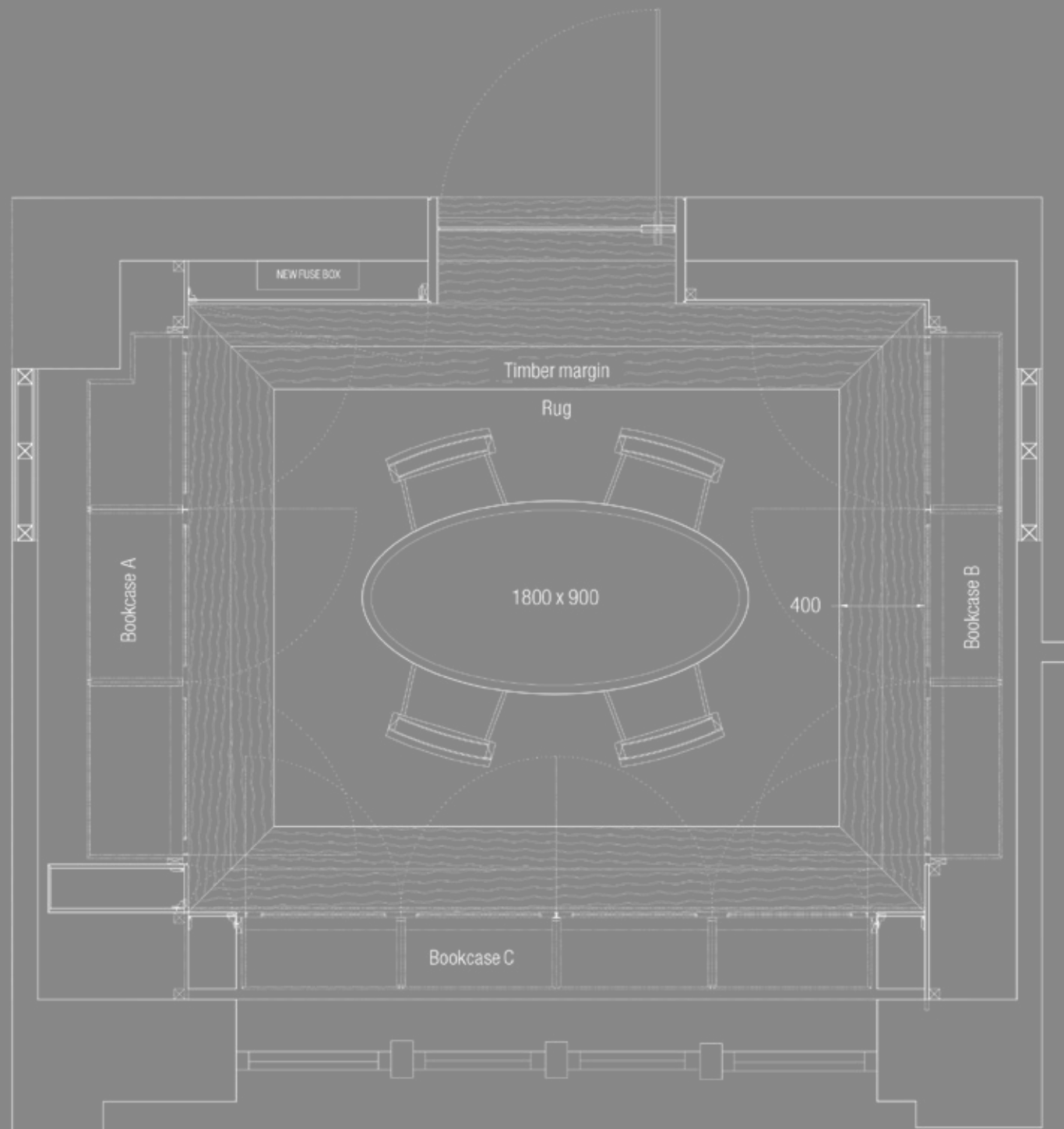


Oxbridge and Academe



Luke Hughes

Furniture in Architecture



Contents

Dining Halls and Refectories	6
Libraries	12
Theatres, Lecture Halls, Auditoria	18
Buildings of worship	24
Meeting and Conference rooms	26
Museums	30
Special architectural projects	32
History and Philosophy	34
Client and Press comments	36
Client List	38





The Geological Society of London

Introduction

Major academic institutions, especially the older universities, have the most extraordinary collection of outstanding architecture. Keeping these buildings comfortable and relevant in a rapidly changing world is, ultimately, down to the design of the furniture.

Since moving to Covent Garden 35 years ago, Luke Hughes® has designed and made furniture for nearly 60 Oxbridge colleges, 25 major institutional libraries, 22 private schools and 11 other universities, including Yale and Harvard. There is a common theme to our approach: the connection between the architecture and the furniture should be seamless, creating a sense of 'rightness', functionally and aesthetically. Most buildings have neither function nor purpose without furniture: inappropriate pieces grossly undermine great architecture.

Another theme in our approach is to design furniture that allows buildings to be capable of more than one use. Dining halls, common rooms, libraries, places of worship, theatres and auditoria, galleries, meeting and conference rooms – all the significant public spaces that proclaim the values of a school or university – are seeing an increasing requirement for tables to fold, seating to stack, trolleys to make handling and storage efficient. Over the years, Luke Hughes® has developed ingenious solutions to enable academic buildings to work harder.

We take the greatest pride in combining the old with the new, heritage with modernity, traditional craftsmanship with 21st century engineering. The greatest value lies in offering sustainable, long-term solutions. In principle, we design for 50-100 year life expectancy.

Here are a selection of design solutions tailored to enable academic buildings to look more elegant and operate more efficiently.



Dining Halls and Refectories

Luke Hughes® has designed chairs and tables for more than 30 dining halls, common rooms and refectories - from Henry VIII's Tudor palace at Hampton Court to the Gothic Revival interior of St John's College, Cambridge; from the striking Modernist architecture at Churchill College or Yale NUS, to the Arts and Crafts environment of Newnham College.

The key to our approach is designing the furniture to match the architecture thus making it easy for those who have to manage the building to rearrange it.



Churchill College, Cambridge



St John's College, Cambridge





"You will be pleased to know that the Newnham chairs are standing up superbly to the rigours of college life and, 23 years on, still look like new. They are a great testament of the skills and workmanship of your team."

Dame Patricia Hodgson,
Principal, Newnham College, Cambridge.

Newnham College, Cambridge





Dining halls increasingly need tables which can be reconfigured or folded and cleared away to accommodate informal luncheons, formal dinners, buffet receptions as well as wedding parties, theatrical and musical events.

They also need long-lasting stacking chairs that enhance the interior.

Over the last 35 years, Luke Hughes® has developed a wide range of ingenious, efficient, robust and proven engineering techniques to enable this to happen.



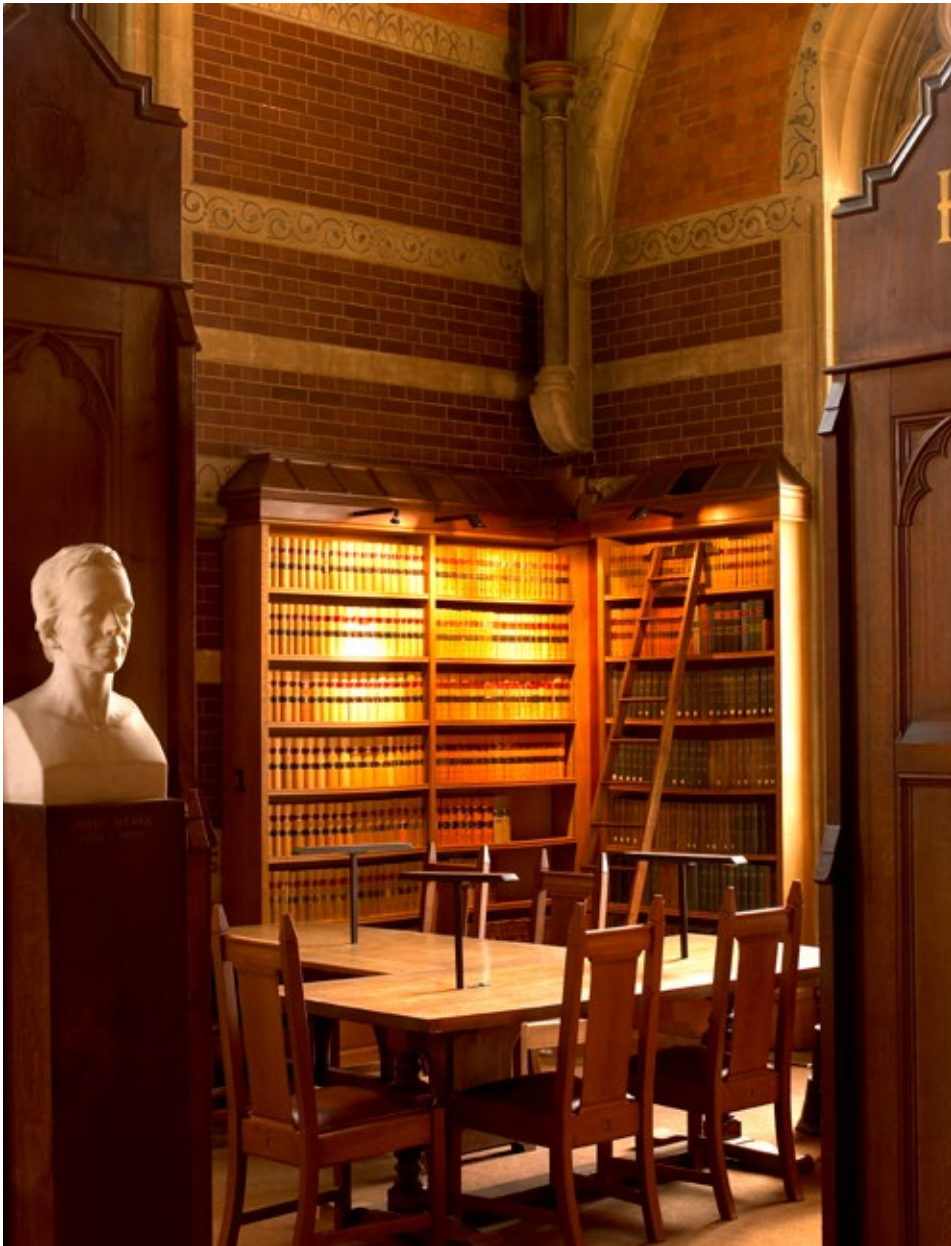
Trinity Hall, Cambridge



Libraries

Libraries are often in buildings of considerable distinction, old and new, and this makes it expensive to reflect advances in technology (or, indeed, social patterns) by changing the buildings – it is much easier to look at the way they are furnished. However, the choice of such furniture makes a profound impact on how libraries are perceived, whether they are 19th century Victorian gothic (like Keble College, Oxford) or a modern interpretation of the neo-classical (like Peterhouse, Cambridge).

Since libraries in particular reflect the values of a college or university, there is an increasing requirement for them to be flexible and capable of use for ceremonial occasions or lectures. Luke Hughes® has wide experience of designing solutions to enable such changes to be carried out swiftly and efficiently, without compromising either the function or the aesthetics of the interior.



Keble College, Oxford



Peterhouse, Cambridge





Highgate School, London



The promise of a digitised library-world, devoid of books, has proved to be as much of a chimera as the paper-free office. Yet contemporary libraries have certainly become more social, with more 'zoned-spaces' and an increase in casual visitors, while the need for access to on-line publications has radically altered the way libraries are used. In another twenty years they will undoubtedly change again, but people will still need to sit and work comfortably, in well-lit, inspiring surroundings.

Modern libraries can be transformed simply by changing the furnishings.

During the last quarter of a century, Luke Hughes® has built up an impressive portfolio of library products (including chairs, shelving systems with integrated lighting, readers' desks with power and data, display cases which double as sound-insulated interior partitions) that blend together and not only achieve design coherence but also keep refurbishment costs down.

Oundle School, Peterborough before and after refurbishing



Theatres, Lecture Halls, Auditoria

Furniture, especially seating, greatly impacts on the interior architecture of lecture halls, auditoria, theatres and speech rooms. Many of these spaces are also increasingly 'flexible'. In other words, the requirement for the seating to be easily removed or reconfigured can make a huge difference to the uses to which such buildings can be put.

Ceremonial furniture (such as cable-managed lecterns and other speakers' furniture) can have a major impact on these interiors, both visually and in terms of hiding audio-visual equipment.

Luke Hughes® has, over the years, worked with many architects and in a wide variety of architecturally significant interiors, to come up with practical solutions so all these aims can be realised.



Emmanuel College, Cambridge



Leggate Theatre, Liverpool University



Apex Theatre, Bury St Edmunds





Sainsbury Botanic Laboratory, Cambridge



TS Eliot Theatre, Merton College, Oxford

There are occasions when standard theatrical seating products are not appropriate to the setting, either because of visual considerations or because of the problems of complying with fire regulations in limited space. This is yet another area of particular expertise.



Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmunds



Buildings of worship

College chapels are often the heart of an academic community and are also amongst the most important architectural settings. Yet these too need to be flexible, not just for accommodating a variety of liturgical functions but also for clearing or rearranging the space for music recitals. Luke Hughes® has for many years designed seating, choir and liturgical furniture for a large number of cathedrals and churches across the UK and USA.



Top: Cranleigh School. Bottom: Sheffield Cathedral



Epsom College





Meeting and Conference rooms

Furniture for faculty conference rooms that can double-up for occasional dining or be cleared away completely for a reception is another requirement of modern colleges.

Luke Hughes® has developed engineering solutions to enable tables to fold, without looking like trestle tables. The techniques can be easily applied to bespoke tables, made to match a specific interior scheme, which can be stored in dedicated, inconspicuous storage racks or in existing cupboards.

Similarly, the portfolio includes a wide selection of elegant and resilient stacking chairs that have been specially designed for long life expectancy and heavy institutional use.



Lincoln College, Oxford



Wolfson College, Cambridge



All the folding tables illustrated here were made specifically for the rooms in which they now reside and can fold away, either into an existing storage cupboard or into a rack clad in panelling to match the existing joinery.



Opposite page: Darwin College, Cambridge. This page: St Catharine's College, Cambridge

Museums

Gallery benches and display cases, developed for clients that include the British Museum, the Fitzwilliam Museum, and the Art Workers Guild, form another group of products in the design portfolio.



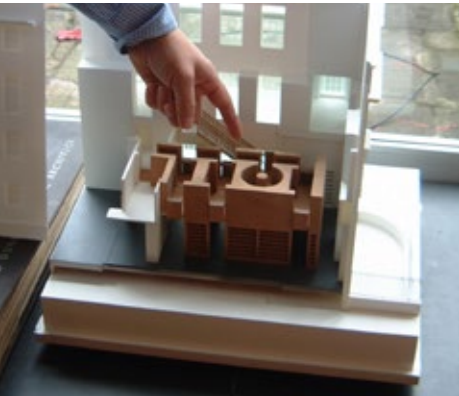
Clockwise from far left: Athenaeum Club, London; British Museum, London; Art Workers Guild, London; British Museum, London; Philip Mould Gallery, London



Special architectural projects

Some of the most successful projects have come as a result of creative cooperation. For special projects, we work regularly with international, award-winning architectural and interior design firms (such as Allies & Morrison, Eric Parry Architects, Foster+Partners, Gensler, Hopkins Architects, HOK, Ian Ritchie Architects, Kohn Pedersen Fox, Pelli Clarke Pelli, and Stanton Williams). We have collaborated successfully with many practices for more than 30 years.

“Designing furniture well demands a knowledge of social anthropology. What an object looks like is less important than the influence that the object can have on the space in which it resides; furniture should embellish the space, not embarrass it.” Luke Hughes



Clockwise from left: Boardroom, Sainsbury Botanic Laboratory, Cambridge; model of the Scottish Supreme Court library; model of the Luke Hughes 120° for UCL; public area seating for Yale University's Edward P. Evans School of Management.
Opposite page: Worshipful Company of Mercers, London



History and Philosophy

Luke Hughes was educated at Cambridge University before setting up a small craft workshop in the back-yard of a house in Bloomsbury in 1978, then moving to Covent Garden in 1981. The business was incorporated in 1986, at that time producing design work and prototypes for Liberty & Co., Heals and John Lewis Partnership.

Hughes's design philosophy is heavily influenced by the principles of the Arts and Crafts Movement, not least about the nature of craftsmanship. Another central principle is that, in any quality building, the connection between architecture and furniture should be seamless: most buildings cannot function without furniture, yet inappropriate pieces grossly undermine great architecture.

Since 1990, he has focused on design for public spaces, particularly in the corporate, leisure, institutional and ecclesiastical sectors – principally for buildings with significant architectural interiors.





Client comments

“When I saw the new chairs in the library, I had the curious sense that they had always been there, so right do they look. As to the craftsmanship, it is superb . . .”

Bursar, Keble College, Oxford



“We all think the room looks absolutely spectacular. Your furniture is really the pièce de résistance. Please pass on my congratulations to everyone involved. We could not be more delighted.”

Bursar, Pembroke College, Cambridge



“Now that we have got the Queen’s visit safely over I have time to write and say what a wonderful job you made of the furniture. It looks totally in keeping . . . and all comment on the quality of both design and manufacture.”

Bursar, Charterhouse School

“Can I express our thanks for the speed and efficiency with which you have delivered this project? Particular thanks must go to your craftsmen and installers who performed so well.”

Project Manager, Liverpool University



Press comments

“You can put a piece of his furniture in any kind of building and after about 10 minutes it looks as if it has been there forever.”

Country Life Magazine

“His designs speak strongly, if quietly, of an English tradition of furniture making that was one of his main inspirations.”

The Times



“All the designs have an Englishness and restraint that makes them infinitely appealing and infinitely usable.”

Financial Times

“Elegant and contemporary yet totally classic.”

House and Garden



“Commendably timeless designs.”

Financial Times

“Understated elegance and restraint.”

The Times

“Products combining 21st century engineering and 18th century craftsmanship.”

Country Life Magazine

- Academic clients
- All Souls College, Oxford

Atlantic College

Bancroft School

Bedford School

Benenden School

Brasenose College, Oxford

Broomwood Hall School

Bryanston School

Cambridge University Arts Theatre

Cambridge University Boat Club

Cambridge University Botanic Institute

Cambridge University Library

Cambridge University Old Schools

Cambridge University Press

Cambridge University Union Society

Campion Hall, Oxford

Charterhouse School

Christ Church, Oxford

Christ College, Cambridge

Churchill College, Cambridge

Clare College, Cambridge

College of Law

Corpus Christi College, Cambridge

Corpus Christi College, Oxford

Cranleigh School

Darwin College, Cambridge

Downing College, Cambridge

Emmanuel College, Cambridge

Epsom College

Eton College

Giggleswick School

Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge

Green College, Oxford

Harrow School

Harvard University, USA

Highgate School

Hughes Hall, Cambridge

Hurstpierpoint College

Institute of Criminology, Cambridge

Jesus College, Cambridge

Jesus College, Oxford

Keble College, Oxford

King's College, London

Lincoln College, Oxford

Liverpool Hope University

London School of Economics

Marlborough College
- Merton College, Oxford

Middlesex University

New College, Oxford

New Hall, Cambridge

Newnham College, Cambridge

Nuffield College, Oxford

Open University

Oundle School

Oxford Centre for Hebrew Studies

Pembroke College, Cambridge

Pembroke College, Oxford

Peterhouse, Cambridge

Rhodes House, Oxford

Robinson College, Cambridge

Royal Academy of Music

Royal Grammar School, Guildford

St Anne's College, Oxford

St Antony's College, Oxford

St Catharine's, Cambridge

St Cross College, Oxford

St Edmund's College, Cambridge

St Edmund Hall, Oxford

St Hugh's College, Oxford

St John's College, Cambridge

St Paul's School

St Paul's Girls' School

St Peter's College, Oxford

Sherborne School

Shrewsbury School

Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge

Stowe School

The King's School Canterbury

The Queen's College, Oxford

Trinity College, Oxford

Trinity Hall, Cambridge

University of Birmingham

University of Chester

University College, London

University College, Oxford

University of Dundee

University of Liverpool

University of Roehampton

University of Warwick

Uppingham School

Wolfson College, Cambridge

Wolfson College, Oxford

Yale University, USA

Yale - National University of Singapore

- Institutional clients
- Art Workers Guild

Athenaeum Club

Beefsteak Club

British Academy

British Council

British Heart Foundation

British Museum

Buckingham Palace

Delfont Mackintosh Theatres Ltd

Department for Culture, Media & Sport

Eltham Palace

English Heritage

Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge

Foreign & Commonwealth Office

Garrick Club

General Medical Council

Geological Society

Hampton Court Palace

Holyrood House

House of Commons

Institute for Government

Institute of Chartered Accountants

Institute of Electrical Engineers

Kew Gardens Herbarium

Kew Palace

London Library

Middle Temple

Ministry of Defence

National Gallery, London

National Gallery of Scotland

National Maritime Museum

Oxford and Cambridge Club

The Paul Mellon Centre, London

Royal Albert Hall

Royal Collection Trust

Royal College of Paediatrics

Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons

Royal Geographical Society

Royal Institute of British Architects

Royal Opera House

Royal Scottish Academy

Royal Society of Arts

Scottish Supreme Court

Society of Antiquaries

Somerset House

Special Air Service Regiment

Tate Modern

- The Wallace Collection

Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmunds

Tower of London

TUC

United Kingdom Supreme Court

Victoria & Albert Museum

Windsor Castle

Worshipful Company of Butchers

Worshipful Company of Carpenters

Worshipful Company of Fishmongers

Worshipful Company of Haberdashers

Worshipful Company of Leathersellers

Worshipful Company of Mercers

Worshipful Company of Skinners

