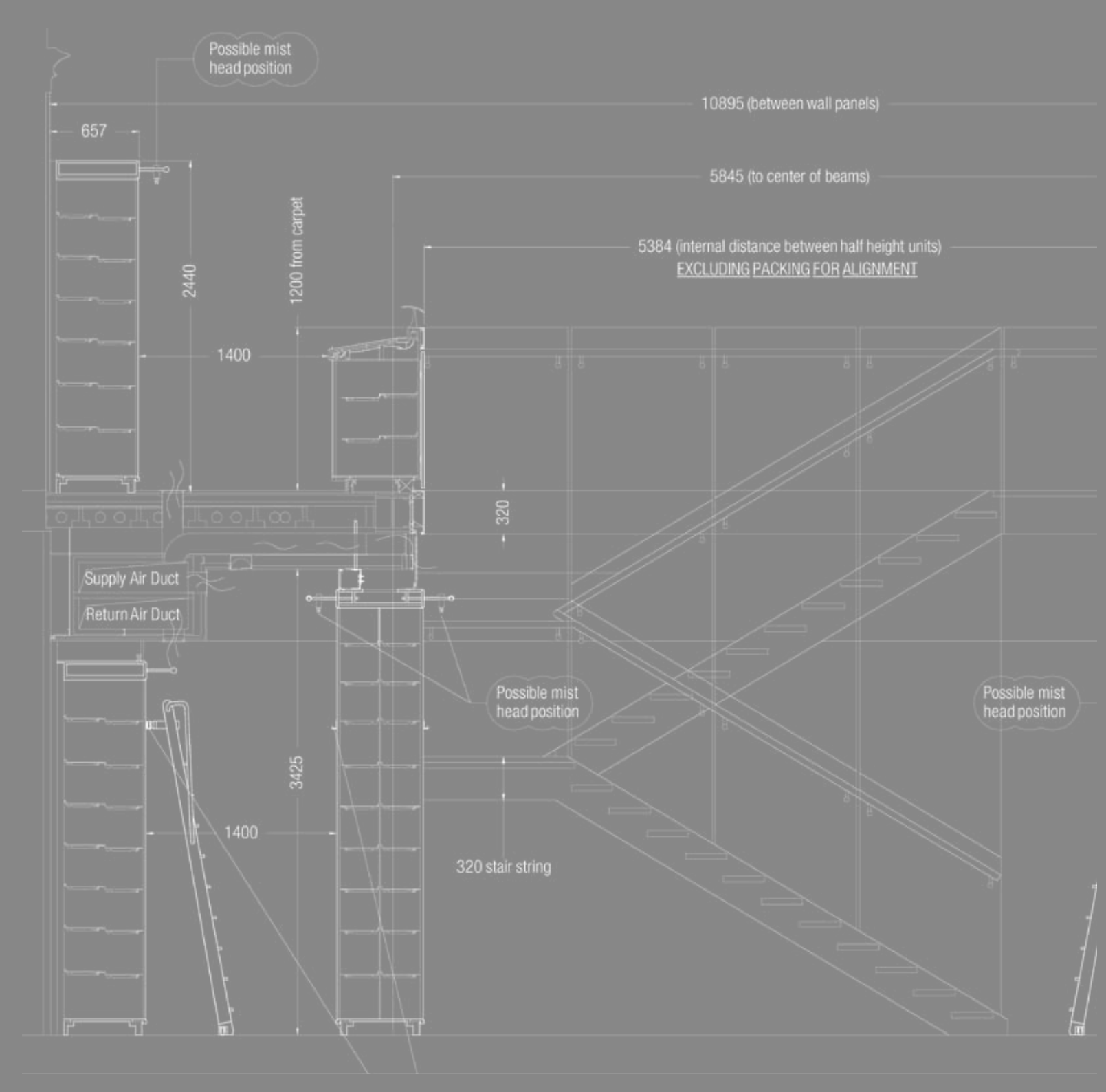


Libraries



Luke Hughes

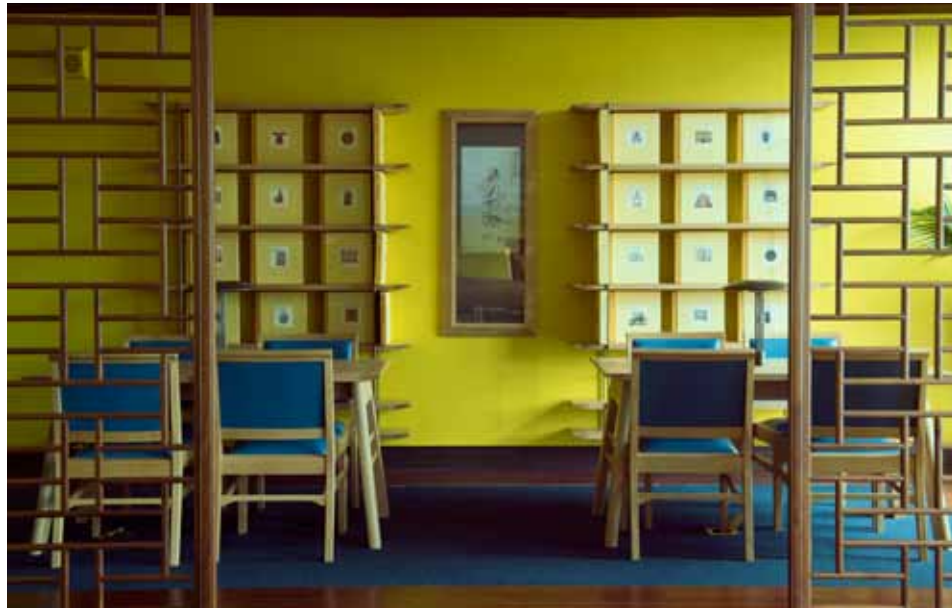
Furniture in Architecture



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Introduction

Over the last 30 years, *Luke Hughes* has been involved with more than thirty major academic and institutional library projects across the UK, USA and Asia.

Libraries have always been more than mere repositories of books - conveying something of the patrons that commissioned them and the institutions that run them - think of the Hapsburg library in Vienna, the Vatican Library, the Library of Congress, the British Library, Oxford's Bodleian, the Cambridge University Library, the Wren Library at Trinity, the Sterling Library at Yale. The very fabric of these libraries speaks of the values of those institutions, not only to readers and users but also to the occasional visitor, prospective parents, past alumni, or potential donors.

Despite all the recent changes in technology, the promise of a digitised library devoid of books has proved to be as much of a chimera as the paper-free office. Nevertheless, contemporary libraries have evolved to be more social, with more 'zoned-spaces' and they need to accommodate an increasing proportion of casual visitors, even if that need for access to on-line publications has radically altered the way libraries are now used. In another twenty years, technology will undoubtedly enable more changes but people will still want to sit and work comfortably in well-lit, inspiring surroundings.

Our task has usually been to respond to the architecture and bring our experience of libraries, old and new, in order to keep them relevant for the next 50-100 years or so.

Our aim, through the layouts and the furniture, is to provide that inspiration.



Keystone Academy Beijing

Keystone Academy is a Chinese private school in Beijing, China, founded in 2014. This world school is founded on three keystones: bilingual immersion in Chinese and English; building character and community throughout a residential setting; and promoting Chinese culture and identity in a world context.

Classrooms, offices and learning environments at Keystone are designed with students and teachers in mind. High ceilings, large windows, and intelligent layouts make for inviting spaces that facilitate student learning at every turn.

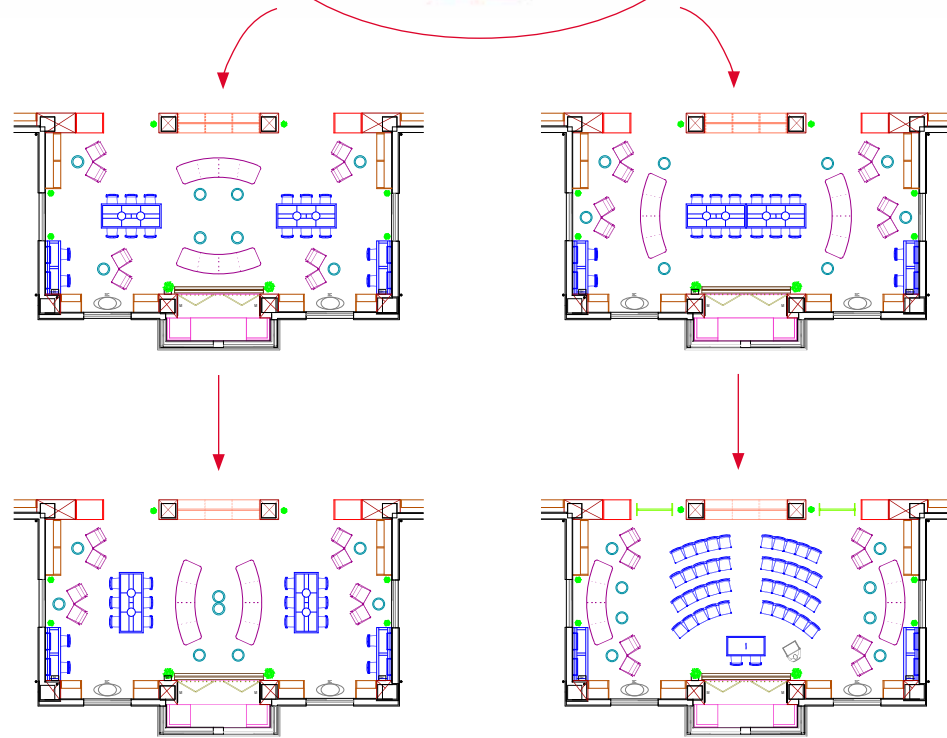
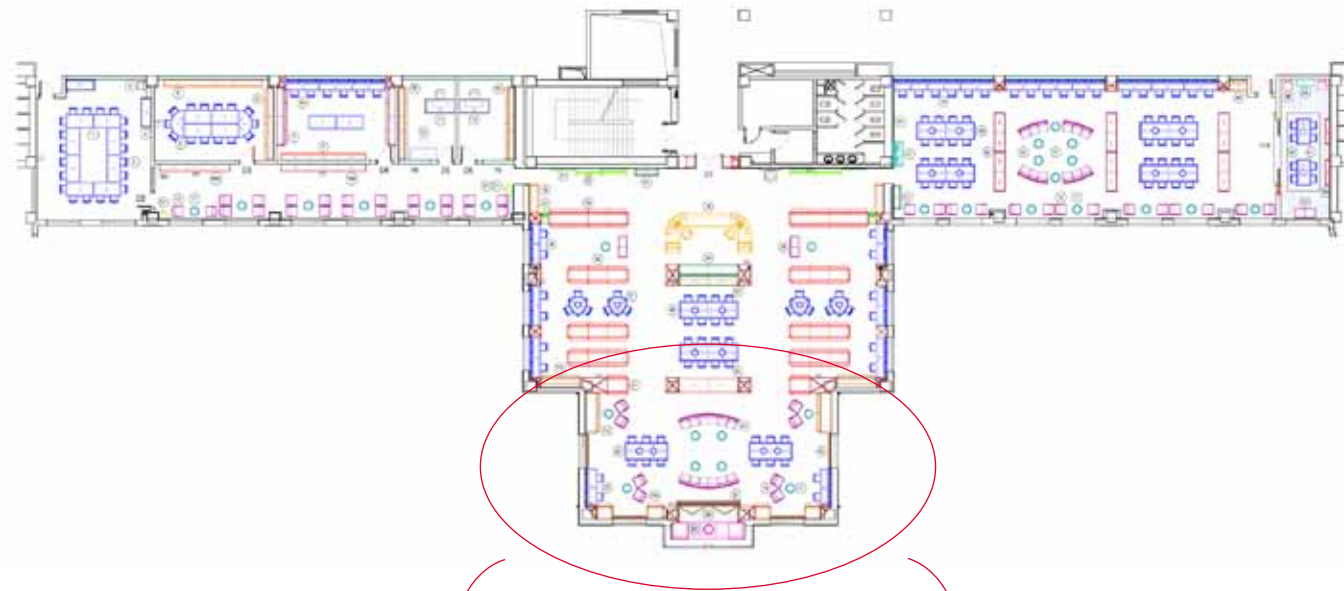
Luke Hughes was commissioned with a brief to create a library space that finely blended eastern and western aesthetics and sensibilities with a reflection of the 21st century - especially in a digital world dominated by the world-wide web. Additionally, the library aims to convey the values of European and US university libraries as they have evolved over the last 1000 years whilst projecting the ethos of Keystone Academy as a Chinese institution with an international flavour. The result is simple, understated and elegant.

With the visionary founding principal Malcolm McKenzie, the *Luke Hughes* team successfully helped to shape the interiors to support a new educational paradigm at the school.

“We commit to and value student learning that takes place independently and the library is a case in point where our students can explore areas of interest, make connections and enjoy unexpected discovery. Luke Hughes has turned our vision into a beautifully conceived, versatile, studious and stimulating environment.”

Malcolm McKenzie, Founding Principal, Keystone Academy

Cover picture and left: Keystone Academy library, Beijing.



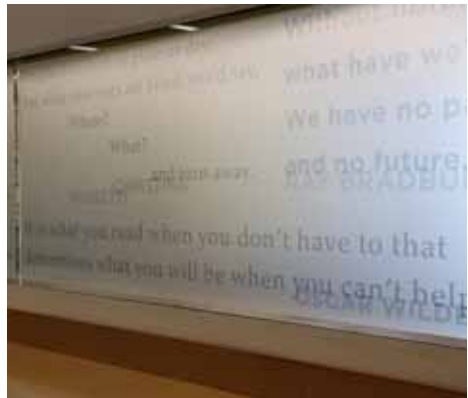
This 820 m² library consists of a central circulation area which contains a quiet study wing, a group study wing, teaching rooms, the librarian's office and the 'Scholars' Room' which contains rare and historic books.

Flexible furniture layouts are used throughout, including the main library space which can transform to accommodate for various uses including lectures, poetry readings and music concerts.



"From the start, we wanted to make the library a place the students want to go, where it's cool to be seen; conducive to work, easy to gain on-line access but also somewhere to browse, ponder, graze, stumble on the unexpected ..."

Luke Hughes, Founder and Managing Director,
Luke Hughes



"We've consciously taken some of the furniture forms illustrated in silk paintings from the Ming and Song dynasties and given them a contemporary twist."

Luke Hughes,

"Places where the qi (energy) not only draws you in but also speaks of other eras (and values) are so rare. The Jin-dynasty poet, Tao Yuanming, wrote in 'The Peach Blossom Land' about a shaman who stumbled on a magical village where, on entering, visitors lose their sense of time and forget to leave. That is what the library feels like."

Song Jingming,
Director of Libraries, Keystone Academy



City of London School

The historic City of London School sits in an enviable position on the banks of the River Thames, alongside some of London's landmarks, including St Paul's Cathedral, Millennium Bridge, The Shard and the Tate Modern.

Luke Hughes were given the challenge of transforming the well-used but poorly organised student library. Design objectives included making the library brighter and more comfortable for study, research and recreational reading, as well as offering more flexibility in the library's teaching spaces. The refurbishment offered the opportunity to open up some of the astonishing vistas across the Thames towards the iconic surrounding landmarks.

Despite being located on the busiest corridor in the school, the library space was lost behind partition walls and unwelcoming fire doors. Visitors or even students could easily walk past without realising what a valuable resource was so close.

In order to open up the space, the partition wall was replaced with bespoke glass display cases, seamlessly allowing views into and through the library. The display cases now showcase school archive material and student artworks, and bring striking views of the Thames deep into the school.



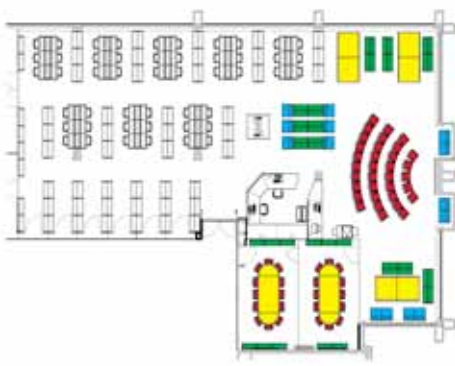
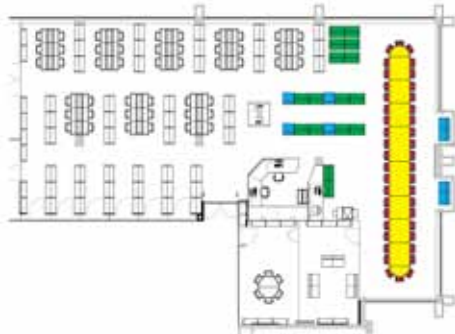
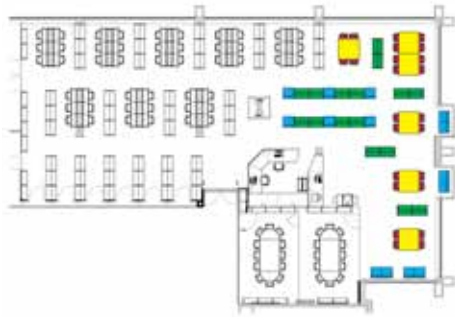
Letting in the light

Within the library, the main reading areas had suffered from excessive solar gain, with the majority of the furniture positioned along the large, south facing windows. Furthermore, the stunning views from the windows were obscured by excessive clutter, creating dull spaces deeper within the library.

By positioning the main body of working desks and bookshelves further into the library space, students are sheltered from uncomfortable heat and glare. This created space by the windows for walkways and seating areas, allowing students and staff to enjoy the cityscape.

Flexible solutions

Flexible furniture maximises the use of valuable space within the library. Different areas can now be reconfigured for academic or social use, meetings, informal lectures or talks and even formal dining, all with the backdrop of the Thames and London's skyline.



Yellow Tables Red Chairs Green Bookshelves Blue Sofas



"I will miss our creative partnership! It has delivered something much better than I could ever have imagined, and that is down to your ability to translate ideas into reality. The library is fantastic - Thank you!"

Sarah Fletcher, Principal, The City of London School



Institutional libraries

The UK Supreme Court was created in 2009 and housed in a flamboyant Edwardian architectural curiosity, the former Middlessex Guildhall in Parliament Square, sitting directly opposite the Houses of Parliament.

An earlier courtroom in the former criminal court formerly led down to prisoners’ cells but has found new use as the new symbolic heart of the building: the library. The floor was removed to create a dramatic triple-height space. Great care was taken to preserve the best of the architectural features; the library shelving was constructed without backs to allow the carved panelling to be seen through the new bookcases. Indeed, the design of the bookcases set out to achieve a modern look with a genuine sympathy for the original interior, even integrating the sprinkler system into the lighting fittings. The mid-height shelving around the central void was panelled in walnut, with carved lettering presenting uplifting epigrams in a truly artistic way.

‘the project demonstrates that with specialist expertise, skill and flair even the most challenging historic buildings can be adapted to new uses without sacrificing their fundamental significance and integrity’

Philip Davies, former Senior Director at English Heritage



UK Supreme Court Library

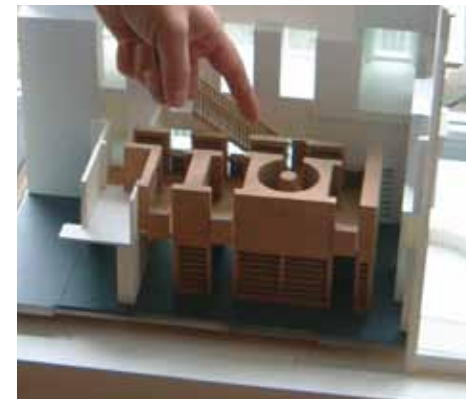


Original architect: James Gibson (1912)
Refurbishment architect: Fielden & Mawson
Lettering: Richard Kindersley





Scottish Supreme Court, Edinburgh
Architects: LDN



The Supreme Court Library in Edinburgh, completed in 2004, was another award-winning project, for which the particular challenge was to insert the whole library structure within the historic walls of the former Scottish Parliament building. Our role was, working with LDN, the architects, to design and manufacture the structure, the furniture and all the library light fittings.

'A stunning piece of work carried out with intelligent design within an extremely difficult space ... clean, square lines are intended to make the library look as though it has been sculpted out of a single block of American cherry. This effect has been achieved with truly immaculate detailing ...'

Judges report from The Carpenters' Company Wood Awards, 2004

Other school libraries

The refurbishment of the Cripps Library at Oundle School dramatically increased the shelf space, and numbers of readers' seats, upgraded the heating and lighting, facilitated the retrieval of periodicals, and provided a dedicated 'Rare Books Room', a teaching room and a flexible conference area.

In addition, provision was made for many more temporary exhibitions from the archive and school's historic collection.

All of this was achieved without intervention to the fabric of the building, merely by intelligent design of the furnishings and care in the coordination of the finishes.

'Thank you so much for your excellent design and development work ... it all looks fantastic and, more importantly, it really feels like a place where people will want to work – which is something we really approve of at Oundle'

Charles Bush, Headmaster



After

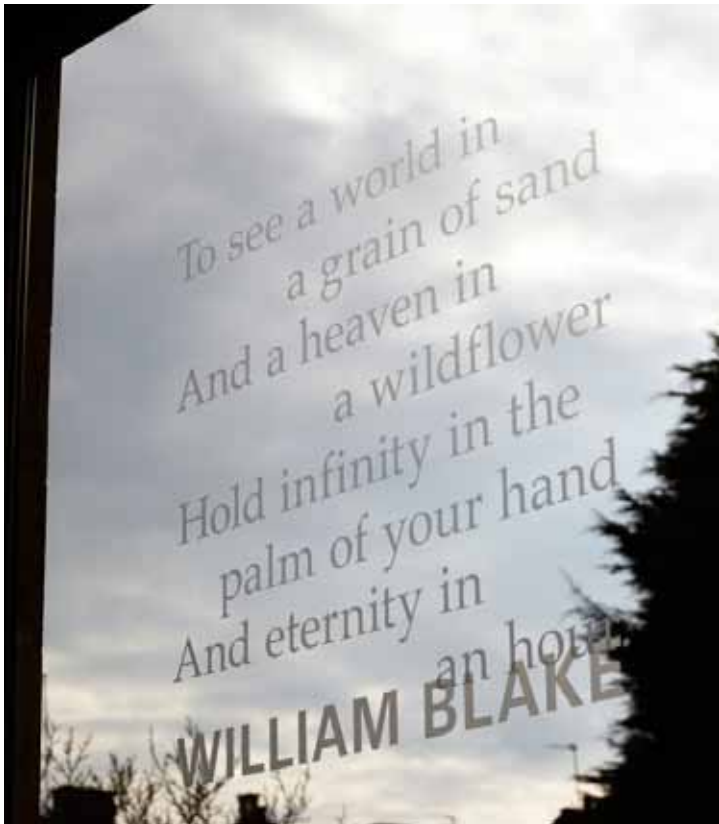


Before



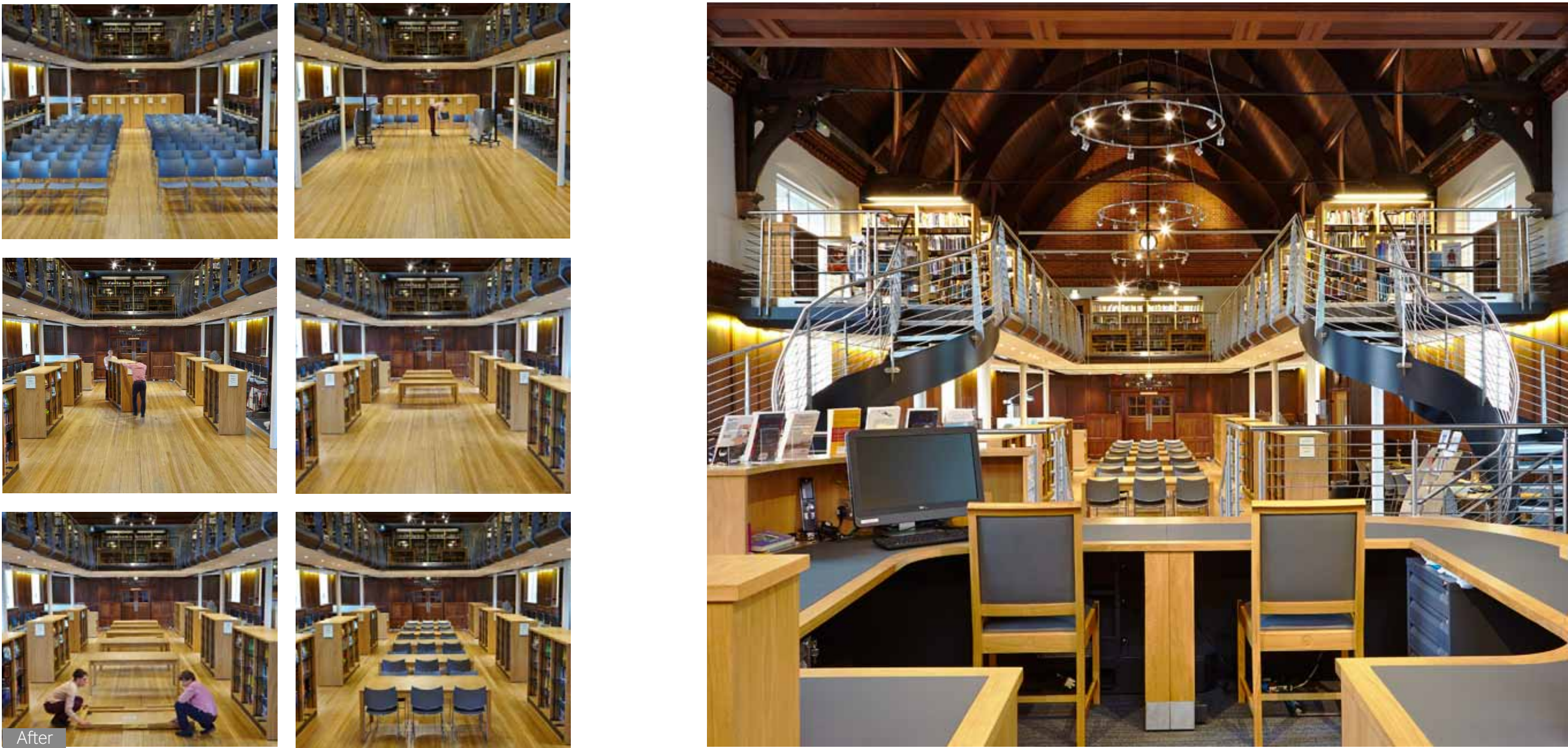
‘Even the pupils say “it looks much more like a proper library”; they think it is very sophisticated and walk around in awe. It takes a lot to impress a teenager.’

Leigh Giurlando, Librarian



As it headed into its 450th year, Highgate School sought to renovate the former Victorian speech hall and convert it into a new library named after a former pupil, the historian Sir Martin Gilbert.

Luke Hughes was commissioned to design and provide all the lighting and library furnishings and these now allow for the space to be swiftly transformed to suit many uses, including independent study, group learning as well as the original purpose of the building, public lectures.



Highgate School; original architect Frederick Pepys Cockerell (1865)



Libraries in other buildings of architectural distinction

From the Neo-Classical to the Gothic Revival, from the Modernist to the Medieval, there can be, either for us or our clients, no such thing as a 'standard solution'.

In some respects, we consider the building to be just as much a client as the client is; it is our task to receive and refine the brief, and take all this into account.

There are, however, usually a number of generic principles, which when sensitively assembled and combined with our tailored or bespoke solutions, create effective, long-lasting, highly practical, harmonious, and comfortable environments.

Over the last 30 years or so, Luke Hughes has developed hundreds of furniture and lighting products that have addressed these issues. If you do not find here images of what you are seeking, do please contact the design team who will immediately respond to specific enquiries.



Downing College, Cambridge
Architect: Quinlan Terry



Peterhouse, Cambridge
Architects: Freeland Rees Roberts





Keble College, Oxford
Original architect: William Butterfield (1878)



Pembroke College, Cambridge
Original architect: Alfred Waterhouse (1875)
Refurbishment architect: Freeland Rees Roberts





Law library, Christ's Church, Oxford



Institute of Criminology, Cambridge
Architect: Allies & Morrison

The Radzinowicz Library in the Institute of Criminology in Cambridge is the premier academic criminology collection in the UK and one of the major collections in this subject in the world, serving not just the University but also the wider community of criminal justice researchers, many of whom are regular visitors.

All the furniture and lighting was designed and supplied by Luke Hughes and is a good example of a contemporary library designed to a tight budget whilst still incorporating all our knowledge, thinking and experience.





Cambridge University Library is one of the world's great libraries and one of the six 'legal deposit' libraries in the UK (entitled to receive without charge a copy of all books, journals, printed maps and music published in Britain and Ireland). This has contributed to the library's large holdings of over seven million books and 1.5 million periodicals.

The collection is housed in a semi-classical building, built between 1931 and 1934 and was designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott (famous for London's red telephone boxes and Battersea Power station).

The library has been extended several times, including the Aoi Pavilion (1998), which houses the Japanese and Chinese collections, and the Department of Manuscripts and University Archives (2000). *Luke Hughes* has regularly been commissioned to work within Gilbert Scott's design aesthetic to produce modern, ergonomic, technically up-to-date furniture that retains the architectural integrity of the building.



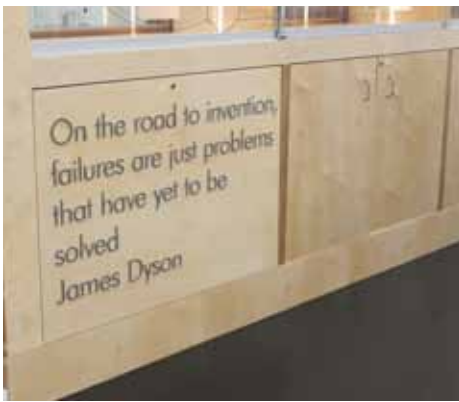
Since moving to Covent Garden 35 years ago, *Luke Hughes* has designed and made furniture for libraries in the UK and around the world, including nearly 60 Oxbridge colleges.

This might seem an eclectic mix, but there is a common theme: in any good building, 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. The skill lies in matching the two.

Many of the *Luke Hughes* design solutions for archive collections, libraries and information hubs have been specifically developed so that they can be readily adapted to suit the particular architectural style of the building.



Wolfson Institute Library Cambridge



Readers tables

Quite apart from the style and appearance of readers' tables, one of the constant challenges is the integration of power, data and lighting.

Solutions depend greatly on the budget available. Nevertheless, the *Luke Hughes* approach assumes that new technologies will continue to evolve and change the way we work; so, some degree of future-proofing is essential. In our view, it is vital to assume these will be replaced every ten years or so, and therefore to allow for adequate, discrete provision for cable routes and access flaps. In this way, upgrades and replacements can be easily and economically accommodated in future.



Lighting

The principle lighting challenge in libraries is providing sufficient task lighting to be able to read comfortably – either using a linear or a ‘mushroom’ solution – without compromising the glare from laptops. Over the years, we have developed a wide variety of designs and, since the lights are made to order, finishes can be chosen to coordinate with the overall interior scheme.

Mood lighting is greatly enhanced by lighting the spines of the books and, again, we have a number of solutions for this to be achieved.

Ambient lighting around the rest of a library space needs to be addressed as well. One of our favoured solutions is to use the tops of bookcases to hide uplighters, and thus to bounce the light off the ceiling. This means that the bookcases can be delivered and installed with the wiring already incorporated - simply plug in. This needs site coordination with site-contractors and we have common-sense protocols in place to ensure this is done efficiently.



Shelving

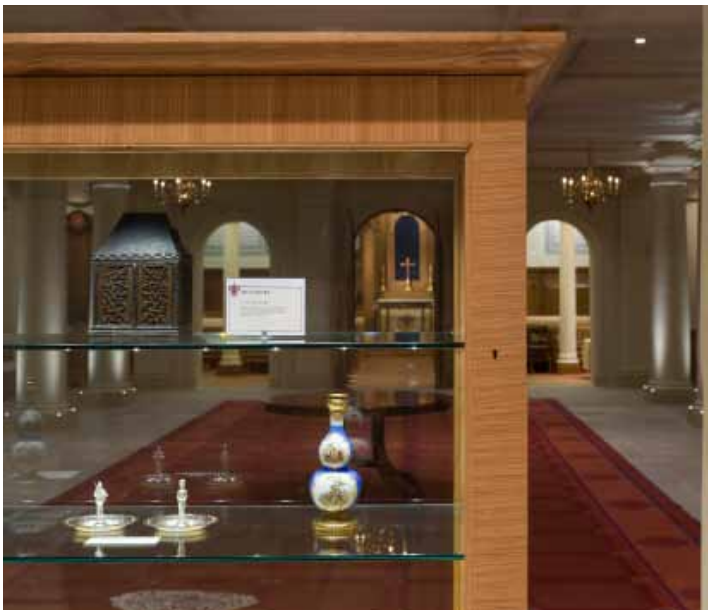
Shelving design, adjustable or not, can have a major impact not just on the architecture but also on the budget. Over the years, we have developed a series of cost-efficient well-engineered solutions that can be readily adapted within the main bookcase carcasses – regardless of style.



Display cases

Occasional display of books, archives and objects can play a major part in providing visual and intellectual interest in libraries, as well as lending tone to the nature of the building.

Security, climate control, lighting, mobility, acoustics and a 'sense of place' are some of the typical design parameters we expect to take into account.



Chairs

Some of the chairs illustrated in this booklet have been developed specifically for the architectural styles of the buildings.

Our library chairs are designed to last, in normal use, for 50 years or more, and many have already been in use for 25-30 years.

We take care to co-ordinate the upholstery (preferably leather, due to its durability) to the colour scheme of the interior and even, when appropriate, to the writing surfaces of the desks.

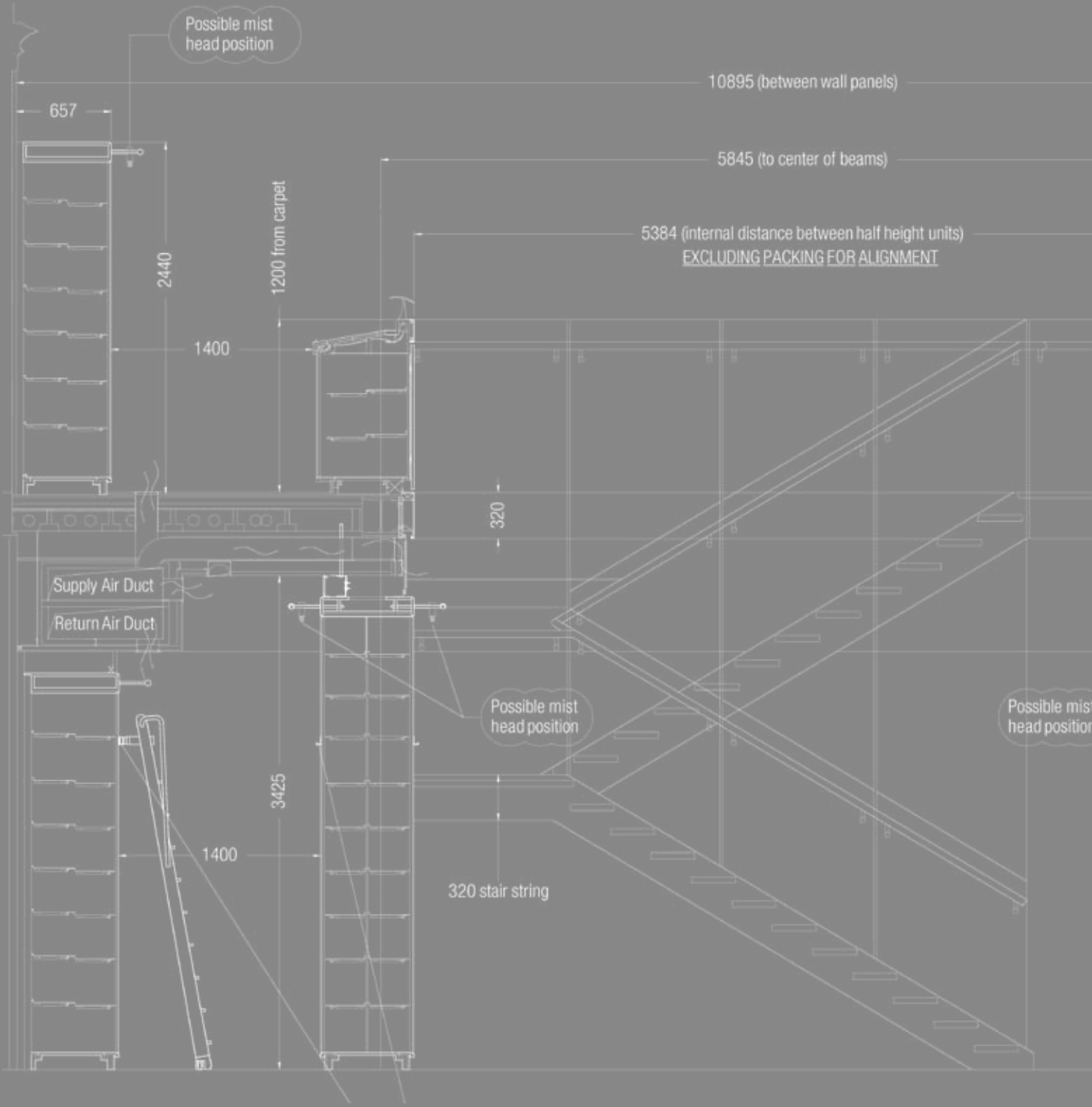
Illustrated opposite are some of the actual models that appear in the preceding pages. Further details of our standard chairs can be found on our website or by contacting the design studio.



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	
Keystone Academy, Beijing	
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 Benet'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, Cambridge	
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 Valparaiso, (Indiana), USA	
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	
Leighton House Museum	
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 Pattenmakers
Worshipful Company of Skinners



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

Country Life Magazine

