

Leathersellers' Hall

Bespoke furniture



Luke Hughes

Furniture in Architecture



In early 2017, the seventh Leathersellers' Hall officially opened at St Helen's Place, London.

Apart from the original early 20th century facade, retained from the last major redevelopment, the project was a new building designed by Eric Parry Architects. Conveying a theme of continuity and renewal, the design incorporates features from the previous six Halls and boasts an unusual yet luxurious combination of materials and finishes.

The *Luke Hughes* team was commissioned to design and manufacture most of the new furniture, as well as to refurbish the company's historic furniture.

This project joins a growing number of City Livery companies who are clients including the Mercers, Haberdashers, Butchers, Fishmongers and Carpenters.

Cover: Exterior view of Leathersellers' Hall, credit: Dare & Hier Media
Opposite: Hallway leading to Livery Hall



The Leathersellers' Company began as an informal association of leather merchants and craftsmen and was incorporated in 1444. The first Hall was opened on London Wall in 1476 and the Company moved in 1543 to more prestigious premises on the estate of the former priory of St Helen's in Bishopsgate, the site of its home right up to the present day,

The Company currently devotes its time to charity, education and training; it also has an important role as an advocate for the British leather trade.

The sixth building closed in 2011 following a decision to redevelop the site and accommodate the new seventh Hall.

Below and opposite: Furniture is designed and refurbished in the workshop



Court Room with bespoke demountable Court Room table

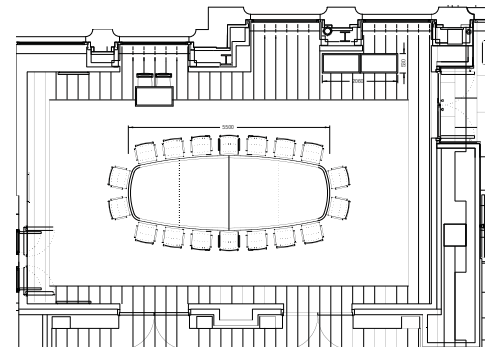
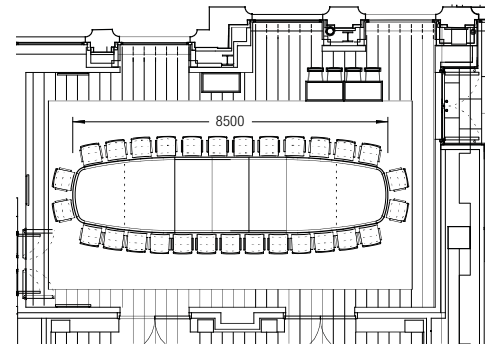


The new Court Room is furnished with a demountable boardroom table manufactured in French walnut, and is made in seven sections that can be reduced in size (from 8.5 to 5.5 metres) or removed entirely from the room. Spare sections are accommodated on a purpose-made trolley.

Two side tables in French walnut were designed to reflect the joinery of the room's wall panelling.

Below: Walnut Court Room side table

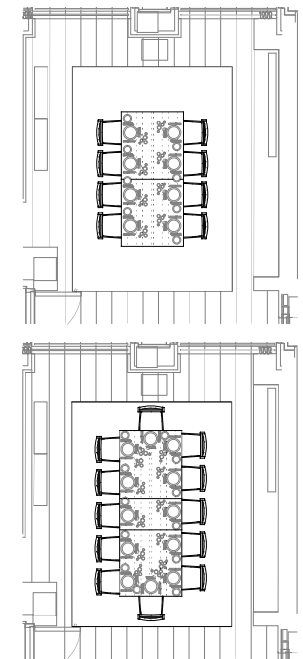
Opposite: Detail of walnut Court Room table, floor plans showing two table layout arrangements, table sections on portable trolley





A new extending table in solid European oak was designed for the intimate Library, which can be used for meetings and small-scale dining. The table extends from 2.6m to 3.2m.

Opposite: Library with bespoke oak table
Below: Floor plans showing two table layout arrangements, detail of 'The Flesher' sculpture







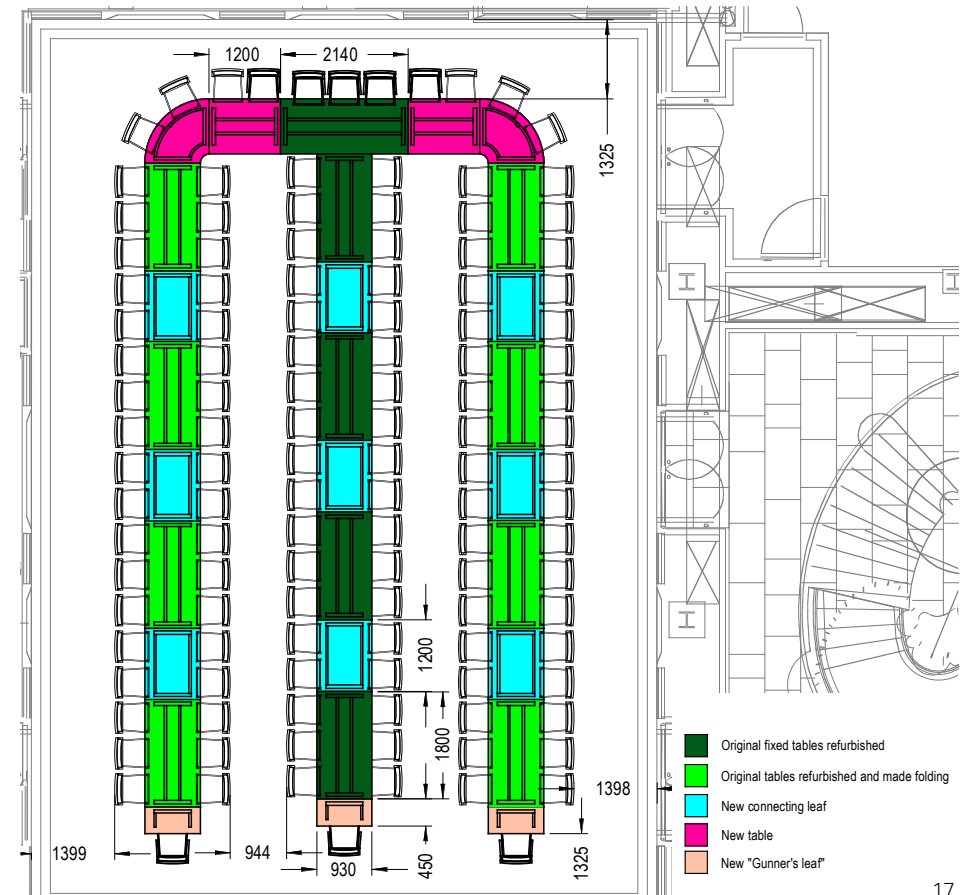
The original mahogany dining table and chairs of the Livery Hall were re-engineered and refurbished by the Luke Hughes team, adding a robust, discreet folding mechanism that enables the whole set to be rearranged, cleared away and stored.

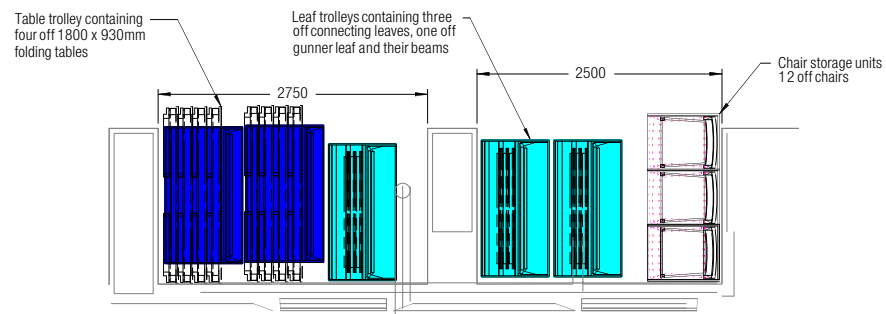
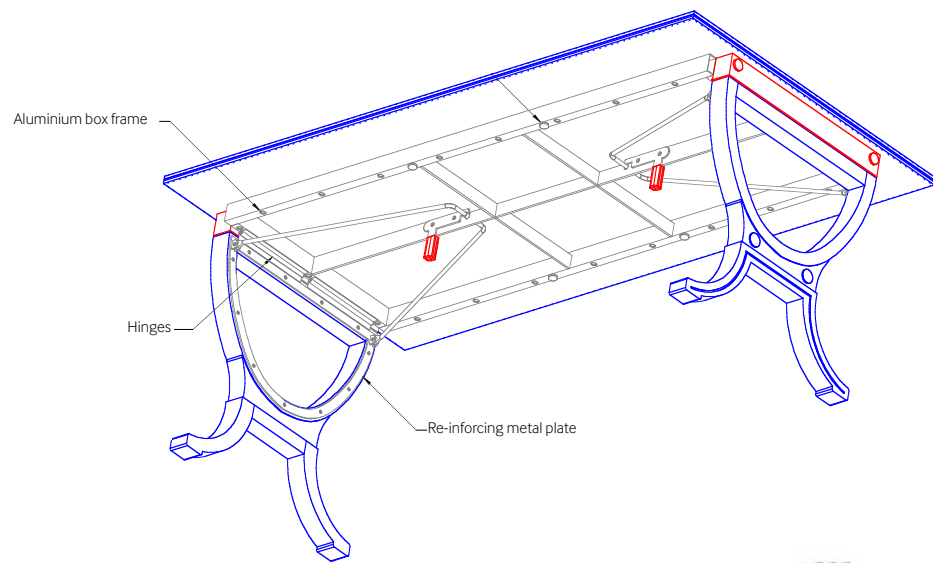
All the original chairs were refurbished, regilded and re-upholstered and an additional set of 30 reproduced to make up a complete set for the new Hall, which seats up to 120.

Other items included the silver store storage units and furniture for the archivist.

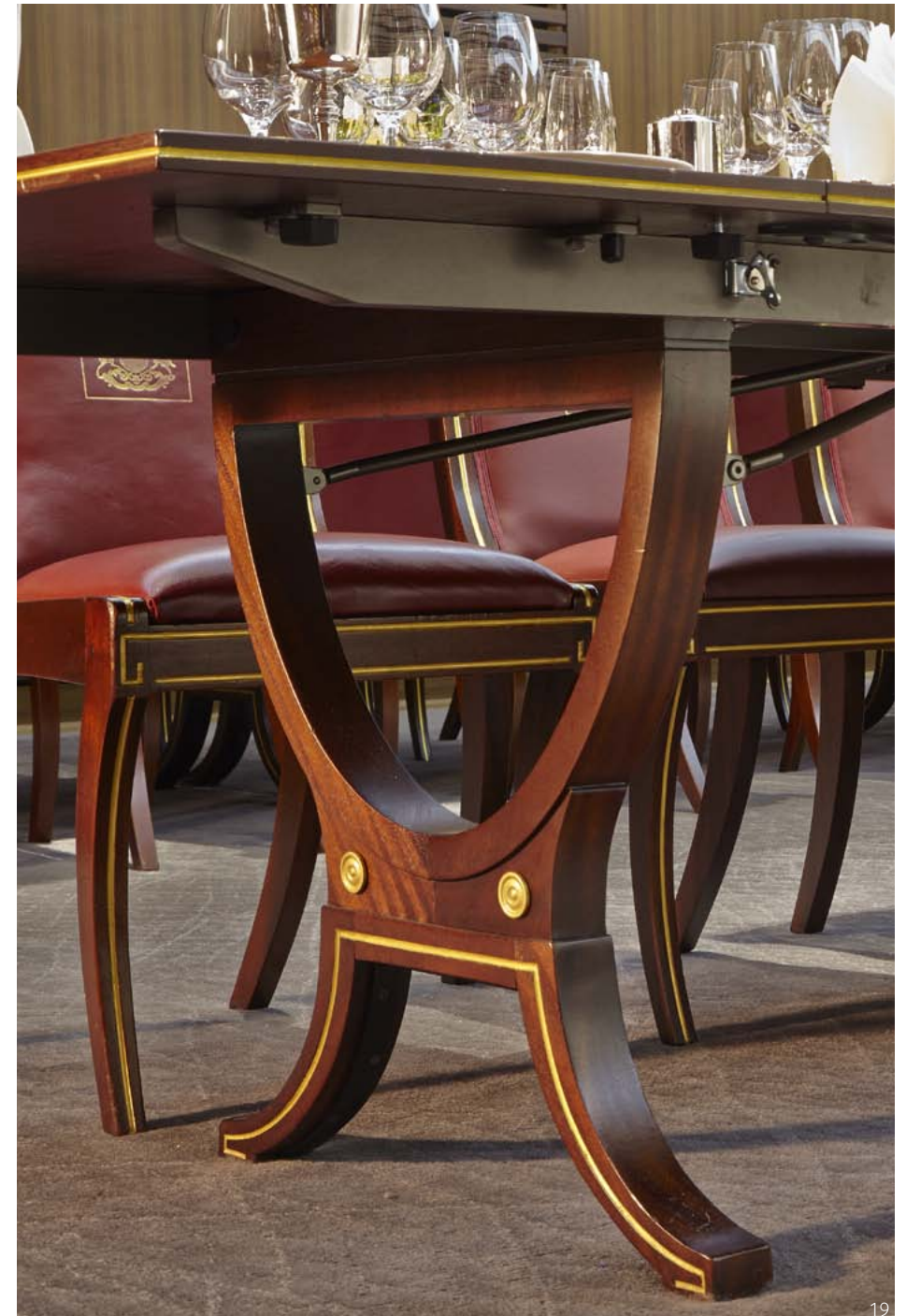
Below: Livery Hall floor plan showing table and chair layout

Opposite: Livery Hall showing new quadrant table and mix of refurbished and reproduction chairs





Below: Drawing showing new folding mechanism for Livery Hall dining tables, visuals and drawing of Livery Hall table sections on portable trolleys
 Opposite: Detail of refurbished dining tables



Two original dining chairs alongside a reproduction chair (right)

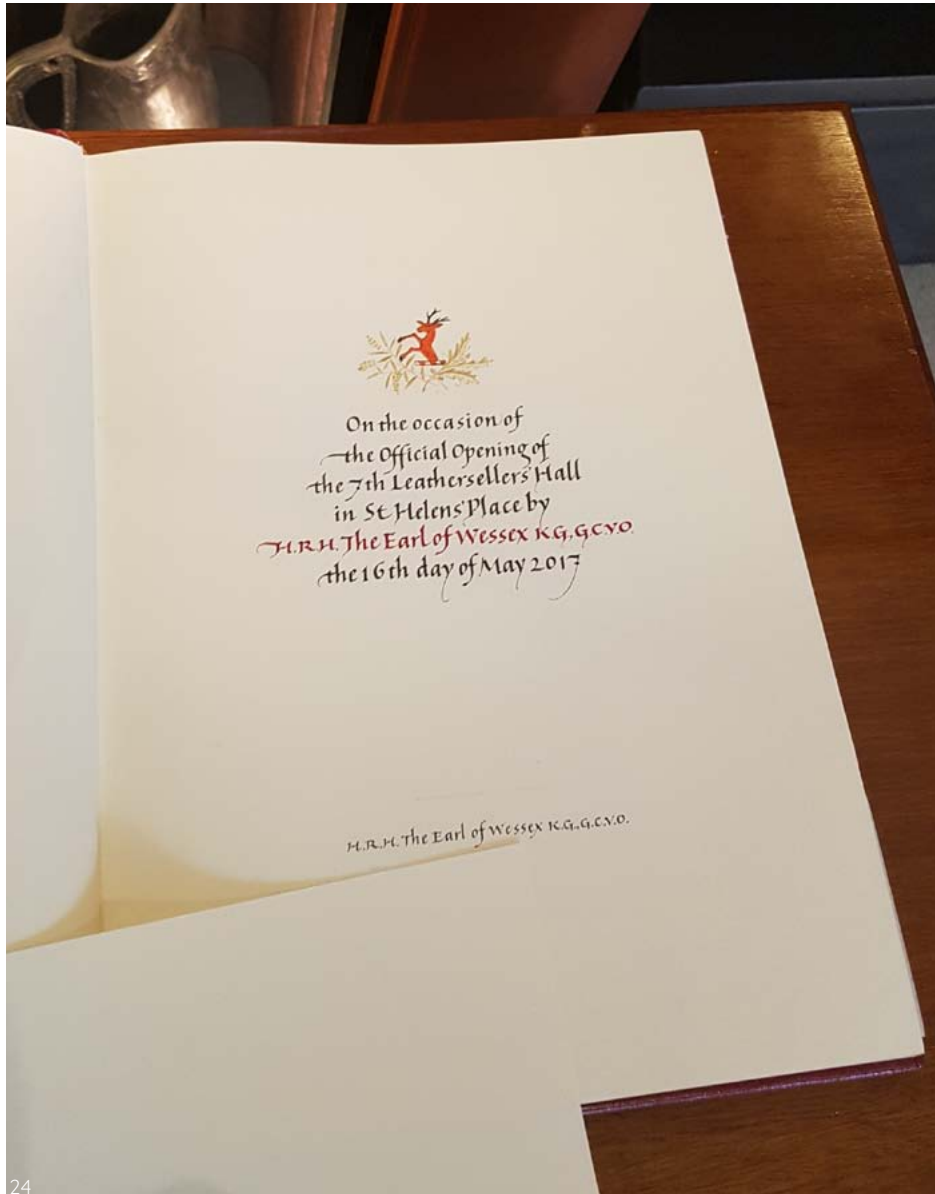




On 16 May 2017 the new Leathersellers' Hall was officially opened by HRH Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex, who toured the new building and unveiled 'The Flesher' commemorative statue.

Below: Visitors book signed by HRH Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex

Opposite: HRH Prince Edward unveiling the statue and touring the new building, credit: Dare & Hier Media





History and philosophy

Luke Hughes is an award-winning specialist furniture design company to Britain's best-loved buildings and some of the world's most powerful brands - including 5 Royal palaces, 21 international cathedrals, 54 Oxbridge colleges & 900 boardrooms. A central design principle is that in any quality building, the connection between architecture and furniture should be seamless.

Since 1990, *Luke Hughes* has focused on design for public spaces, particularly in the academic, institutional, places of worship, corporate and leisure sectors - principally for buildings with significant architectural interiors.

Company founder Luke Hughes was educated at Cambridge University before setting up a small craft workshop in the backyard of a house in Bloomsbury in 1978, and then moving to Covent Garden in 1981. The business was incorporated in 1986, and has been growing ever since.

Institutional projects

Anglo-Omani Society
 Art Workers Guild
 Athenaeum Club
 Athenaeum Club
 Aylesbury Theatre
 Beefsteak Club
 British Academy
 British Council
 British Heart Foundation
 British Museum
 Buckingham Palace
 Cambridge Arts Theatre
 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
 Historic Royal Palaces
 Holyrood House
 Honourable Society of the Inner Temple
 House of Commons
 Institute for Government
 Institute of Chartered Accountants
 Institute of Electrical Engineers
 International Institute of Strategic Studies
 Kew Gardens Herbarium
 Kew Palace
 Leighton House Museum
 London Library
 London Transport
 Middle Temple
 Ministry of Defence
 National Gallery of Scotland
 National Gallery, London
 Oxford and Cambridge Club
 Paul Mellon Centre, London
 Plymouth City Council
 Prince of Wales Theatre, London
 Queens Theatre, London
 Rotherham Town Hall
 Royal Albert Hall
 Royal Astronomical Society
 Royal Collection Trust
 Royal College of Paediatrics
 Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons
 Royal Geographical Society
 Royal Institute of British Architects
 Royal Institute of Navigation
 Royal Opera House
 Royal Scottish Academy
 Royal Society of Arts

Royal Society of Chemistry
 Sainsbury Family Charitable Trusts
 Scottish Supreme Court
 Society of Antiquaries
 Somerset House
 Special Air Service Regiment
 St Christopher's Hospice
 Tate Modern
 Temple Bar
 Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmunds
 Tower of London
 Transport and General Workers Union
 TUC
 United Grand Lodge of England
 United Kingdom Supreme Court
 Victoria & Albert Museum
 Wallace Collection
 Windsor Castle
 Worshipful Company of Butchers
 Worshipful Company of Haberdashers
 Worshipful Company of Leathersellers
 Worshipful Company of Mercers
 Worshipful Company of Skinners



Detail of one of a pair of rare 16th century Flemish paintings by Gillis Mostaert showing stages in the manufacture of leather, acquired for the Hall in 2002

