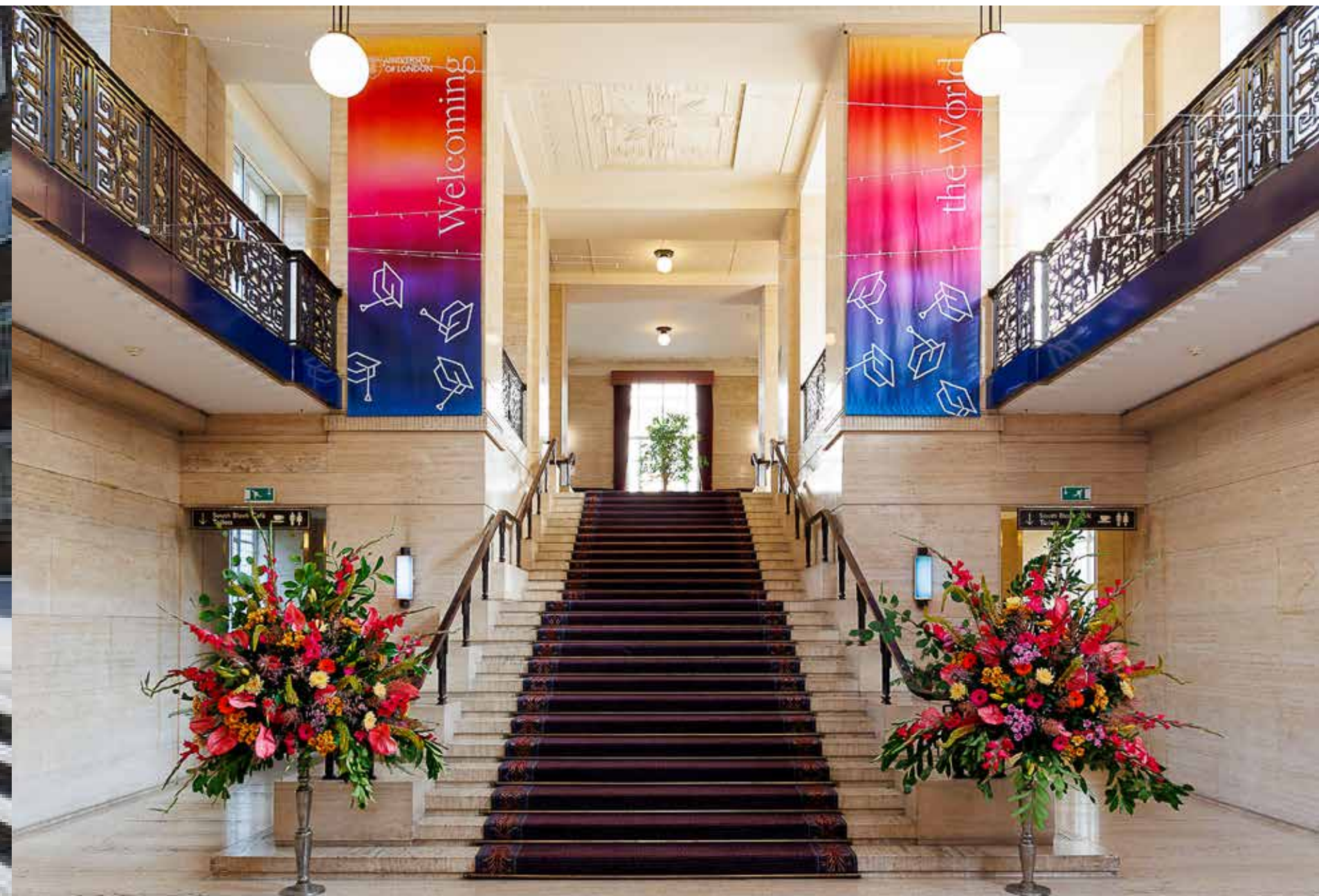


# RE-IMAGINING OUR BLOOMSBURY CAMPUS



UNIVERSITY  
OF LONDON







# Introduction to University of London

The University of London is the UK’s leading provider of digital and blended distance education internationally, offering programmes to 45,000 students in 190 countries around the world. Although proudly rooted in London, our community and impact are global.

We are a national leader in the humanities, and we promote their value to society and the economy through knowledge creation and exchange.

We are also a federation of 17 world-class higher education institutions, with collaboration at the heart of our ethos. The University of London federation is a collective community of more than 240,000 learners and 50,000 staff, delivering world-leading research across all disciplines.

Our passion for increasing access to education and mobilising the collective power and expertise of the federation is central to our ability to transform lives around the world and address the global challenges of the future.

45,000+

students across Worldwide, SAS and ULIP programmes

120

recognised Teaching Centres in 40 countries; studying face-to-face and online

2,000,000

alumni

85

Nobel laureates

190

countries represented across our student body

## Federation Members





# Knowledge Quarter

As this map shows, our campus is situated at the heart of the most remarkable knowledge-producing six square kilometres in the world.

Since its founding in 1836, the University of London federation has played a considerable role in the creation of the modern world; as an example; our staff or alumni developed the theory of electro-magnetism, calculated the speed of light, developed the first vaccine, the first antibiotic, the first antiseptic, and the anatomical reference book used by surgeons the world over. More recently staff discovered DNA, and developed the world’s first programmable electronic computer.

Our record is no less impressive in the field of art and culture. Staff and students of the federation have included T.S. Eliot, H.G. Wells and Arthur C Clarke, Gilbert & Sullivan, Nazia Hassan, members of the Rolling Stones, the Velvet Underground, Tracey Emin and Damien Hirst, film director Christopher Nolan (our Flaxman Gallery features in the movie Inception, 2010).

And we play a not inconsiderable role in politics and thought-leadership too; we count Nelson Mandela, Bishop Tutu and Mahatma Gandhi, Karl Popper and George Soros as alumni, and William Beveridge was our Vice-Chancellor: founder of the welfare state.

*“Innovation districts embody the very essence of cities: an aggregation of talented, driven people, assembled in close quarters, who exchange ideas and knowledge.”*

Peter Hall, *Civilisation: Culture, Innovation, and Urban Order*





# New University Quarter

## Our five-year strategy has a core aim

To enrich our academic work in the pursuit of excellence in education, research and knowledge exchange through collaboration with our Member Institutions, developing academic programmes, networks and partnerships that further our federation’s goals across London, the UK and internationally.

## What role does the Estate Strategy play in helping us achieve the strategic objectives?

The Estate Strategy is core to our ambition to mobilise our physical estate to support our academic functions and realise its commercial value for the benefit of the University of London federation.

It is also the key driver in delivering a world class Estate, which is fundamental to delivering excellent student and stakeholder experience in the centre of the biggest global city – London.

## Why Bloomsbury?

Bloomsbury is already home to the University of London, with its iconic Senate House which hosts Senate House Library; and it is owned by the University. The location is close to the world renowned Knowledge Quarter which has institutions like the British Museum, the Francis Crick Institute and the Wellcome Trust.

The unique Senate House Library and our work in knowledge creation and exchange draws academics, scholars, students, staff and other key stakeholders to our campus. Our proximity to the Knowledge Quarter has the potential to create an academic hub of global significance.

Students and academics choose London for a number of reasons, including its quality of education, diversity, language accessibility and its rich history and buildings. Bloomsbury offers all the above and has the potential to also offer an academic experience that few places in London or even the UK can offer.

## Why now?

The University set out a very ambitious strategy in 2020, which included plans to modernise its physical estate. The need for a global offering to our staff, federation, students and other stakeholders is even greater now. The University and its federal Member Institutions need to ensure that the competitive advantage we have is maintained in a period of significant global political and economic challenges.

Having restructured our operating model during the pandemic, the University is now in a position to invest in the physical estate to ensure that we remain world class over the coming period.

Finally, there is more to Bloomsbury than the academic and intellectual offer – it has the advantage of capitalising on recent development in neighbouring areas to become an even more attractive place to live, work or study.

“We are a bold, pioneering, creative and inclusive University and together we will meet modern challenges head on and harness the strengths of our history to deliver a truly unique student experience.”

Professor Wendy Thomson, Vice-Chancellor

# Our vision for the University Quarter

The new Bloomsbury campus and the University Quarter will be a welcoming destination venue which with amenities, green spaces, shops, cafés, restaurants and multi-functional spaces which are attractive to the wider community.

It will have a world class Senate House Library which boasts of modern library facilities, accessible and offering cutting edge technology to enable and enhance learning and academic collaboration.

The improved public realm design and amenities will ensure that users and visitors to the campus find the space safe and easy to navigate.

With improved and increased accommodation for students and other residents, the campus will be busy and have a night-life which students and other residents can enjoy.

The sympathetic refurbishment of our historic buildings will mean that the University Quarter itself will be a major destination for visitors to London, offering a mix of experiences that very few places in London can offer.

The University Quarter will facilitate connections, enable collaboration and build a sense of belonging to a wider University community, to the benefit of the 195,000 students (from our 17 Member Institutions) that study in London.

The following pages in this document give an indication of what each portion of the plan looks like.

The project will fulfil the following key objectives:

- 1. Create a welcoming and inspiring place for students, academics, staff and visitors in a re-imagined Senate and Stewart House.**
- 2. Establish the University Quarter in the heart of Camden.**
- 3. Increase the number of beds and the quality of our residential accommodation, in both the Purpose-Built Student Accommodation and our Private Rented Sector portfolio.**
- 4. Ensure the current estate and future developments are environmentally sustainable and energy efficient.**









A



B



C



D



E

# Academic Hub

## Re-imagining Senate House

The heart of the University Quarter is Senate House. Built in 1937, today the main building houses the University of London's Central Academic Bodies and activities, including the offices of the vice-chancellor of the University, the entire collection of the Senate House Library, six of the eight research institutes of the School of Advanced Study, as well as departments of distance learning provider University of London Worldwide.

We will enhance and renew this building of national importance, and make it the heart of our new University Quarter, with a dramatic and distinctive new entrance.

We propose to re-design Senate House to create an inspiring academic home for our National Centre for the Humanities, and the Senate House Library.

We will do this by creating modern multi-functional spaces; that enable blended learning and collaboration.



A + D. Interior design examples

E. Illustrative section through Senate House entrance pavilion and new lower ground



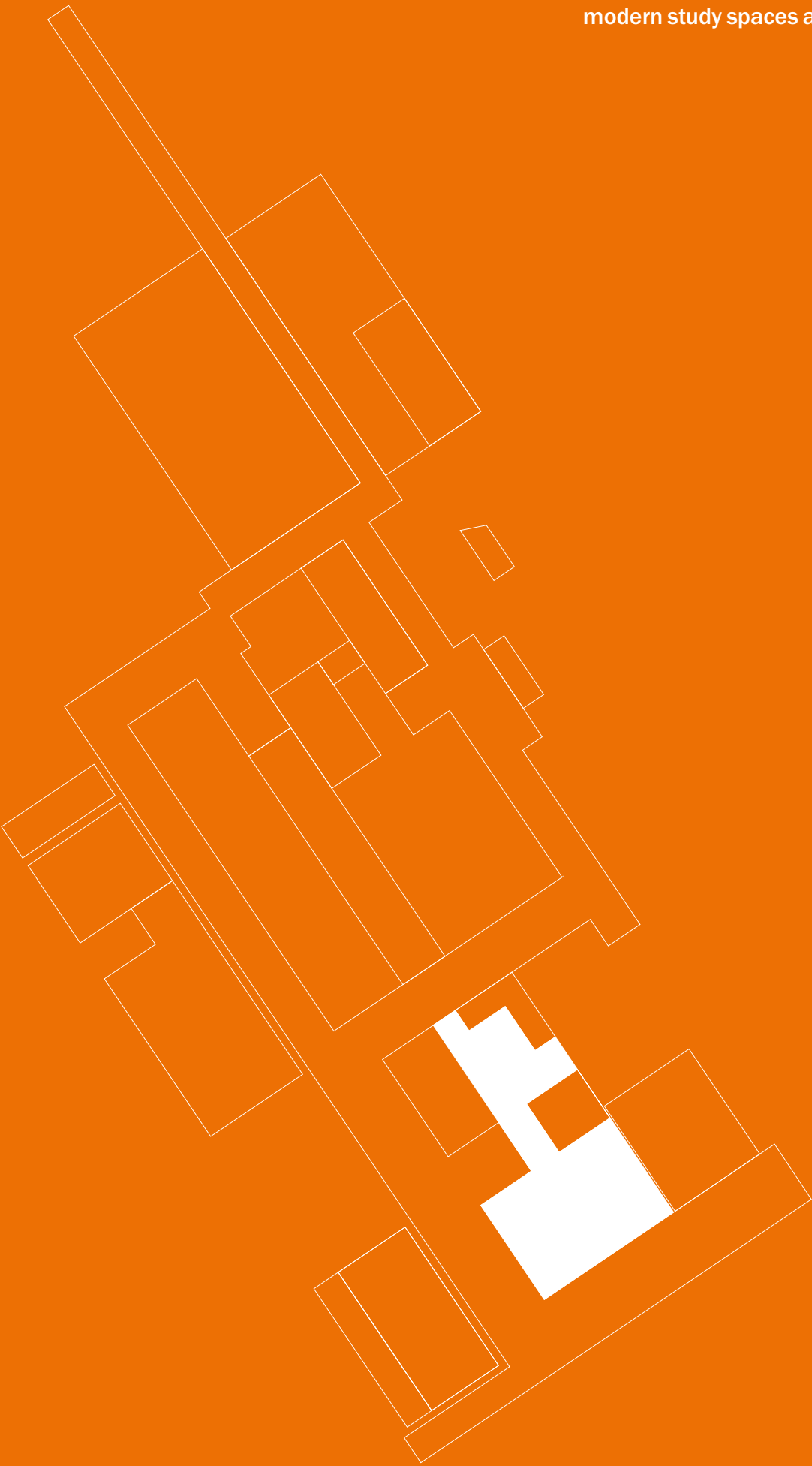


# Academic Hub

## Re-imagining Senate House Library

The library is of central importance to the University, holding over two million books, fifty special collections and 1,800 archival collections.

We will refurbish the fifteen floors of the library within Senate House, and provide modern study spaces and reading rooms.



Images opposite show interior design examples.



# Academic Hub

## Re-imagining Stewart House

We envisage a building in contrast with Senate House; a predominantly glass façade in place of stone. A building that presents an open face to Russell Square, a building full of light.

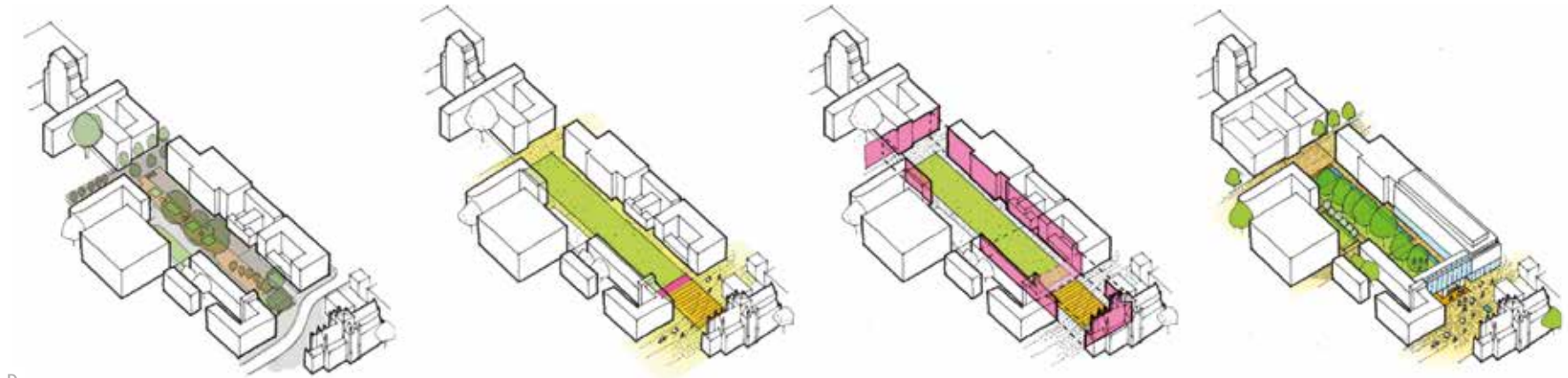


A. Illustrative view of Stewart House with Senate House in the background  
 B. Illustrative view of Stewart House  
 C. Interior design example



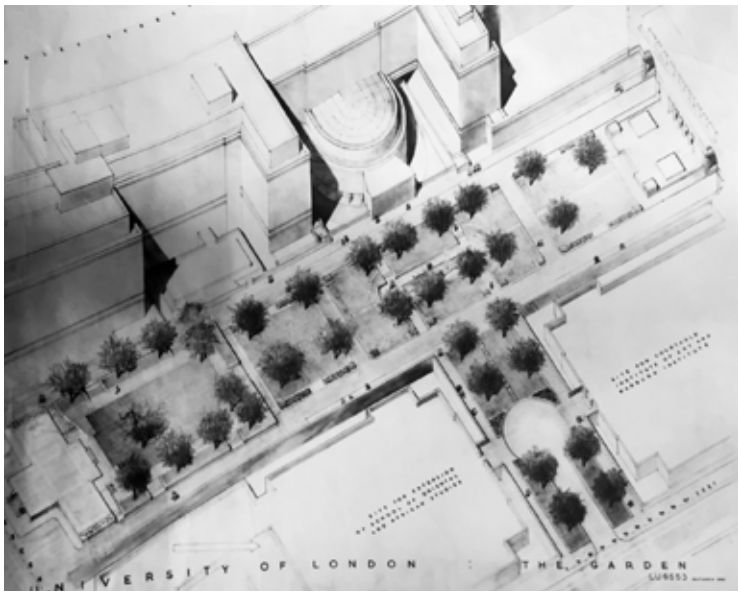
# Public Realm Campus Walkways

The project will build on the distinctive sense of place of our campus, at the epicentre of British culture. We will develop our campus walkways, pavements and roads, prioritise people and cyclists, rather than vehicles. In combination with our existing and new green spaces we will create a new city Quarter, accessible and enjoyable for everyone: a new London destination.



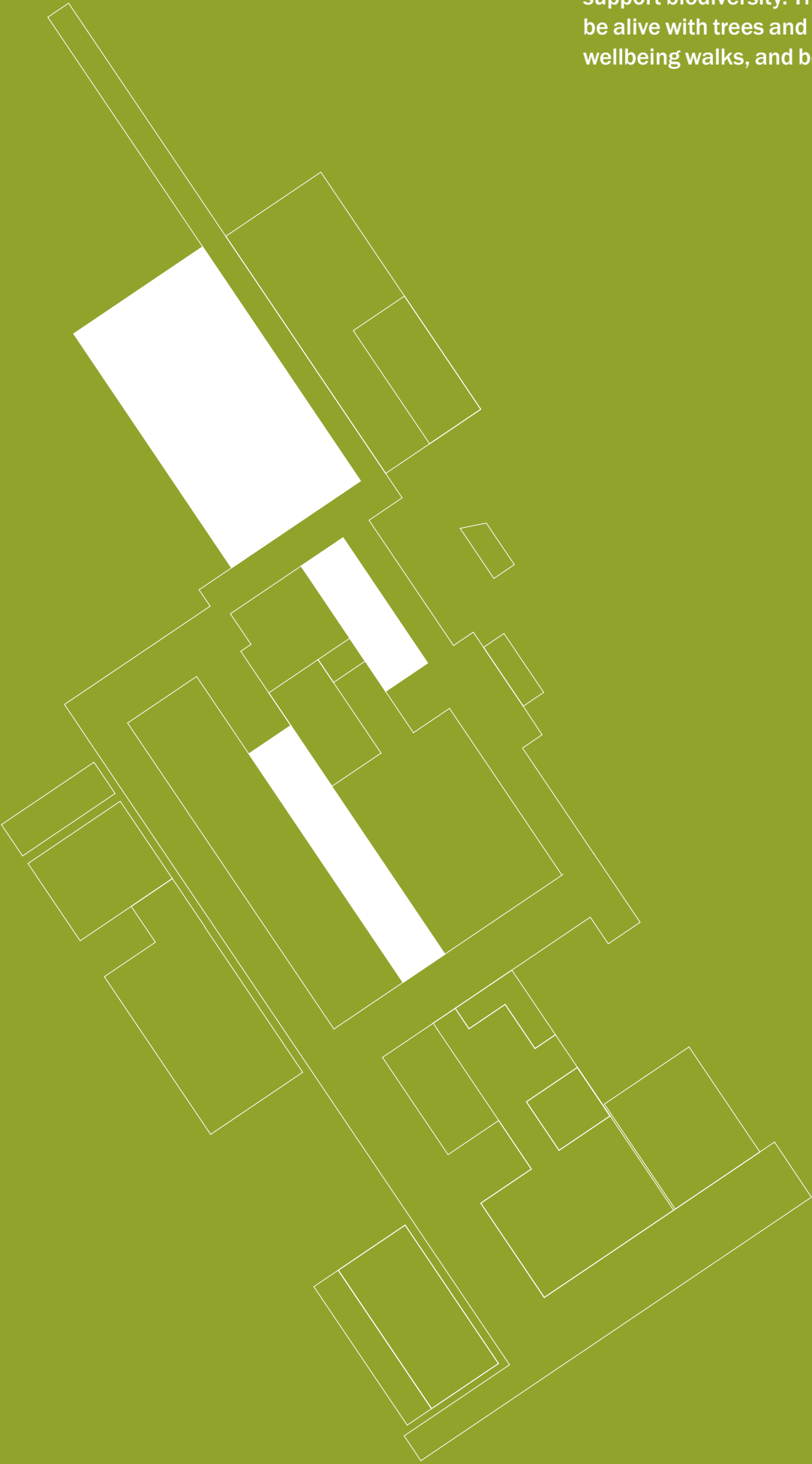
A. Illustrative Visual of Woburn Square  
 B. Urban scheme at Kings Cross Central  
 C. Relevant finishes for the project  
 D. 3D renders showing the walkways





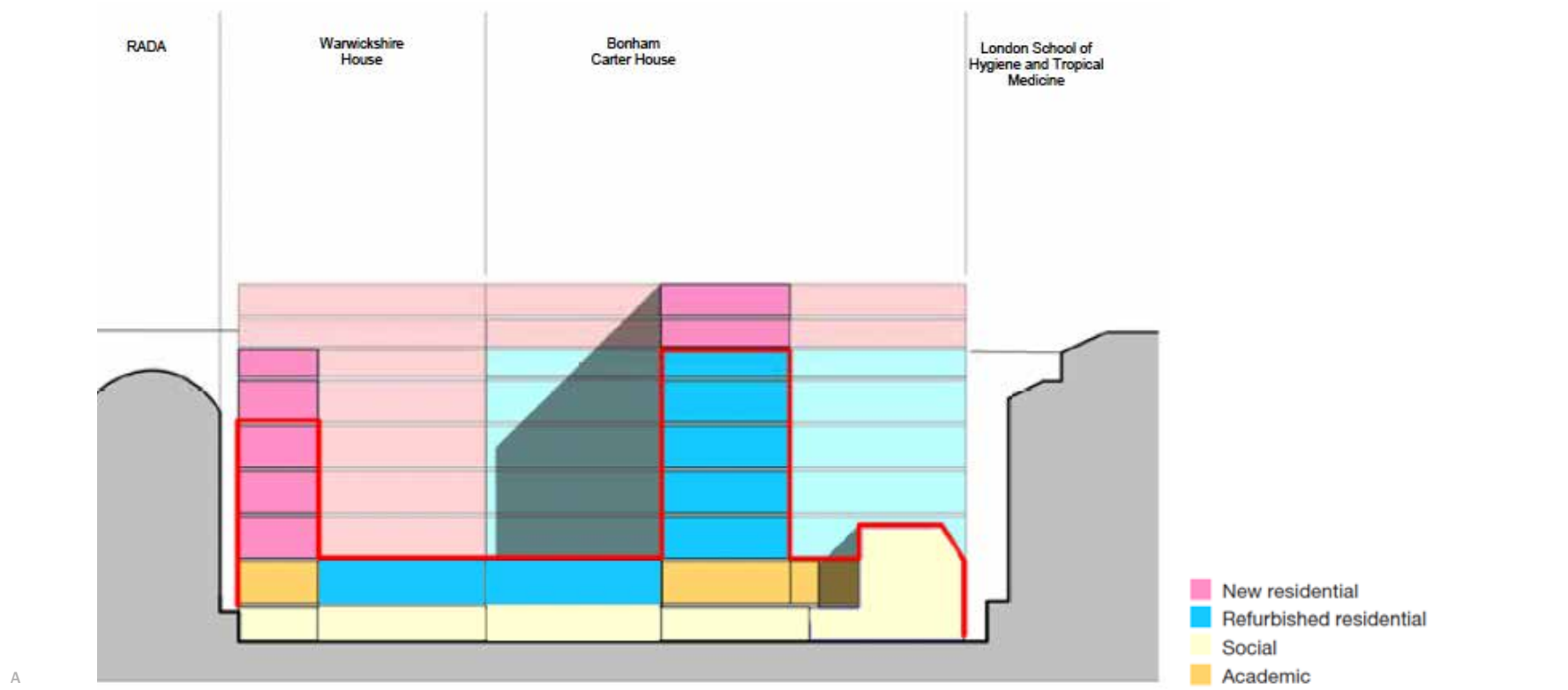
# Public Realm Green Spaces

Who does not love Nature? The campus already benefits from copious green spaces. In the new project we will refurbish Torrington, Woburn and Gordon squares. We will continue the Wild Bloomsbury collaboration, which guides planting to support biodiversity. The new Quarter will be alive with trees and flowers, bioblitzes, wellbeing walks, and bee meadows.



A. Illustrative Visual of Torrington Square  
B. Original design for the green space at Senate House  
C+D. Example landscape design





# Student Accommodation

We will create exemplary student accommodation that provides the highest quality of spaces and amenities, and in doing so support wellbeing and enrich the student experience: a home away from home, a student village.

We will ensure that all the project's refurbishments or new developments, meet the highest environmentally sustainable standards, and can adapt to changing needs throughout the lifecycle of the buildings.

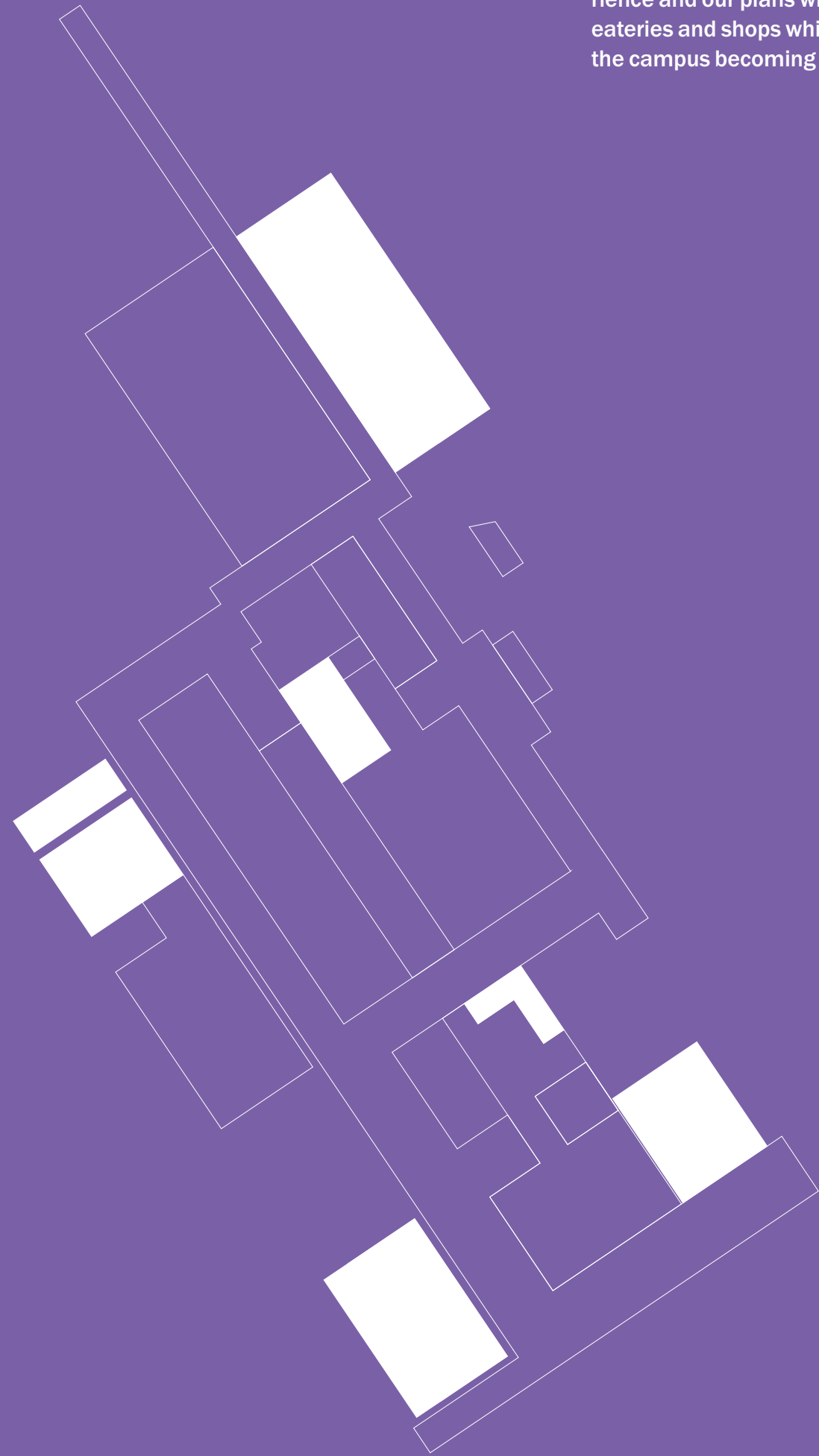
A. Indicative north-south section looking east  
B-D. Interior design examples





# Commercial Use

Our campus has several opportunities for commercial use; buildings and spaces for retail use, buildings devoted to residential letting, land for new buildings. In addition to the commercial opportunities on offer, we see this as necessary for people's experience and our plans will include; cafés, eateries and shops which are intrinsic to the campus becoming a city Quarter.

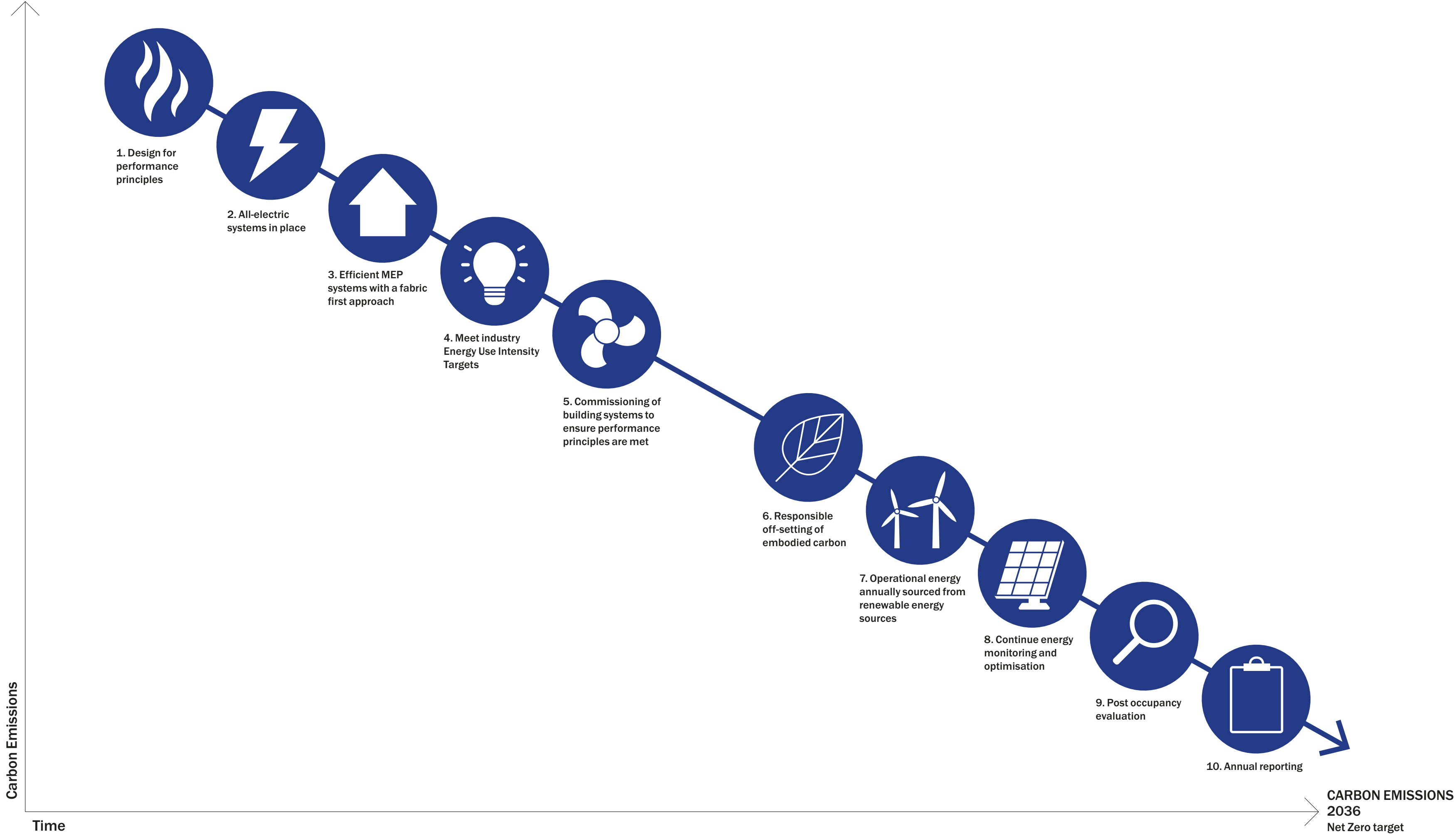


A. Waterstones bookstore on Malet Street  
B+F. Interior design examples



# Sustainability

Our ambition is to aim for the highest standards, apply the best technology combined with exemplary design, to become the benchmark for other similar developments.





# Programme

	Phase 1		Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4	2030
Re-imagining of Senate and Stewart House	Stakeholder engagement and feasibility studies	Planning Approval	Assumed delivery phase			
Establish the University Quarter	Assemble Stakeholder	Design and Pedestrianisation study	Part implementation	Assumed full implementation delivered (planning obligation)		
Increase and improve our residential accommodation	Feasibility study		Planning and delivery			
Sustainable Estate	Agreement of revised ESG framework		Implementation			





[london.ac.uk/facebook](https://london.ac.uk/facebook)



[london.ac.uk/flickr](https://london.ac.uk/flickr)



[london.ac.uk/instagram](https://london.ac.uk/instagram)



[london.ac.uk/issuu](https://london.ac.uk/issuu)



[london.ac.uk/linkedin](https://london.ac.uk/linkedin)



[london.ac.uk/twitter](https://london.ac.uk/twitter)



[london.ac.uk/youtube](https://london.ac.uk/youtube)

[london.ac.uk](https://london.ac.uk)



**UNIVERSITY  
OF LONDON**