



SITE PLAN 1:500



PATTERN MAP OF AFRICA



WESTERN FACADE, WESTMINSTER ABBEY

LSE FIROZ LALJI GLOBAL HUB
London School of Economics forms an intricate meandering campus in the middle of London. For those unfamiliar with its location, the campus can be difficult to spot at first sight, almost hidden between Aldwych and Lincoln's Inn Fields. Located on the northern fringes of this tangled network of buildings, the new 35 Lincoln's Inn Fields presents itself as a new unique landmark of the LSE and transparent link between the historic setting, the open fields, and the campus with its mix of classic structures and contemporary, high-quality, and innovative architecture. A sustainable and inclusive building that invites people in and establishes a new interconnected knowledge and learning community.

The new 35 Lincoln's Inn Fields sits comfortably in a context characterised by several historical layers, architectural compositions, and interactions between new and old. The building is defined by a coinciding lightness and heaviness – a synergy between the weight of the architectural context and the permeance and openness of a modern educational institution. Like an architectural palimpsest it encompasses visible traces of the existing qualities while defining a contemporary expression and a new perspective that convey social, environmental, and economic sustainability.

A visit to the new LSE building is an enticing and memorable experience reinforced by a seminal architecture that represents the values of LSE and draw a wider community into the campus. It contributes to a sense

of place by responding to the context. Horizontal divisions connect with the parallel banding of the Royal College of Surgeons while the vertical structure seen in the Land Registry Building and the Great Hall at Lincoln's in Fields have inspired the dimensions of the distinctive bay windows – a verticality similar to the late Gothic architecture unique to England but in a new perpendicular design. With facades of reclaimed bricks and limestone the new 35 Lincoln's Inn Fields has a robust yet refined expression and referring to the materiality of the contextual vernacular.

To the north the Lincoln's Inn Fields offers its green fields as a public gathering place. From High Holborn, you can reach the park through three turnstile alleys. Once preventing cattle from wandering off, they transformed to busy narrow lanes with bookstores, publishers, and pubs. A turnstile alley is reintroduced as a passage from Portugal Street to Lincoln's Inn Fields between the new building and the Land Registry Building to create a more lively and pleasant atmosphere around the building and rejuvenate Portugal Street.

From street level, the translucent façade lets daylight penetrate through the building and creates a transparency that emphasises the vision of LSE as an engaging community of people and ideas. To the east, north, and south, distinctive triangular bay windows reflect and sculpture the daylight. The windows step out from the façade and the geometry creates undisturbed views in various angles around the building. The façade retracts from street level in relationship to the Right of Light, while preserving the views from the neighbouring buildings towards the

By establishing a green roof, the building is effectively reducing and delaying rainwater even during severe storms. The retracted levels form green terraces that offer recreational spaces for the occupants, contribute to the natural ventilation through the building, and help absorb rainwater. By establishing a green roof, the building is effectively reducing and delaying rainwater even during severe storms.

WALKTHROUGH
The interior layout of the new 35 Lincoln's Inn Fields is carefully shaped to accommodate a socially sustainable environment with focus on interdisciplinary synergy and knowledge sharing. The teaching and learning spaces as well as the Firoz Lalji Centre for Africa are located on ground- and lower levels. The academic departments and research areas are placed from the second to the fifth floor while the executive and extended education spaces extend over the top floors in direct connection to the restaurant and with spectacular views to the city.

ENTRANCE LEVEL
The entrance level is designed as one continuous, open landscape, allowing free ground level access between the two streets, and creating a natural flow and a common ground between the street, the building, and the park. Two ramps on each side provide complete accessibility.

To maximise the permeability between Lincoln's Inn Fields and Portugal Street, the Agora is lowered into the ground floor to allow views through the building and into the Agora. This creates a tangible sense of inclusiveness and an option to utilize the entire entrance area during

public events. Like the agorae of the ancient Greek city-states, it is shaped organically by the contours of the building's landscape. The shape and placement of the Agora reinforces the ambition to remove all boundaries both physically and visually, representing the global outlook of the LSE and its role in bringing the world together.

A rhythmic structure of wooden walls and revolving glass doors outline the Agora. The moveable glass doors ensure an adaptable, flexible, and agile space, that can host both large public events and private lectures. To celebrate African art and culture, the wooden surfaces are decorated with geometric patterns inspired by original African textiles representing different parts of the continent. This creates a unique opportunity to involve African artists to contribute to a collective art piece, spanning around the Agora.

Forming a sculptural element throughout the building, a boomerang shaped wooden staircase leads you upstairs while another takes you down to the basement level. The acoustically absorbent wood softens the sound transfer between the floors while providing a warm and inviting ambience.

LOWER FLOORS
Going up to the first floor, the staircase takes you up to the middle of the building from where you will have a direct view to the stair leading up to the academic departments. The interwoven fabric of teaching and learning spaces creates a balance between interaction and concentration. Curved walls around the different seminar rooms are both continuing the

natural flow in and out of the lecturing spaces and forming small peaceful pockets for focused work with seating integrated in the wall. Towards the park, the bay windows provide views to the green fields and the street.

The Firoz Lalji Centre for Africa is centrally placed on the first floor, directly connected to the Agora and the teaching spaces. With this location it will also be closely connected to the other institutes and form a subtle but visible heart in the building. The large, open study space in front of the centre, provides an opportunity for temporary exhibitions or permanent art displays.

To endorse the use of stairs instead of lifts and create a synergy effect between the institutes, we propose an internal staircase running between all institutes and floors. The stair lands in the same lobby area from where you will exit or enter the lift. This area will be overseen by a reception to manage the flow of students through the building.

MIDDLE FLOORS
Above the teaching and learning spaces on the lower floors, the academic departments and research areas have recessed wooden ceilings which creates a warm expression and reduces acoustic noise. Moving away from a floor of endless corridors, the design offers a varied course of spaces. On the academic levels, we are working with the principle of bringing as much daylight into the building as possible. Three cul-de-sac cuts through the floors to draw daylight into the absolute centre of the building, creating the best conditions for healthy workspaces.

The offices are arranged along the perimeter of the façade to provide as much daylight and privacy as possible while the common spaces are organised around the vertical communication. This establishes natural meeting places between the institutes and endorse a synergy effect between different researchers. Each office is framed by glass walls that draws daylight in. Warm and soft materials create a human-centred ambience and partitions in wood and curtains offers flexibility and options to open and close the spaces for more privacy.

Daylight is guiding you towards the façade at the end of each corridor. Maximising the use of natural daylight significantly limits the need for artificial light and unnecessary energy consumption.

UPPER FLOORS
Continuing up to the sixth and seventh floor, you find the executive and extended education spaces. Here, the detailing and furnishes will have a slightly more exclusive appearance. The close proximity to the restaurant provides a natural option to utilise the space for breakout sessions, work, or study when the restaurant is quiet outside lunchtime or external events.

To the southeast and southwest, the restaurant has direct access to two large terraces overlooking the London skyline. Placed in direct connection the kitchen, the service lift ensures a direct connection to the delivery spaces without disturbing the general flow through the building.