



35 Lincoln’s Inn Fields - The Firoz Lalji Global Hub

Special Collections & Erratics
Our proposal can be read as a series of collections. The nearby presence of Soane's House is one source of inspiration – a collection of spaces lined with objects and artefacts. By extension, our proposal for No35 can be understood as accommodating a number of Collections: collections of people as they gather or meet (e.g. under the entrance arch or in the Agora etc); the Collection of African Art that will be visible at 1st Floor level through the entrance arch; the collection of distinct architectural elements, physically and spatially defined, that provide special moments in the day-to-day life of the building.

As part of the process of discussion and design development within our studio, we have come to refer to this as a collection of erratics, a phrase borrowed from the language of glacial features, in this case used to refer to elements that are distinct from the prevailing architectural language and offer moments that might be understood as counterpoints or accents within the spatial experience of the project. The largest of these are the atrium and the entrance arch – whilst smaller instances include a high-level room at 5th Floor (offering views to the west to Marshall and north over LIF)

and the entrance canopy and columns that characterise the building’s relationship to Portugal St. The design of the elevation to Lincoln’s Inn Fields has been developed through models and 3D street-level views – recognising that the condition of approaching from the west is not the same as approaching from the east. For example, the backdrop of the RCS and Marshall Buildings differs significantly from the corresponding background when moving east towards LIF’s Great Hall, Library and Gates.

Developing a language
The elevational language has developed from initial instincts to make the building in such a way as to recall the previous group of three taller elements that formed a short terrace adjacent to the RCS. This consideration of historic precedent became a starting point from which we have modelled our elevation by considering its interaction with its neighbours as an oblique condition. Our approach develops this idea that it is made from a number of similar elements that have been gathered tightly together (another collection) and this allows our proposal to mediate between the scales of the neighbouring buildings (which, in general terms, reduce in height from west to east).

This approach is inherently pliable – and could adjust and ‘flex’ to respond to discussions such as would be likely to proceed with, for example, Planners and Historic England. The proportion of materials might also adjust as part of such a process.

Through sketches and 3D modelling we developed a language of vertical ribs that give the elevations a texture and grain that relates to that of the existing neighbouring buildings on both Lincoln’s Inn Fields and Portugal Street. Against this prevailing vertical texture, we have embedded special elements to offer a distinct counterpoint to the prevailing conditions – these include the main entrance arch and a loggia-like structure that faces east with views across the roof of No32.

A Brick Corner
The project for No.35 will be part of the collection that constitutes this part of the city – and, particularly, the collection of four buildings that range across the southern side of the Square (also addressing Portugal Street to their south).



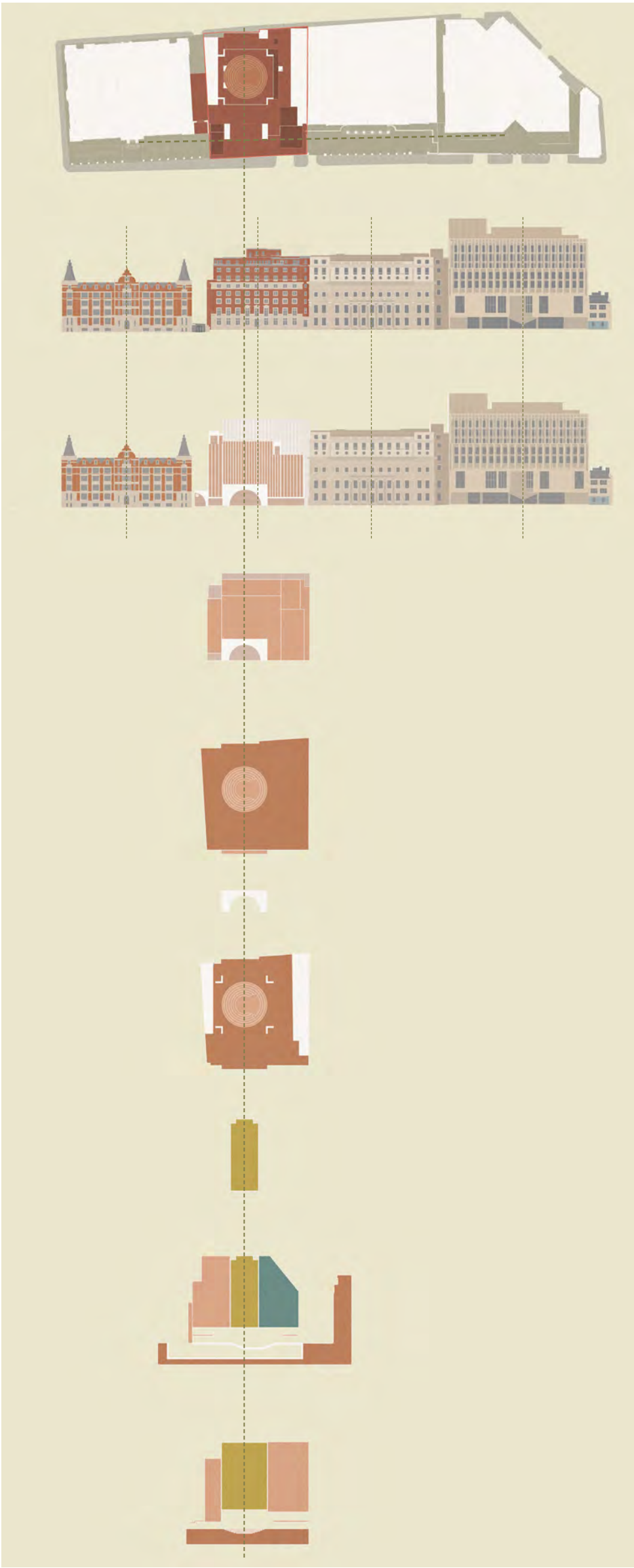
View showing the building when approached from the west along Portugal Street.



A collection of distinct architectural elements are set within the prevailing fabric of the building – these offer a counterpoints to the building’s prevailing, spatial and material character. Each would be developed to further amplify its particular properties and opportunities to offer memorable and positive experiences.



A Painting that illustrates the primary components of the building’s section – depicting the Agora as a sunken or excited expression in the ground floor and the Atrium as a distinct room raised within the section experiences.



Diagrams that illustrate how the axis of the site has been shifted eastward – held within the wider compositional arrangement of the building’s massing. The primary axis of the building’s north elevation aligns to the existing building line – whilst the entrance arch’s northern face is aligned to a building line drawn between the porch of No32 LIF and the northeast corner of the Marshall buildings.



To this group we have added a fifth: the Gates, Great Hall and Library of Lincoln’s Inn. Together with No32 LIF, this corner defines a particular context within which No35 resides. We feel that this ‘brick corner’ should be acknowledged and considered. With this in mind one might observe that any proposal for No35 must somehow find a language that can mediate between the rich tones and texture of the ‘brick corner’ to its east and the tonally lighter character of the stone/pre-cast nature of RCS and Marshall to the west.

To address this, we have proposed that our elevation works with both of these material/tonal/colours – with red brick set back within light-coloured masonry fins such that the red hues become more visible as one moves past the building. When viewed from the east, the pale masonry fins prevail and engage with the vertical grain of Marshall buildings and the RCS colonnade – when approached from the west the pale masonry gives way to the brick as the buildings relationship to the ‘brick corner’ becomes the more dominant reading.

Redevelopment of the Building 1937, accessed at: Royal College of Surgeons, Digital Exhibitions, ‘Transforming the Building: Our Past’, via rscwg.ac.uk

