



Lincoln's Inn Fields Elevation



The Firoz Lalji Institute for Africa

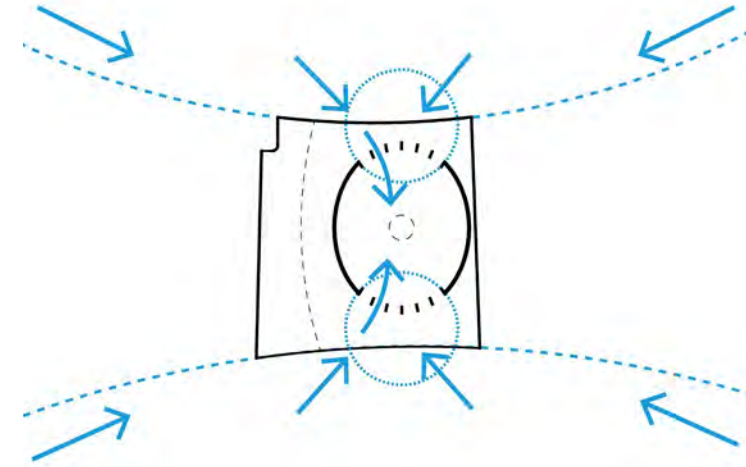
Our key architectural concepts for the Firoz Lalji Global Hub embrace circularity as an archetypal form of social gathering, as a mode of productive communication and, in its contemporary understanding, as a collective environmental mission. It's ground floor is conceived as a civic stage; an extension of Lincoln's Inn Fields' public realm. Our C-shaped, stepped massing allows naturally lit and ventilated communal landings at every level, providing a variety of places for chance encounters, allowing fruitful exchange between the LSE's academic communities.

The Institute for Africa holds a prominent place in the building and within the LSE campus. It occupies the Institute's North Wing as its Plano Nobile overlooking Lincoln's Inn Fields. In this location the Institute for Africa is closely connected to the Global Hub's ground floor's public spaces and to the verdant context of Lincoln's Inn Fields. It is highly visible and accessible via a sinuous elliptical staircase near the buildings main Reception area, and the main vertical circulation core along the building's west side.

At the top of the elliptical staircase the Institute welcomes visitors and academic communities with a framed, panoramic view of Lincoln's Inn Fields. This gathering and reception space fluidly connects to the 1st floor communal Landing adjacent to the core. The latter offers an alternative view onto the courtyard's lushly planted shade garden. The Institute's academic offices, meeting rooms and research spaces all benefit from natural light and ventilation, as well as access to the courtyard garden.



View over Lincoln's Inn Fields from Firoz Lalji Institute for Africa



Circular geometry as symbol of embrace

Facades: Re-framing Lincoln's Inn Fields

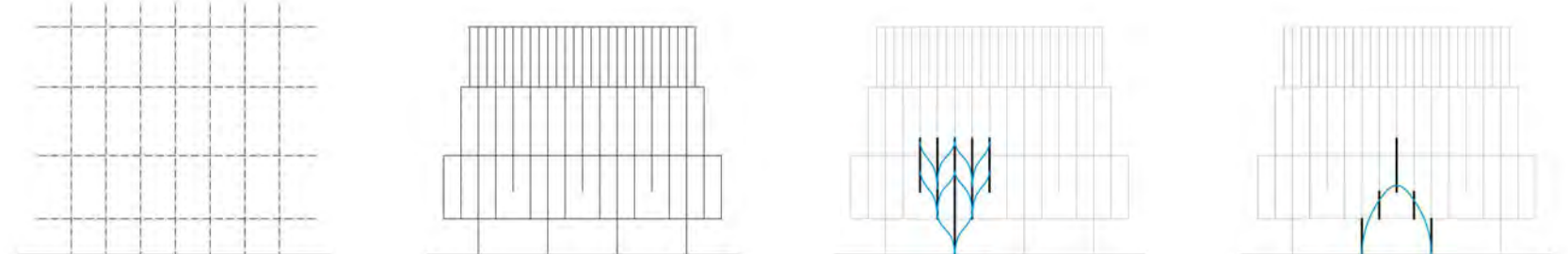
In contrast to the cartesian flatness of Lincoln's Inn Fields' historic architectural frame, our proposal for the Firoz Lalji Global Hub presents a subtly curved frontage to both Lincoln's Inn Fields and Portugal Street. This geometry expresses a gesture of embrace, an invitation to gather for the wider public.

Within this curvature, a 150m radius, the Hub's primary northern facade is a symmetrical array of fluted, concave terra cotta panels that branch upward from a four-column base. This strategy respects the symmetry inherent in its neo-classical and neo-Jacobean neighbours; the Land Registry and the Royal College of Surgeons.

Our proposal clarifies and complements the LSE's institutional presence on Lincoln's Inn Fields with a symmetrical, tiered frontage that gradually steps away from its neighbours as it rises to nine stories. The new building's mass is subdivided into four horizontal layers; transparent base, piano nobile, mid-section and crown, defined by three setbacks. This layered and tiered symmetrical composition reflects the pre-established principle of 'Renaissance Villa' that supports the defining character and architectural framework of Lincoln's Inn Fields' southern boundary. Its stepped massing and curvature permits increased planting around its base and in its east-facing courtyard. Throughout its three stepped south facing terraces, the Global Hub will amplify the verdant qualities of Lincoln's Inn Fields, reconnecting the memory of the 'Fields' into the LSE Quarter.



Facade Analysis



Facade Order

Ascending Scale

'Tree' Figure

'Arch' Figure

Fluted Chimneys – Use, Texture and Illusion

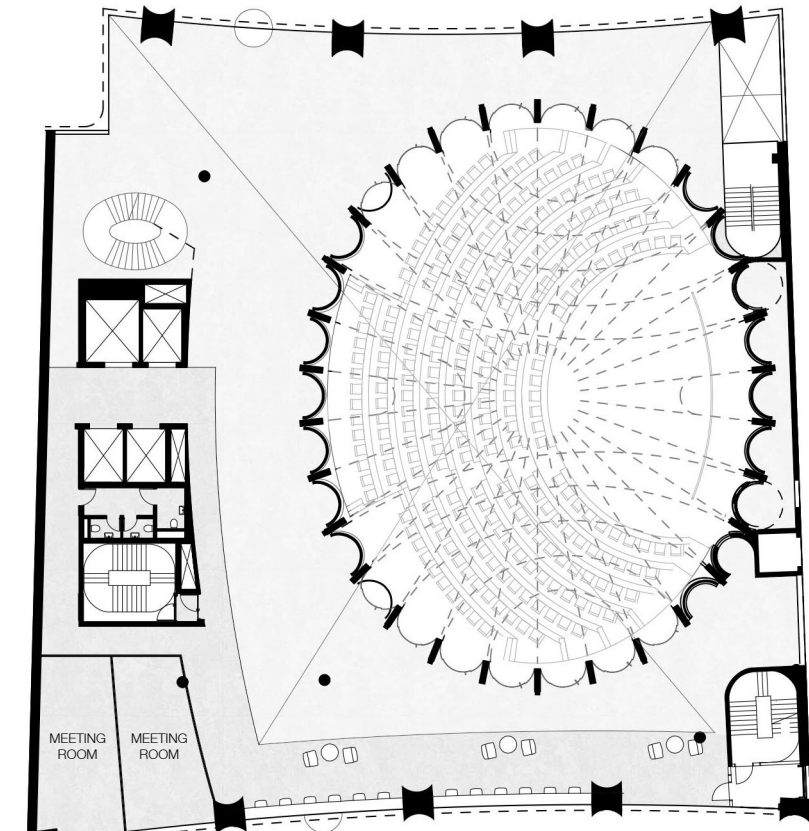
Each tier of terra cotta fluted cladding diminishes in scale, so that as it extends skyward, the façade evolves into a series of slender finials. Animating its north facing facades, the curvature of each flute will capture morning and evening light obliquely. This play of light and shadow represents a form of ephemeral, dynamic ornamentation – a counterpoint to its neighbours' dressed stone cornices and balustrades.

Responding to orientation, the Hub's south-facing Portugal Street façade is composed of wider terra cotta flutes to reduce solar gain and to provide enhanced shading. These large format flutes will also operate as stack ventilation ducts for the building's upper floor office, meeting and research spaces. Supporting our wider passive environmental strategy, openable awning windows at high level will bring in fresh air while low level ducts will passively extract stale air through the ventilation flute. Inspired by stack ventilation chimneys found throughout the architecture of the Global South, this innovation integrates the formal, material and conceptual basis of our proposal.

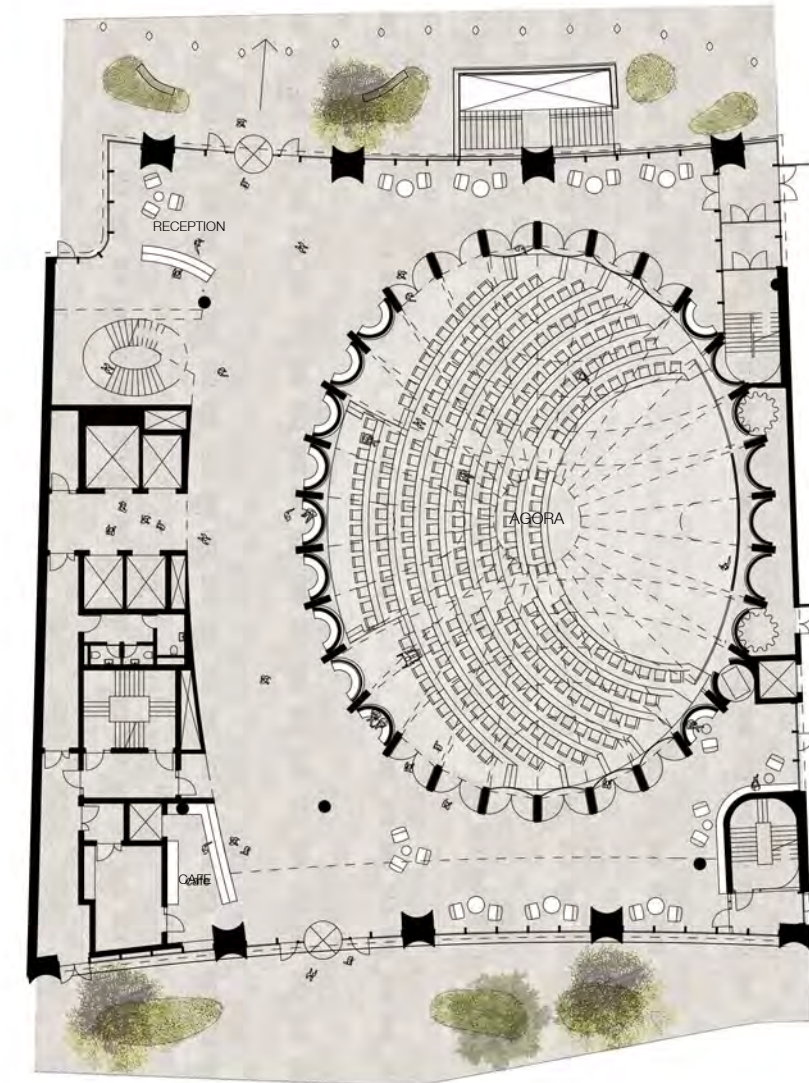
1:400 FLOOR PLANS



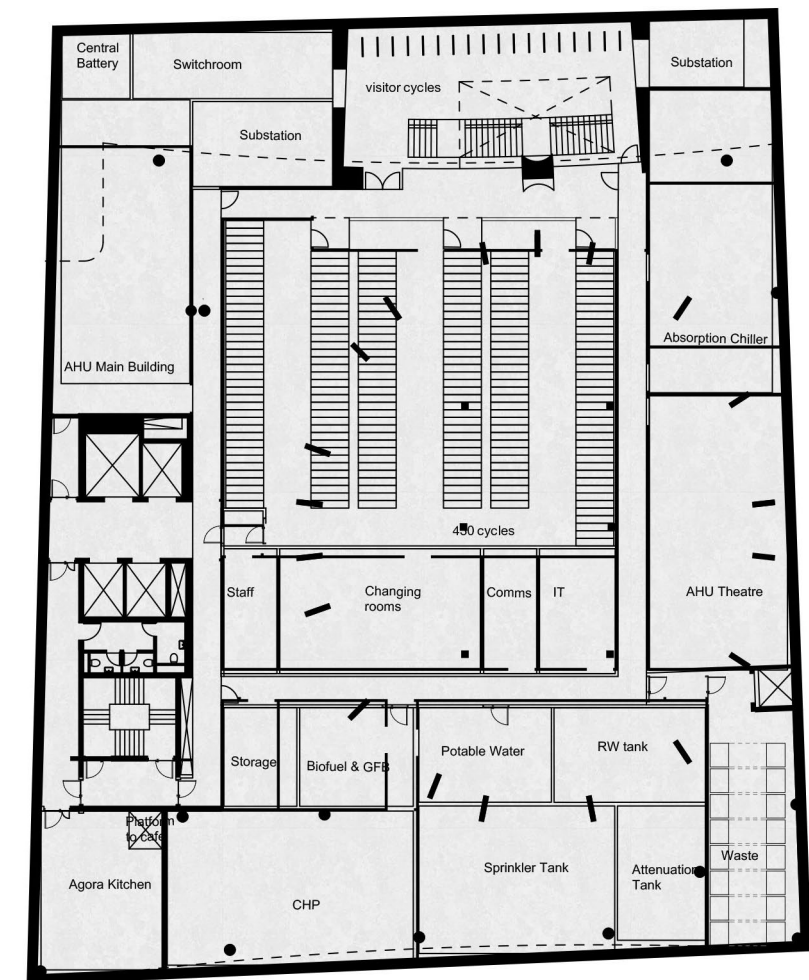
FIRST FLOOR: FIROZ LALJI INSTITUTE FOR AFRICA & DATA SCIENCE



MEZZANINE



GROUND FLOOR: AGORA



BASEMENT

Site 10 to Ground

