

LSE Library, Lionel Robbins Building

Completion Date: Ongoing

Contract Value: £10m

Client: London School of Economics and Political Science

Starting in 2012 ArchitecturePLB have delivered a range of Projects within the LSE Lionel Robbins Building as part of a programme to update the library and accommodate new collections and activities. Projects have ranged from specialist secure, climate controlled archives and exhibition space to informal, group and silent study spaces.

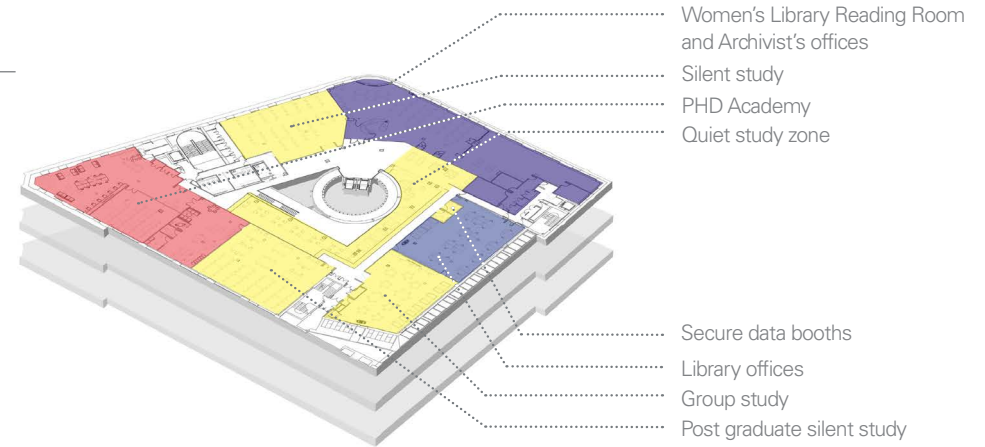
'The Women's Library at LSE' Reading Room provides a high quality, secure environment for Library users to access the oldest and most extensive women's history Archive in Europe.

ArchitecturePLB designed the Reading Room in consultation with the LSE Library team, learning from the latest best practice at institutions such as the National Archives at Kew. The Reading Room design incorporates display cases to allow exhibition of artefacts and interpretative information about the historic collections. The Reading Room is supported by a new secure, climate controlled archive store on the Lower Ground Floor, also designed by ArchitecturePLB.

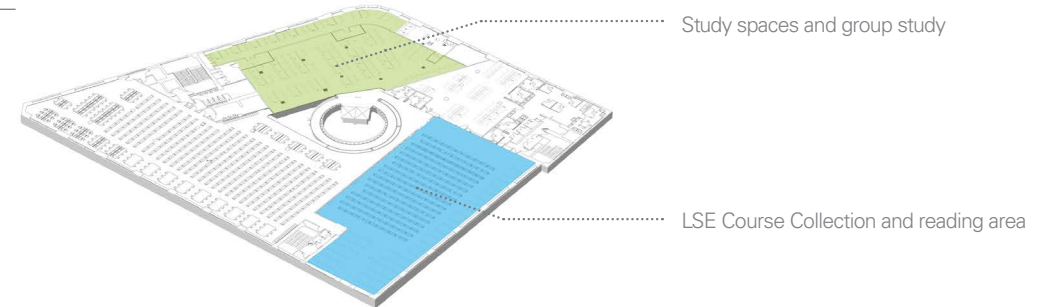
ArchitecturePLB also worked with Library staff on the design of a ground floor publicly accessible exhibition space which gives the library a dynamic showcase for their historic collections. Sophisticated environmental controls and discretely integrated security measures to meet the requirements of the Government Indemnity Scheme mean that the library will be able to borrow and display artefacts from other institutions, giving them the opportunity to curate exciting exhibitions in the future.



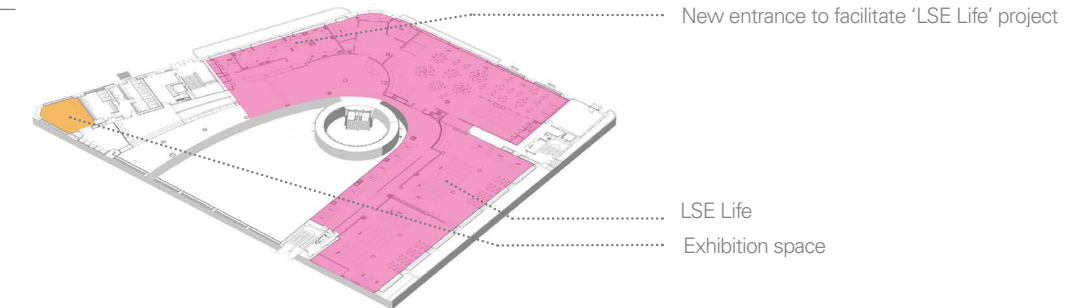
4th floor



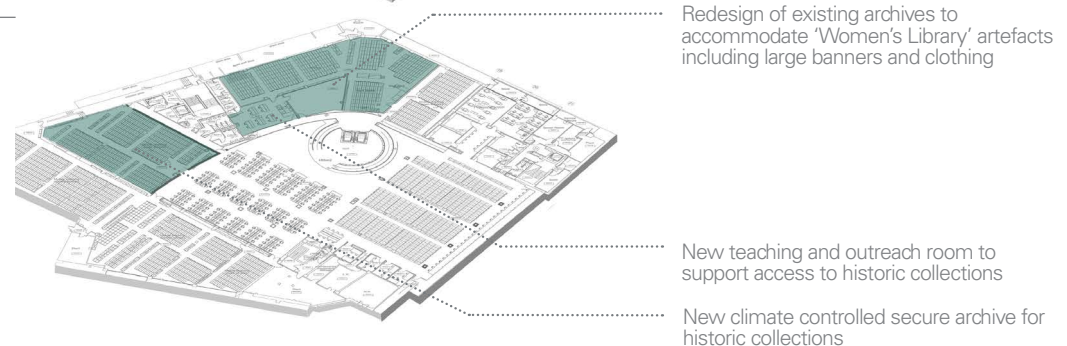
1st floor



Ground floor



Lower ground floor



Also within the LSE Library ArchitecturePLB designed a PhD Academy to provide doctoral students with a specially designed space that includes a common room, a teaching room and central services all in one location for the first time in the School's 120-year history.

As part of the same project ArchitecturePLB designed a series of study spaces extending the library to the 4th Floor of the building. The spaces include silent, informal and group study spaces as well as secure data booths for individual use.

The latest in the programme of works delivered by ArchitecturePLB is LSE LIFE, a new academic, personal and professional development centre housed within the Library. We were tasked with developing a design that provided a mix of social, quiet and collaborative areas, which reflect new ways of learning and approaches to education.

Display walls add colour, texture and robustness to the spaces and allow students and staff to pin up where they choose; extensive storage walls, which allow chairs to be stacked out of sight when not in lecture mode, also double as writable surfaces. Furniture is movable, designed to allow the students to reconfigure with ease – the triangular desks are versatile in shape and easy to move, optimal for accommodating a laptop and notebook whilst ensuring maximum efficiency.

LSE LIFE has also been awarded a silver rating under the new SKA for Higher Education environmental assessment scheme – an industry first.

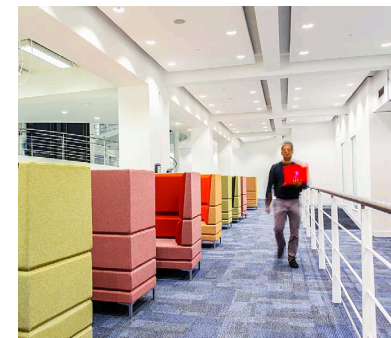
01



05



02

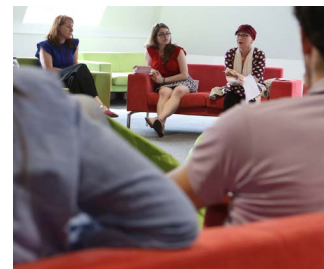


01/02 Women's Library
 03 Reading Room
 04 Ground Floor
 05/06 Exhibition space
 PhD Academy
 LSE LIFE

06



03



04