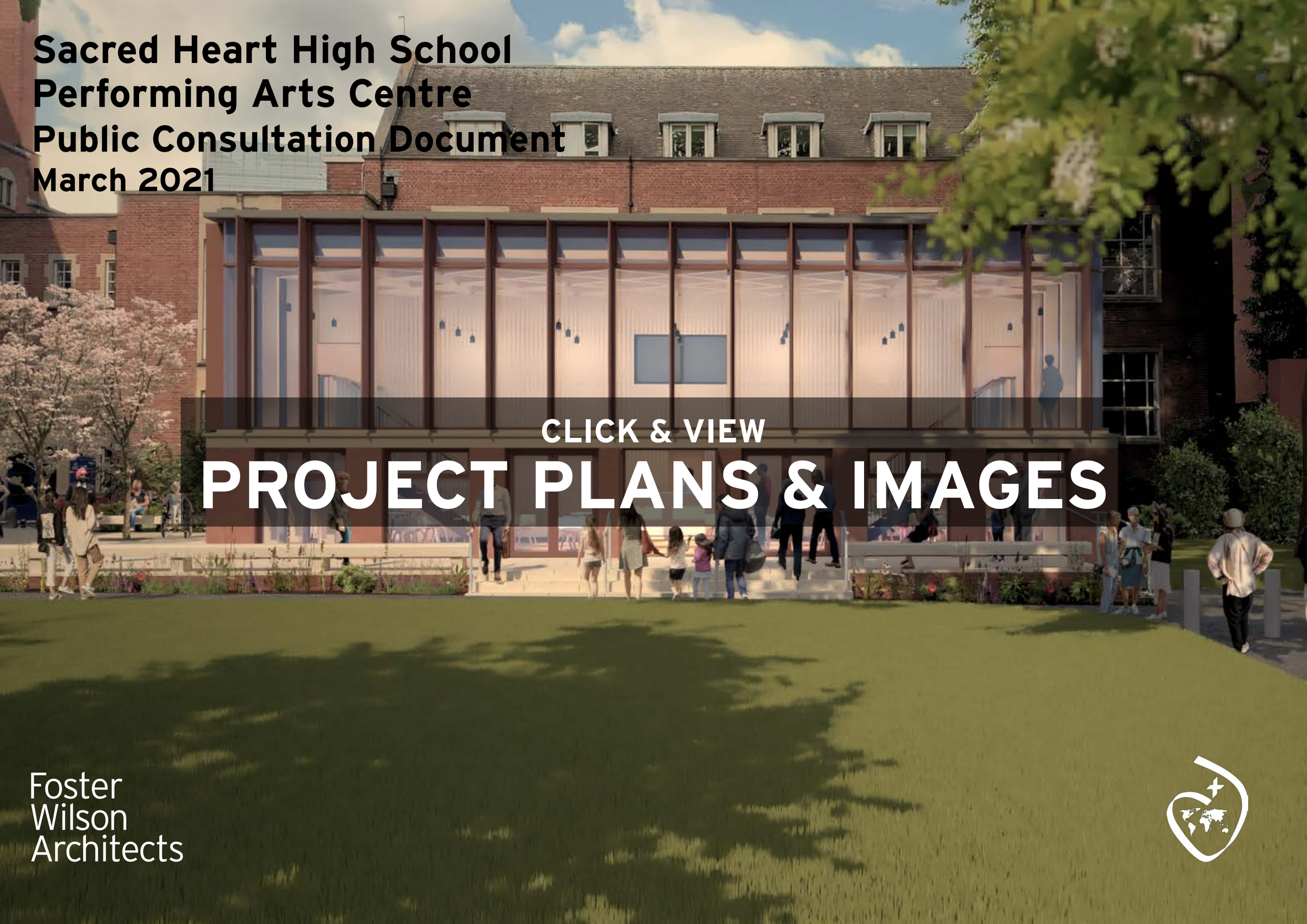
Sacred Heart High School
Performing Arts Centre
Public Consultation Document
March 2021



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PROJECT PLANS & IMAGES

Foster
Wilson
Architects

Introduction

Sacred Heart High School in Hammersmith is launching a public consultation in March 2021 to reach out to those with an interest in the school's development of a new performing arts centre before the submission of an application for planning consent.

The proposal is for the conversion of a former gymnasium in the Stuart Building, dating from the 1930's, into a new school theatre, with the addition of a new extension to provide foyer facilities.

The old gym is no longer used for its original purpose since the construction of a new sports facility to the north of the school site.

Sacred Heart High School is striving to expand their performing arts department and create a facility for use not only by the school but also the local community. The conversion and extension of the old gymnasium will provide an exciting new facility at the heart of the school.

Please take a look at the following drawings to see the project in further detail.

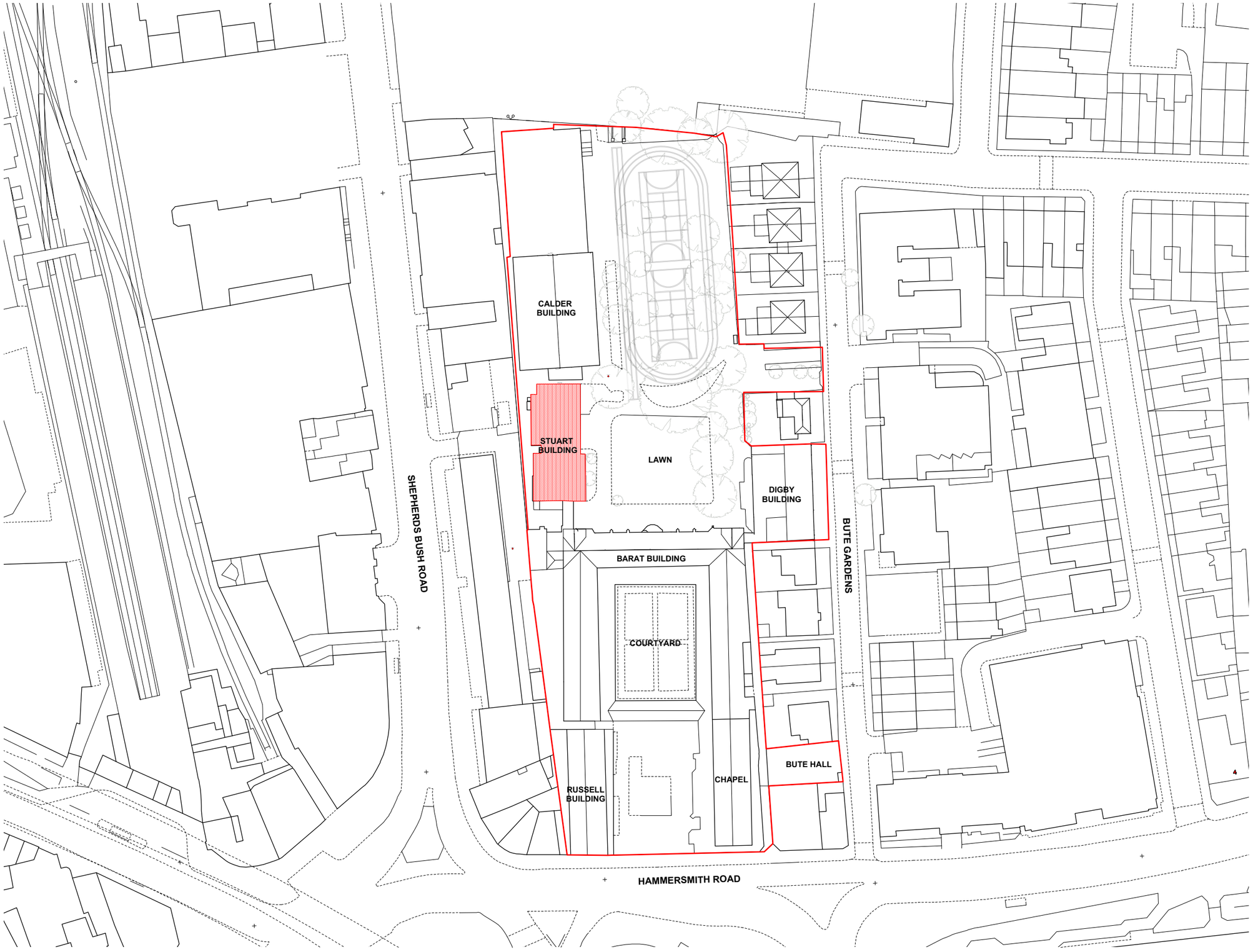
View of the Stuart building from the lawn

Interior view of the former gym in the Stuart building with a raised stage at the north end

The School Site

A Google Earth view of Sacred Heart School with the Stuart Building highlighted (2019)

Existing Site Plan



Location of the Stuart Building within Sacred Heart High School's complex

Existing Plans

The Stuart Building is positioned to the west of the northern courtyard, part of the overall school complex.

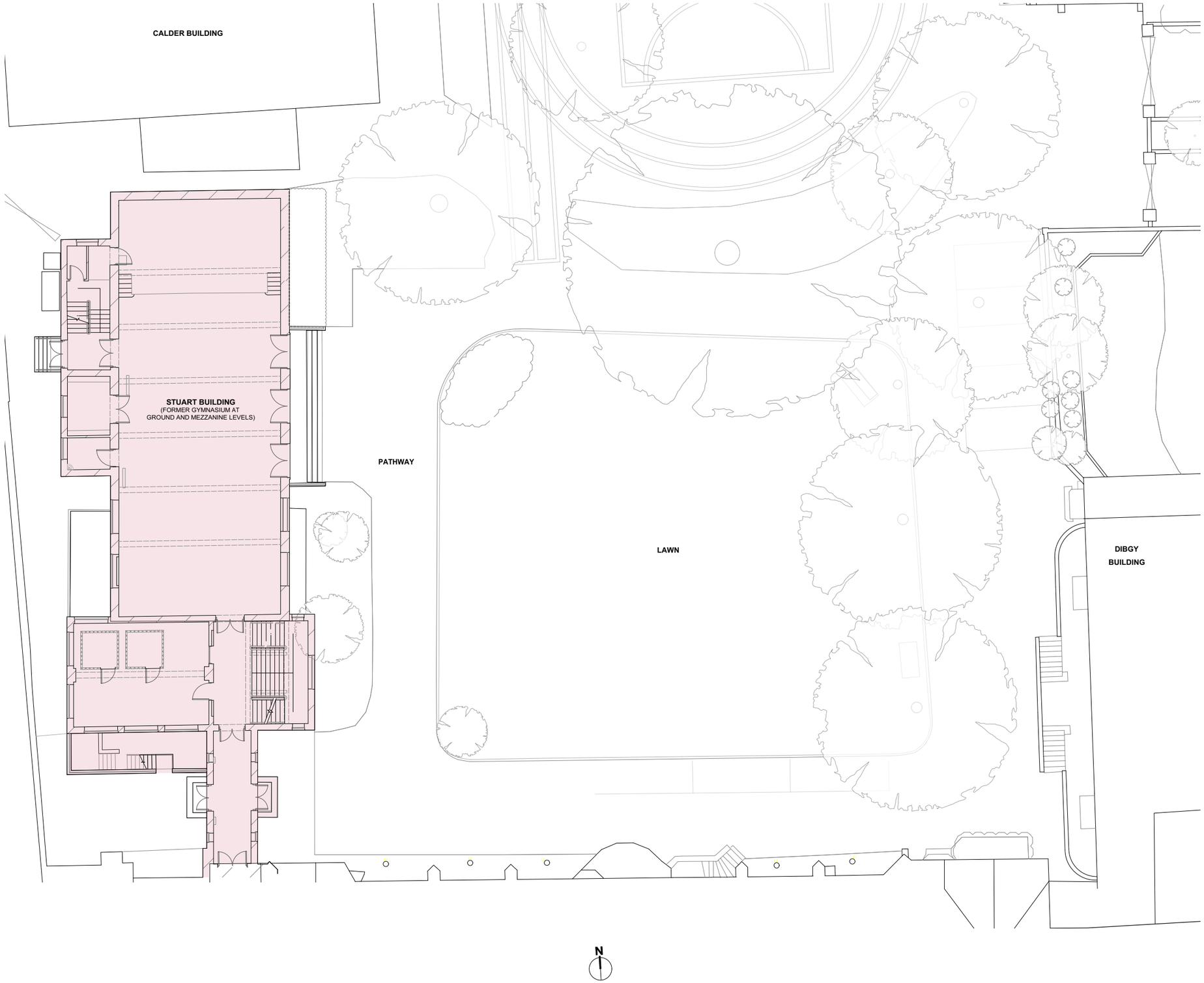
It is connected to the historic Barat Building by a link and faces onto a lawn area often utilised by the pupils.

The former gymnasium is a double height space which takes up the ground and mezzanine floor of the Stuart Building. The existing classrooms on the first and second floors will remain.

The northern courtyard is accessed from Bute Gardens to the east.

The existing mature trees on the site are Lime and London Plane trees and the scheme intends on retaining these.

Ground Floor Plan



History

The Sacred Heart High School in Hammersmith is a Catholic comprehensive school for girls. Its principal buildings, dating from 1884, were designed by J F Bentley (1839-1902), a prominent ecclesiastical architect, whose most notable work was Westminster Cathedral. The buildings are listed by Historic England at Grade II*.

The Stuart building, which contains the old gymnasium, dates from 1939 and is of brick construction with reinforced concrete floors and a pitched roof of steel and timber construction.

Above the the gymnasium, there are two floors of classrooms. There is currently a dressing room and storage space underneath the stage area. To the south of the Stuart Building, there is a music studio at ground level, toilets and former changing rooms at lower ground floor level.

Portrait of J F Bentley architect

Photo of Westminster Cathedral - one of Bentley's well-known buildings

Historic image of a classroom at first floor level in the Stuart Building

Historic image of the gymnasium at ground level in the Stuart Building

Proposals

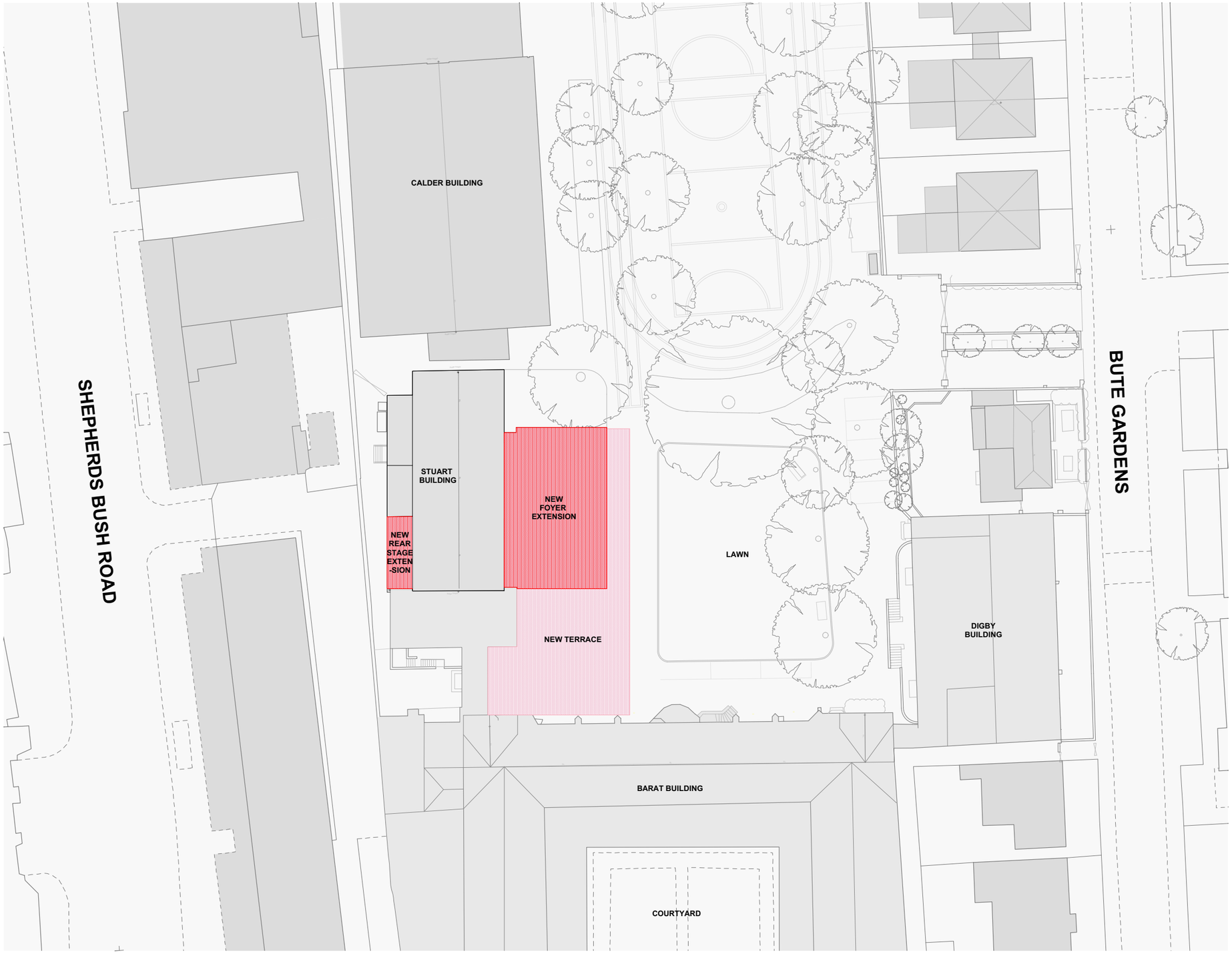
The proposed site plan shows the new extensions to the Stuart Building in red to provide a foyer for the new performing arts centre, and a terrace in pink which will provide level access to the theatre from Bute Gardens.

The new foyer extension facing the lawn will serve the auditorium in the existing building and create a strong visual identity for the theatre.

It will also provide an attractive foyer space, with the opportunity to spill out onto an external terrace in fine weather.

It will have it's own separate access from Bute Gardens and be be self-contained so that it can be used by external groups outside of school hours.

Site Plan



Proposed Ground Floor Plan in Context

The brief provided by the school was to convert the old gym to create:

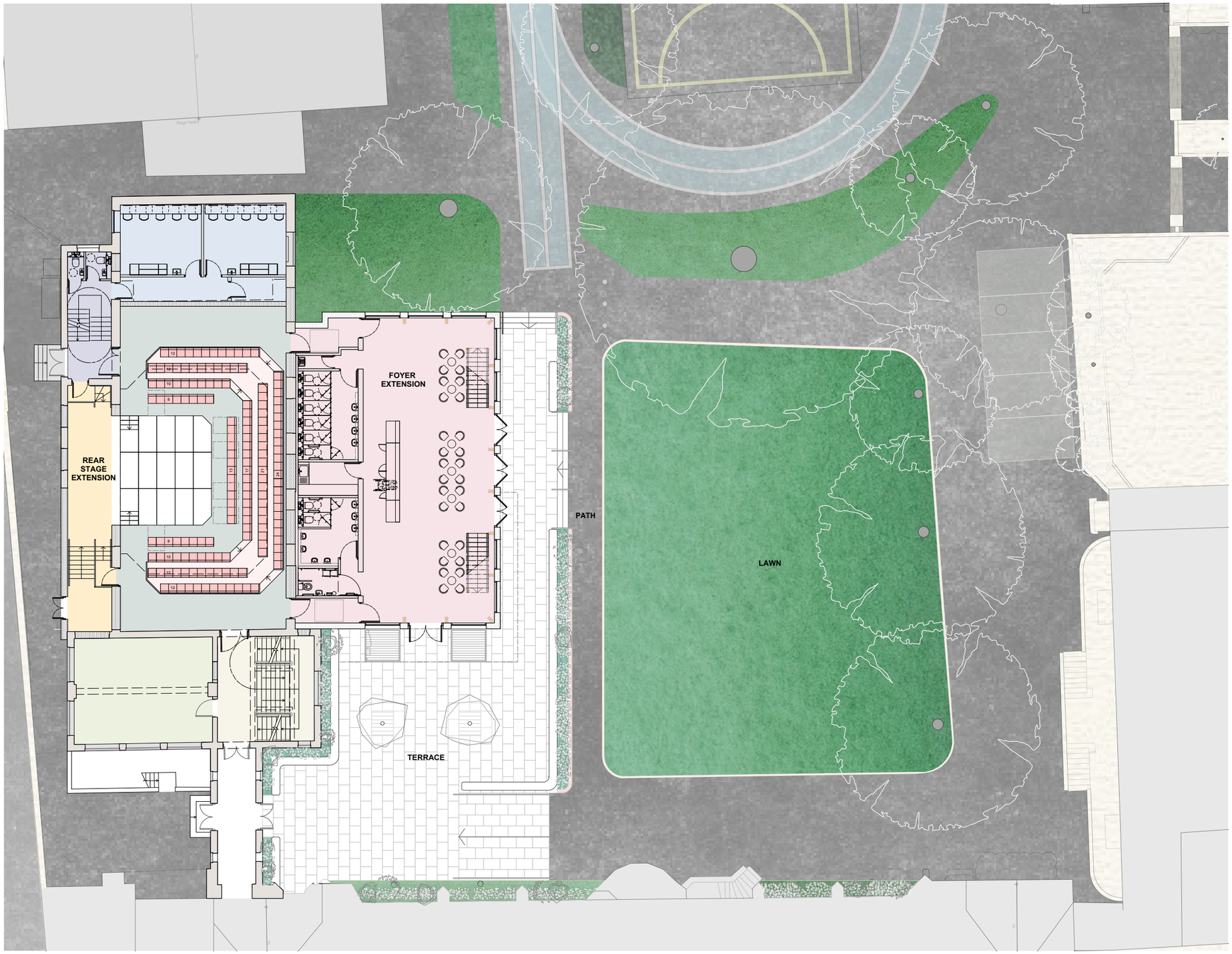
- a 220 seat flexible drama studio
- a range of possible seating layouts
- a foyer extension with its own dedicated facilities
- backstage accommodation

It is intended that the new facility will be used as:

- a teaching and performance space for the School
- a public facility made available to the wider community, outside of school hours

The new terrace will provide level access at ground level from the lawn area via a ramp, through to the foyer extension and directly into the auditorium.

Seating will be provided on the terrace with soft landscaping to enhance the courtyard setting and connect the extension to the site.



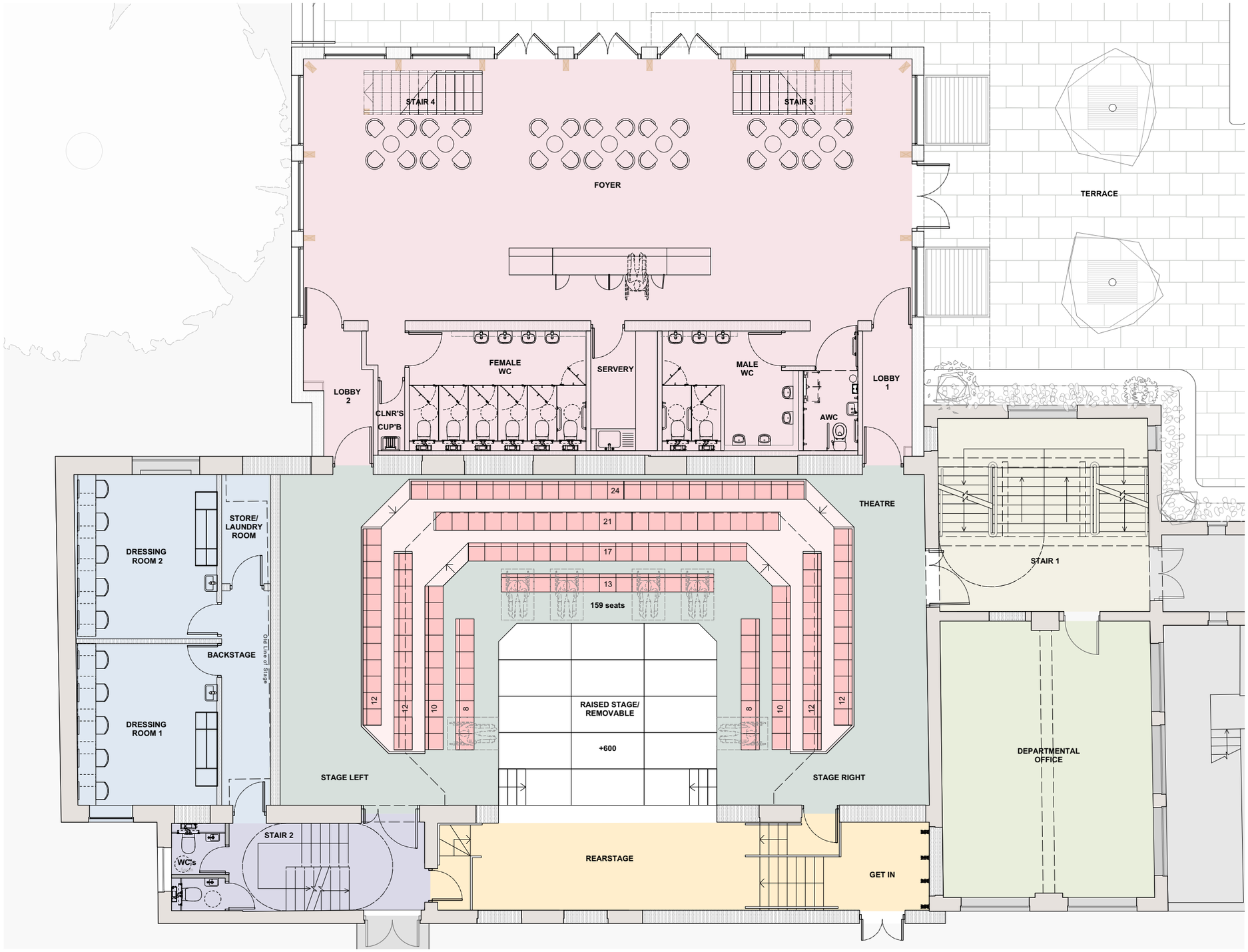
Proposals

The proposed new foyer extension is a simple rectangular space with glazing on three sides, overlooking the Bute Gardens courtyard, with views of the listed Barat building. It contains a set of public toilets and a servery as well as sound lobbies between the foyer and the auditorium.

The new auditorium design provides an open thrust stage at the centre of the room, with seating arranged on three sides at two levels.

A new rear stage extension will allow for curtains and cloths to be hung at the back of the stage and for actors to appear through the opening. It can also be used for the storage of rostra, seats or a piano.

Ground Floor Plan



Mezzanine Floor Plan

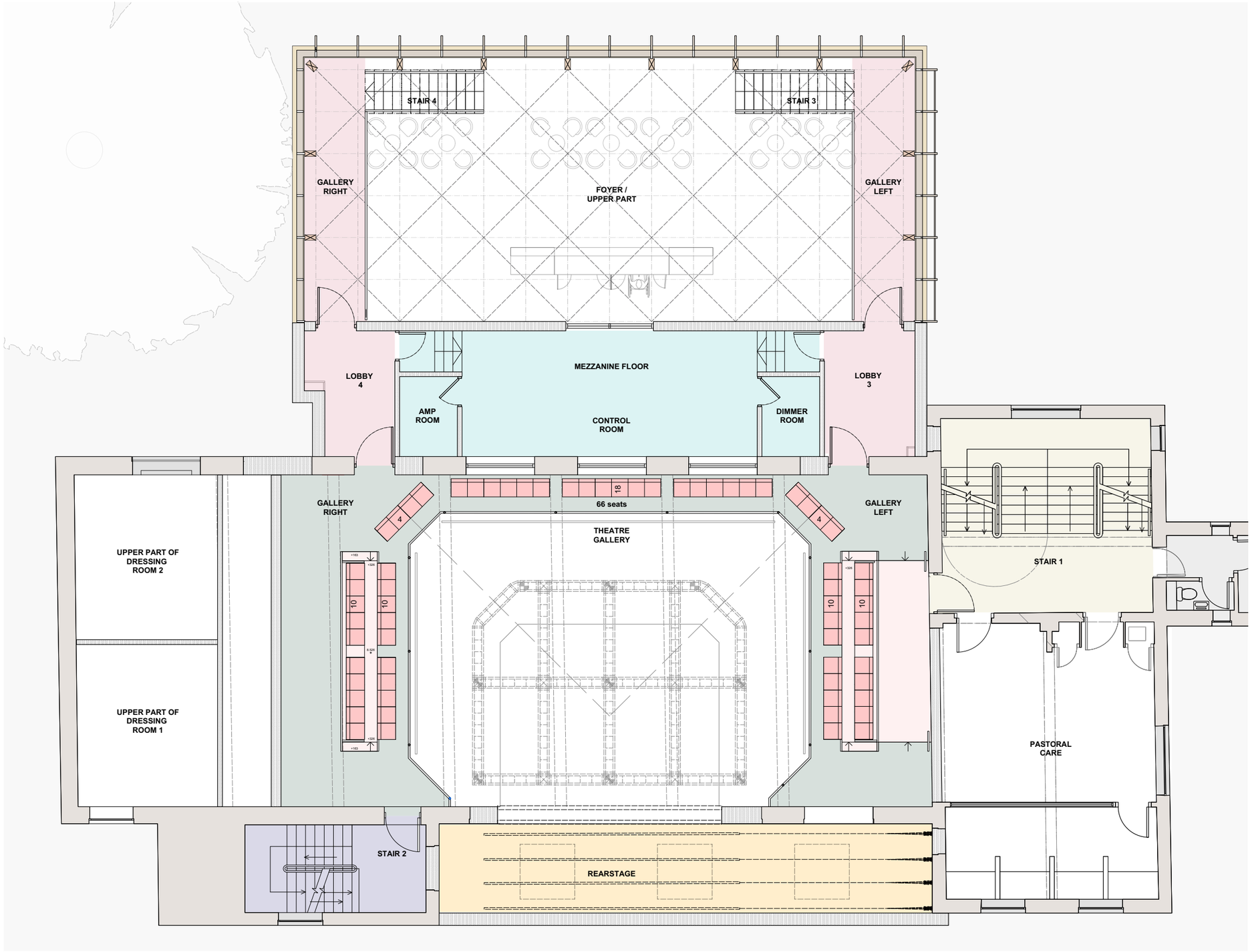
At Mezzanine level, the new foyer extension will have a gallery at either side and access via two staircases leading to the theatre gallery.

There is a raised technical control room at this level, large enough for teaching technical skills. There are also two technical stores positioned at either side.

Access into the auditorium will be via two sound lobbies. A new gallery is also introduced in the auditorium surrounding the stage.

It will be hung from the structure above to provide a column free space at ground level.

This arrangement will produce an extremely compact plan with all seats within 5m of the stage.



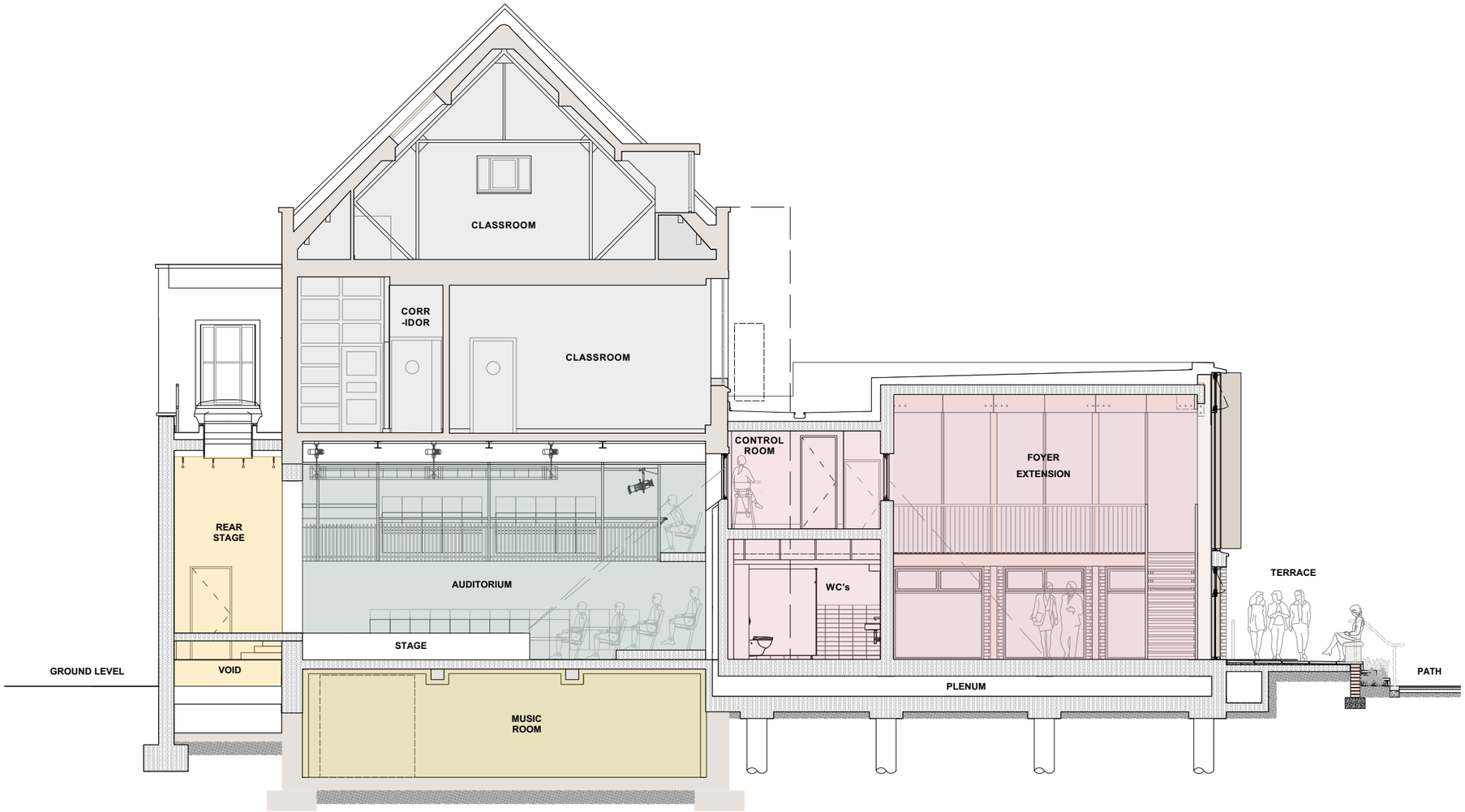
Section

The section shows the new foyer extension to the right (east) connected to the theatre in the existing building.

There is a step in the roof level of the extension to visually distinguish the separation between the old and new elements of the building.

The control room windows are positioned in the former openings on the eastern wall which allow for views into the auditorium.

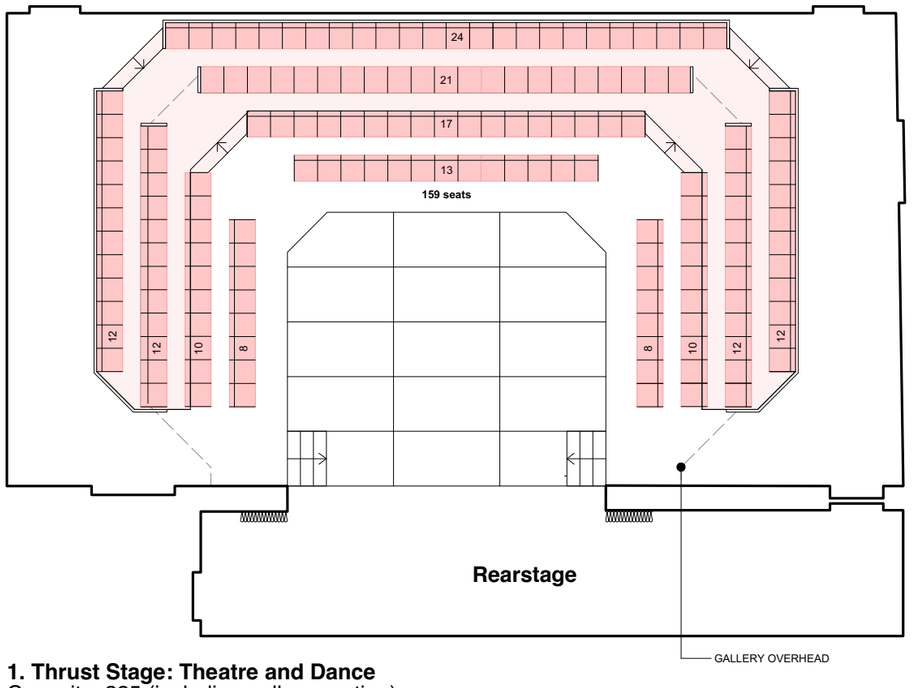
The new rear stage extension is positioned to the left (west) at the back of the auditorium.



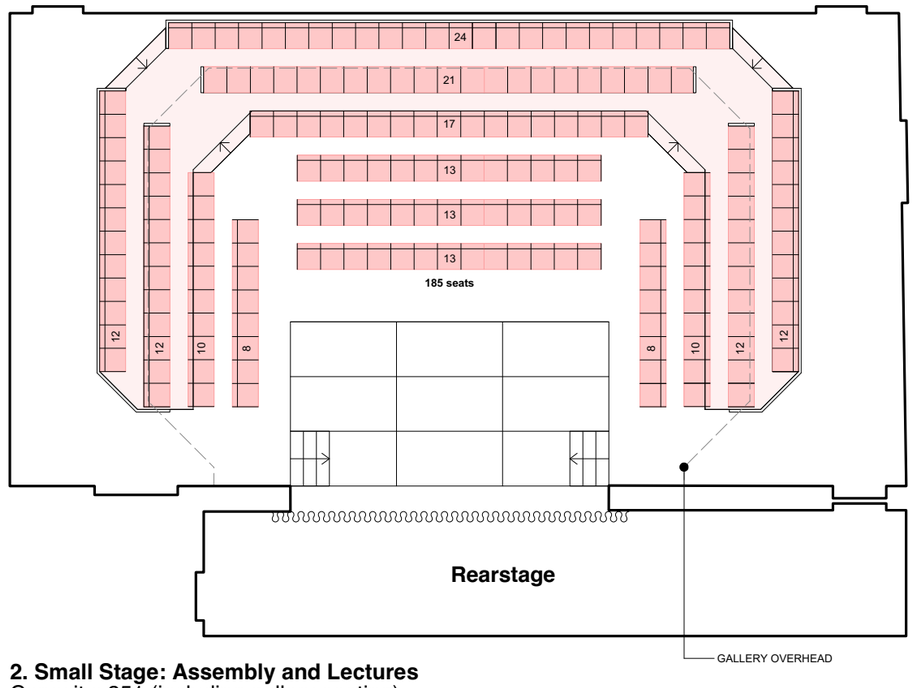
Alternative Seating Layouts

This proposed scheme allows for a maximum of 225 seats in total. However, a range of different seating layouts will be possible with the use of rostra and removable seating.

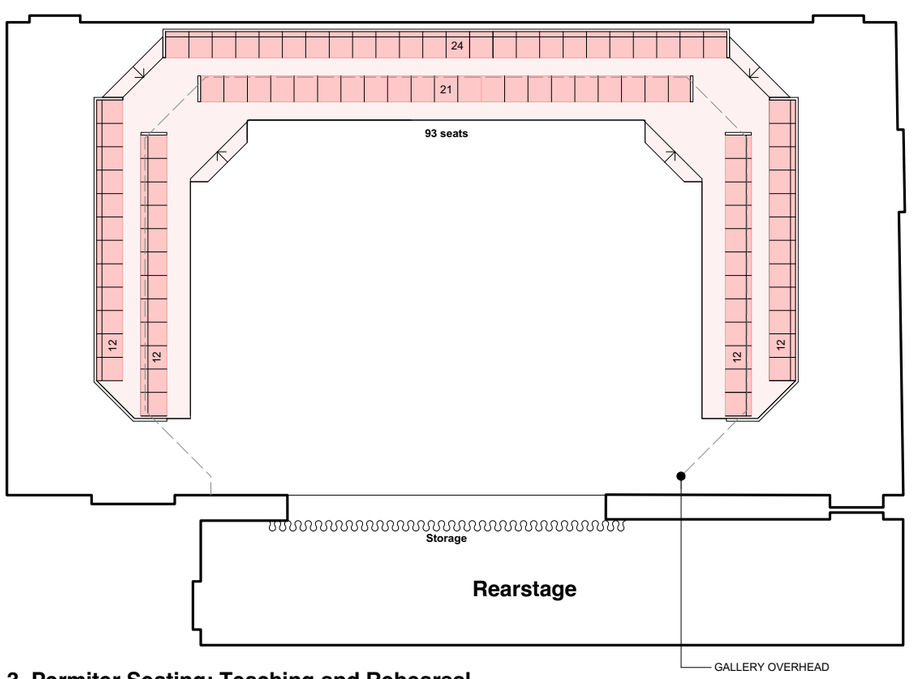
The rostra and seating can be stored in the rearstage when a flat floor arrangment is required.



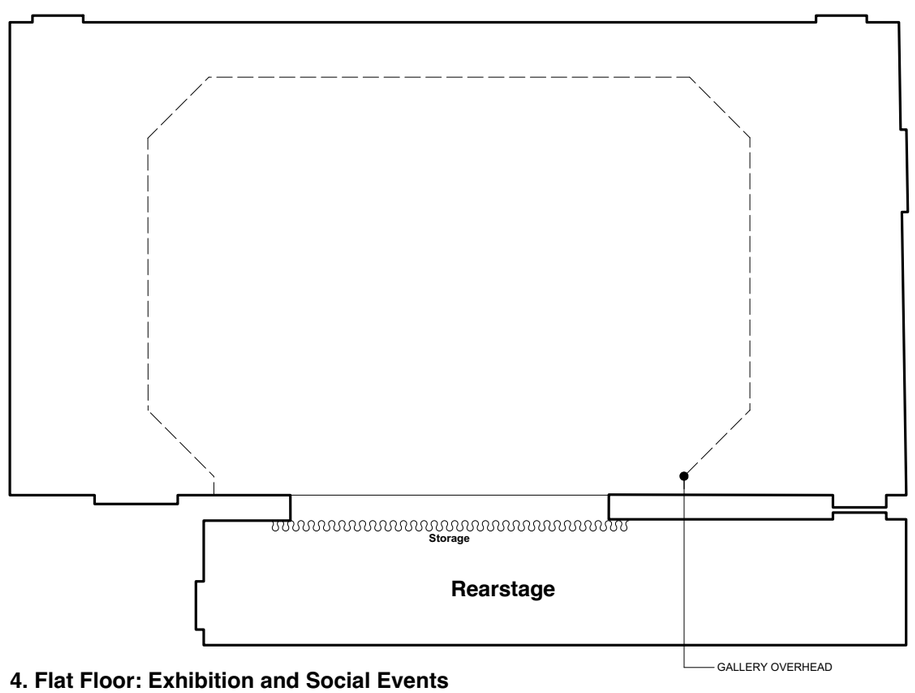
1. Thrust Stage: Theatre and Dance
Capacity: 225 (including gallery seating)



2. Small Stage: Assembly and Lectures
Capacity: 251 (including gallery seating)



3. Permiter Seating: Teaching and Rehearsal
Capacity: 93 (excluding gallery seating)



4. Flat Floor: Exhibition and Social Events

Proposals

Due to its context adjacent to the listed buildings, the extension will be of high architectural quality in order to make a positive contribution to its setting.

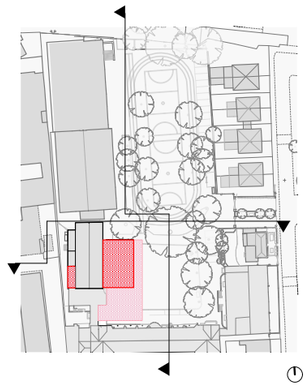
The proposed new foyer extension will be glazed on three sides and complement the surrounding buildings in scale and height, as well as the use of matching materials.

A recess formed at the junction to the existing building on the north side expresses the separation between the new and the old with a step up in the roof height to achieve a more vertical proportion, which relates to the proportions of the listed Barat building.

Site Elevations

East Elevation

North Elevation



Proposals

The materials of the new extension will be in red brick to match existing, with reconstituted stone lintels and sills to complement the existing buildings.

A masonry arcade at ground level will give the new foyer extension a solid base on which the glazing will sit. The stone sills and lintels delineate the internal Mezzanine floor level.

Level access will be provided from the lawn to the foyer and into the auditorium. There will also be outdoor seating and soft landscaping to connect the building to the courtyard.

The rear stage extension will also be in a red brick to match the existing. New new double get in doors will provide access for actors and props at the rear.

Proposed Foyer Elevations

North Elevation

East Elevation

South Elevation

West Elevation

Sustainability

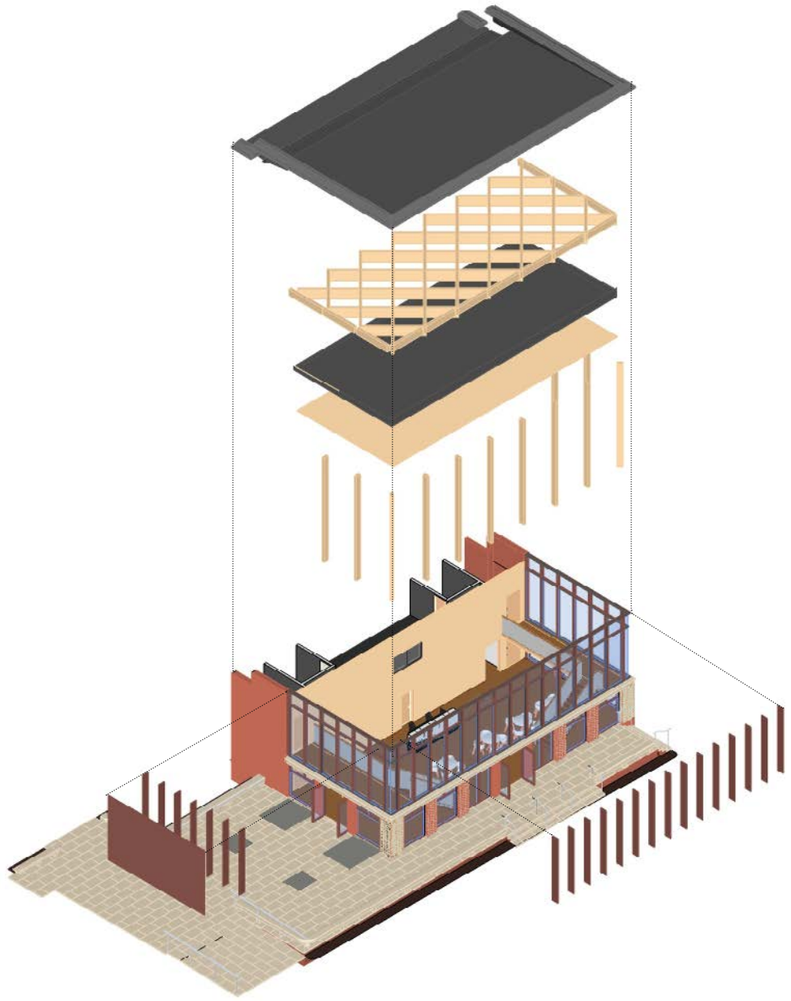
The proposed structure of the foyer extension is in Glulam timber with a diagonal grid roof structure.

Timber as a building material has a low embodied energy and will provide a visually striking interior.

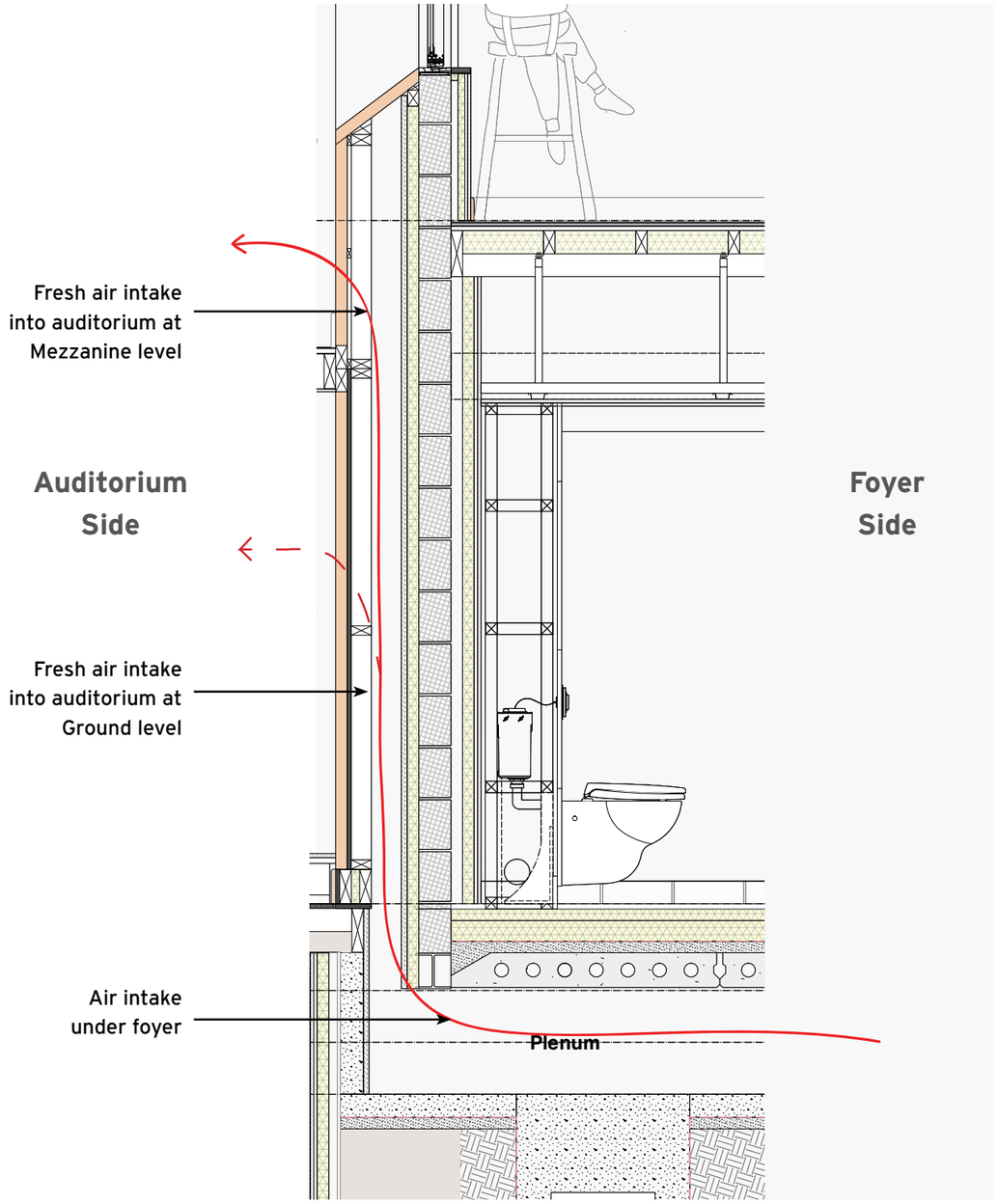
A system of external vertical solar shading to the glazed facades will control solar gain.

The auditorium will be naturally ventilated. A plenum below the new foyer extension will draw fresh air in via grilles formed in the external terrace, and will bring air into the auditorium through ducts formed in the existing former window openings.

Through a natural stack effect, warm air will then be extracted via mushroom vents in the rear stage at roof level (see west elevation).



Exploded axonometric view of new foyer extension with timber diagrid roof structure



Section through plenum showing the natural air intake underneath the foyer and into the auditorium.

Proposals

Proposed view from the lawn looking towards the new foyer extension

Proposals

Proposed view from the lawn looking towards the south eastern corner of the new foyer extension

Proposals

Proposed view looking towards the north elevation with the Barat building beyond

Proposals

Proposed internal view looking inside the new foyer extension from the main entrance

Proposals

Proposed internal view looking inside the new foyer extension from gallery level with potential seating layout

Proposals

Proposed view of the auditorium at ground level

Proposals

Proposed view of the auditorium at Mezzanine level

Proposals

Proposed view of the stage from Mezzanine level

Thank you for viewing

Sacred Heart High School would like to have your comments

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