The IOE Estates Masterplan

The Institute of Education is located at 20 Bedford Way, a Grade II* listed building designed by Architect Sir Denys Lasdun and Partners completed in 1975. The building is considered an exemplar of Lasdun’s work, characterised by a language of towers and strata, careful detailing, stepping terraces along the west elevation combined with a long solemn concrete, glass and aluminium facade to the main block.

After more than 40 years of existence the building remains a striking example of brutalist architecture, made even the more powerful by its location within Bloomsbury. However, the building and its infrastructure are nearing the end of their serviceable life in their current state.

In 2016, UCL Estates and the UCL Institute of Education (IOE) embarked on a project to undertake a phased refurbishment and regeneration of 20 Bedford Way, to ensure that the IOE continue to provide excellence in teaching and research.

The project will address problems with the current space, including issues with temperature, light, and air quality, and provide a much improved environment in which students and staff can study, teach and socialise for the next 50 years.

To see these plans online and provide feedback, visit: www.ucl.ac.uk/transforming-ucl

Have your say – New Level 4 and Institute Bar concept design

We are pleased to present concept designs for Wing A Level 4 including the new Institute Bar as part of Phase One of the IOE Estates Masterplan project.

Please take your time to view these boards and let us know what you think by completing a feedback form and submitting it into the feedback box.

We look forward to hearing your feedback!
UCL's Project Aspirations

- Create a welcoming, open and accessible environment
- Maintain the strong identity of the IOE community and brand
- High-quality, multifunctional bar area
- Well lit, clean and comfortable spaces
- Variety of spaces for social learning - from individual to group working
- Enhance the student experience
- Improved accessibility to external areas
- Dedicated social learning and study spaces
- More charging and data points
- New WCs
- High-quality office and teaching spaces
- Continuous function of quiet contemplation room
- Food heat-up area
- Improved food offer
- High-quality furniture

The Bar - Key Concerns

- Ease of access to outdoor areas from bar area
- Access to natural light within the bar area
- Restriction in combined size, flexibility and connectivity of bar and social space
- Multi-functionality of bar + social learning space
- Identity of the full bar and community
- Low-quality furniture in poor state of repair
- Existing bar is unique compared to other UCLU facilities

Quiet Contemplation - Key Concerns

- Continuous operation of quiet contemplation room
- Quiet contemplation room requires footwash facilities
- Lack of daylight in proposed bar office
- Existing bar is unique compared to other UCLU facilities

Offices - Key Issues

- Photocopy in separate room
- Bar
- Offices
- Social Learning Space
- Teaching
- Activities
- Bar
- Estates
- Toilets
- Circulation

Social Learning Space Proposal on Level 3

Previous Bar Proposal on Level 2
Overview
A Connected, Social Hub

Levels 4 and 5
Levels 4 and 5 (Phase 1B) has been designed by taking into account comments and feedback provided from a number of consultation sessions with staff and students. In addition to improving and enhancing the connectivity and usability of 20 Bedford Way, Level 4 will become a student-facing, open and accessible ‘Student Hub’, linking social areas, cafes, bars, the library, and outdoor spaces.

In the heart of this hub, the brand new Level 4 Institute Bar will be a central social space for students, with direct student access onto the south-facing terrace. The space is being designed to ensure it can accommodate events and social functions catering to the students’ needs.

Level 5 will provide brand new, high-quality office space with flexible breakout spaces, private meeting rooms, and a dedicated staff area with tea point and social space.

Levels 2 and 3
On top of that, Levels 2 and 3 (Phase 1A) are currently on site. Level 2 - which is where the bar was located in the previous design - will provide additional teaching spaces, apple lab and brand new toilet facilities.

Level 3 is the ‘Learning Hub’ providing a variety of teaching spaces and a generous and accessible student social learning area with charging points to all study spaces.
The current Phase 1B scheme includes a comprehensive internal remodelling and refurbishment of the existing floor plates and structure. A major part of the design will ensure that the building works functionally, and as such all of the mechanical and electrical services will be replaced with sustainable and efficient systems. The current Phase 1B scope is as follows:

- Full remodelling and refurbishment of Levels 4 and 5 of the Wing A
- Provide more teaching spaces and new toilet facilities
- Improve the accessibility of the Phase 1 areas with a new lift and improved wayfinding
- Provide enhanced connections to outside spaces, and particularly from the bar space
- Address the current failings of the existing building fabric by upgrading the MEP systems and infrastructure, installing secondary glazing to the external curtain walls and insulating the solid wall elements
- Upgrade external terrace for the bar use
- To create a more open, accessible and welcoming space to study and socialise, and to maintain a high-quality learning environment

Key Design Moves

1. Remove partitions / Reveal original structure
2. Improve accessibility / connections / wayfinding
3. Improve environment / MEP services / facade performance
4. Create flexible teaching and bar space
Interior Design Strategy
A high quality learning environment

Denys Lasdun Architecture

The Grade II* listed 20 Bedford Way was completed in 1977 by Architect Sir Denys Lasdun and Partners. The building is a rare quality example of a university teaching and administration building designed by one of Britain’s leading post-2nd World War architects.

The quality of the original external finishes is exceptional and the contrasting texture of materials unique in Lasdun’s surviving work. The internal teaching spaces were designed to be flexible, and continue to be altered regularly - a tribute to the success of the original concept.

Today, UCL is in urgent need of additional teaching and administrative space. Emerging designs seek to satisfy this need, adjusting the spaces to continue the heritage asset’s optimum viable use as a building for teaching and academic administration.

The interior design strategy is inspired by Lasdun’s architecture and the time period that the building was created. The design will reveal the original concrete structure in its raw honesty. Fixed joinery, such as the bar will be designed to suit the strong rhythm of the existing structure and to show a rawness in its finishes.

Selected loose furniture will use warm colour theme inspired by the 70’s interior style. The warm colours will compliment the existing architecture and bring vitality, and joy to the internal spaces.

70’s Inspiration

Above
Indicative Bar Design
(Level 4, 20 Bedford Way)
Interior Design Strategy
A high quality learning environment

Interior Colour Palette
Neutral background palette

Proposed feature colours