



Westminster Kingsway College

library and learning resource centre

Sprunt transformed a Grade II listed library at Vincent Square, Knightsbridge into a contemporary library and learning resource centre as part of a three-year framework agreement with Westminster Kingsway College. The building was originally designed as a small theatre and converted in to a library during the 1970's. The Planners and English Heritage could not accept alterations which could not be reversed if it was to be used as a theatre again.

Sprunt proposed a completely demountable structure edged by glass and steel balustrading and an open steel staircase leading to the ground floor learning zone to maintain the sense of open space created by Goodhart - Rendel's original design in 1956. Alteration to existing windows was also not possible and so more innovation was required to allow light to percolate to the lower level. Sprunt's solution was to glaze a large

proportion of the floor which added character and interest whilst satisfying the need for daylight.

A balcony mezzanine floor, laid over the building's existing terrace, balcony seating was also introduced. This addition, with glazed partitioning, also provides a new entrance to the library. A third mezzanine floor, situated above the stage, was designed to create yet more usable space for offices, study and storage. As part of the refurbishment programme, alterations made to the building during the 1970's were undone to restore the space to its former glory such as restoration of Goodhart-Rendel's striking proscenium arch.

Sprunt's other projects for the College include 01ZeroOne, the acclaimed creative learning laboratory in Soho and refurbishment of the restaurant and kitchens at Vincent Square restaurant.

Location:
Knightsbridge, London

Client:
Westminster Kingsway
College

Project:
To transform a grade II listed
library into a contemporary
learning resource centre

Value:
£950,000

Status:
Completed 2006

“The building creates awareness of its history and innovative design.”