

8. Incorporate environmental and sustainability issues in the Planning Application Design and Access Statement, including a development of the Stage 2 'plain English' description of internal environmental conditions, seasonal control strategy and systems. Provide a supplementary detailed report if appropriate.
9. Consider peer reviews of environmental control strategies and also involve stakeholders and users.
10. Instigate initial involvement of contractors and specialist subcontractors where specialist products or systems are proposed; begin the process of obtaining their advice.
11. Audit the Developed Design to ensure integration and compliance with the project's sustainability targets.

Wiener Library, Russell Square, London





➤ **Architect:**
Barbara Weiss
Architects

Date completed:
August 2011

Construction cost:
£1m

The Wiener Library holds about 65,000 books, pamphlets, periodicals, memoirs, photographs, press cuttings and other materials, mainly on the subject of the Holocaust. With the lease of its previous premises about to expire, and after several years of searching, a substantial but dilapidated Grade II listed Georgian house in Russell Square was acquired for the purpose of providing a new home for the Library.

The architects sought to retain and respect the original Georgian fabric and details where existing, by restoring and reinstating elements such as the ornate cornices and architraves. New timber, stone and cork floors are sympathetic to the building's character and the occupiers' needs. Overall the project was sensitively and comprehensively designed to provide a sustainable home for the collection's future, while making the most of a limited budget that had to satisfy a variety of technical and programmatic demands.

Essential to the success of the project was the provision of a lift – both to allow the transfer of books and other materials from basement storage to first floor reading rooms, and to make the building fully accessible to disabled and elderly readers and staff. However, the provision of a lift in such a building was highly controversial, and was the subject of the first application. The assistance of both a planning consultant and a historic buildings consultant was obtained. The planning consultant coordinated the application process, took the lead in lobbying various consultees and neighbouring owners and produced the application documents. The historic buildings consultant advised on the development of a heritage strategy, and took responsibility for arguing the case in support of the architect's proposals.

Having obtained consent for the lift, the design of the project was developed in detail. A mezzanine in the reading room – a bold architectural statement that greatly increased the number of books directly available to readers – and internal details for decorative elements such as cornices and architraves were the subject of a second application.