

# The Guildhall, Liskeard

## Refurbishment and Remodelling Project

Liskeard Guildhall is a municipal building located in the heart of the market town of Liskeard, Cornwall. The structure, which was originally the meeting place of Liskeard Borough Council, is a Grade II\* listed building.

Liskeard Town Council commissioned Le Page Architects to undertake a feasibility study to inform the much needed conservation, repair, and refurbishment of the Guildhall, and gain Listed Building Consent for the proposals. The project has been funded by Good Growth Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Shared Prosperity Fund - Community Capacity Fund.

The project seeks to rejuvenate the interior spaces and the former ground floor colonnade in a way that is sensitive to the existing building and secures a sustainable use for its future in the town centre.



### History of The Building

The current Guildhall dates to 1859 and was at least the third building on the site to provide civic, judicial and market functions under one roof, the earliest recorded dating to around 1574. The Victorian rebuilding was first proposed by Henry Rice in 1853, soon after his appointment as Borough Surveyor, but negotiations with the Home Office (responsible for the court which by then operated from the building) over funding took some years. In consequence of their funding the Home Office provided their in-house Surveyor of County Courts, Charles Reeves, as lead architect, and the building shares the Italianate style which Reeves established for the many courts he designed, and indeed those of successive Home Office architects. Rice provided designs for internal fittings for the ground floor meat market, and, later, for a dias platform for a Council Chamber.

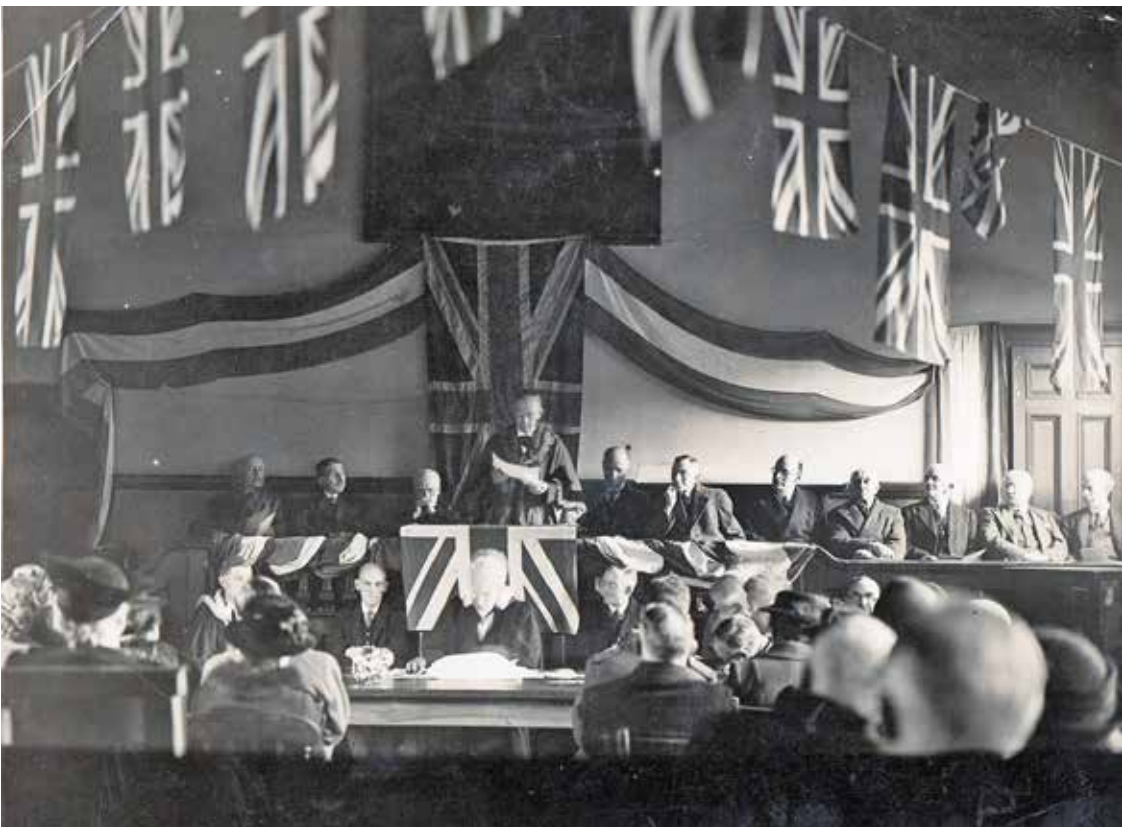
Externally the building projects the civil and economic heritage of Liskeard alongside the national projection of judicial authority.

Internally the building originally provided a main hall, being used by the County Court (and later Magistrates) and a smaller Reading Room, being converted in 1867 into a Council Chamber – but also probably used as a retiring room or second courtroom. As is characteristic of Victorian court buildings separate entrances were provided for judges and for the public, each leading via separate stairs to the first-floor halls.

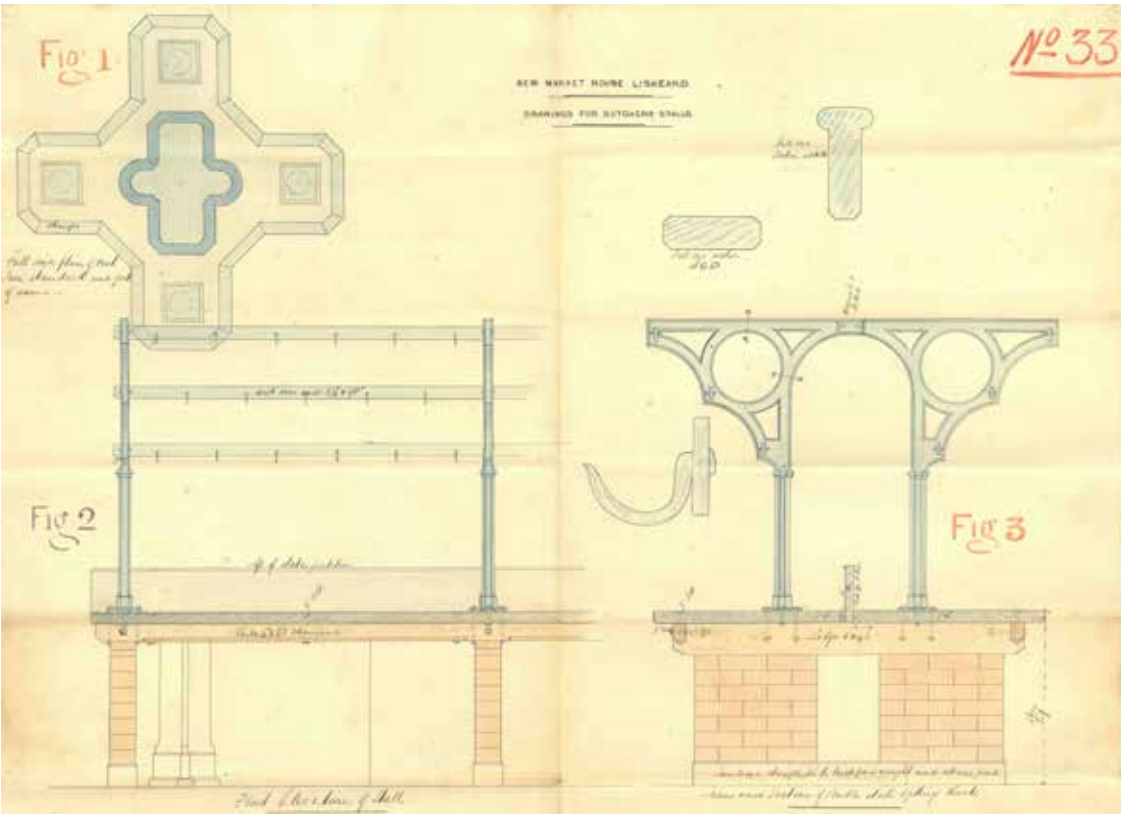
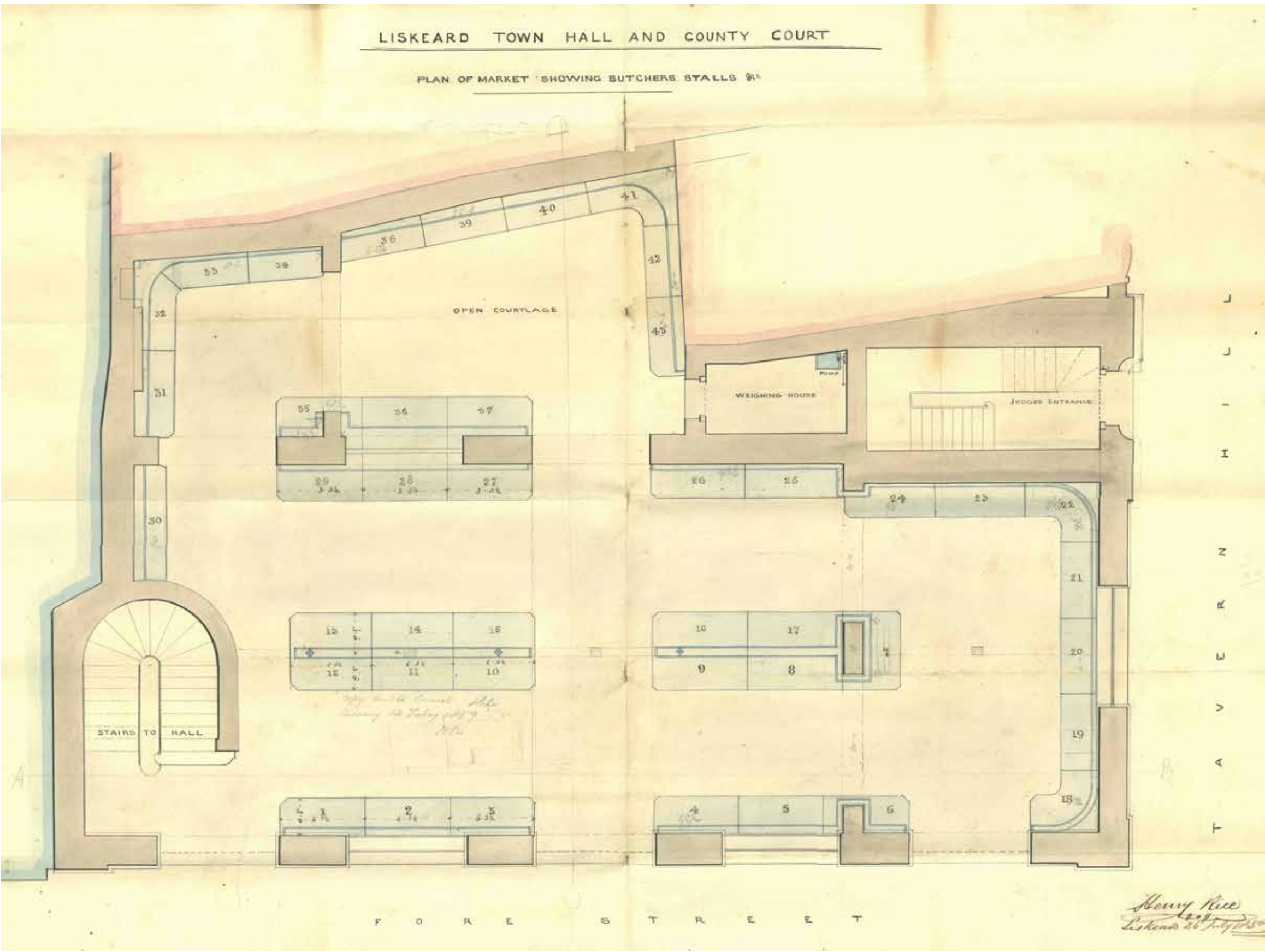
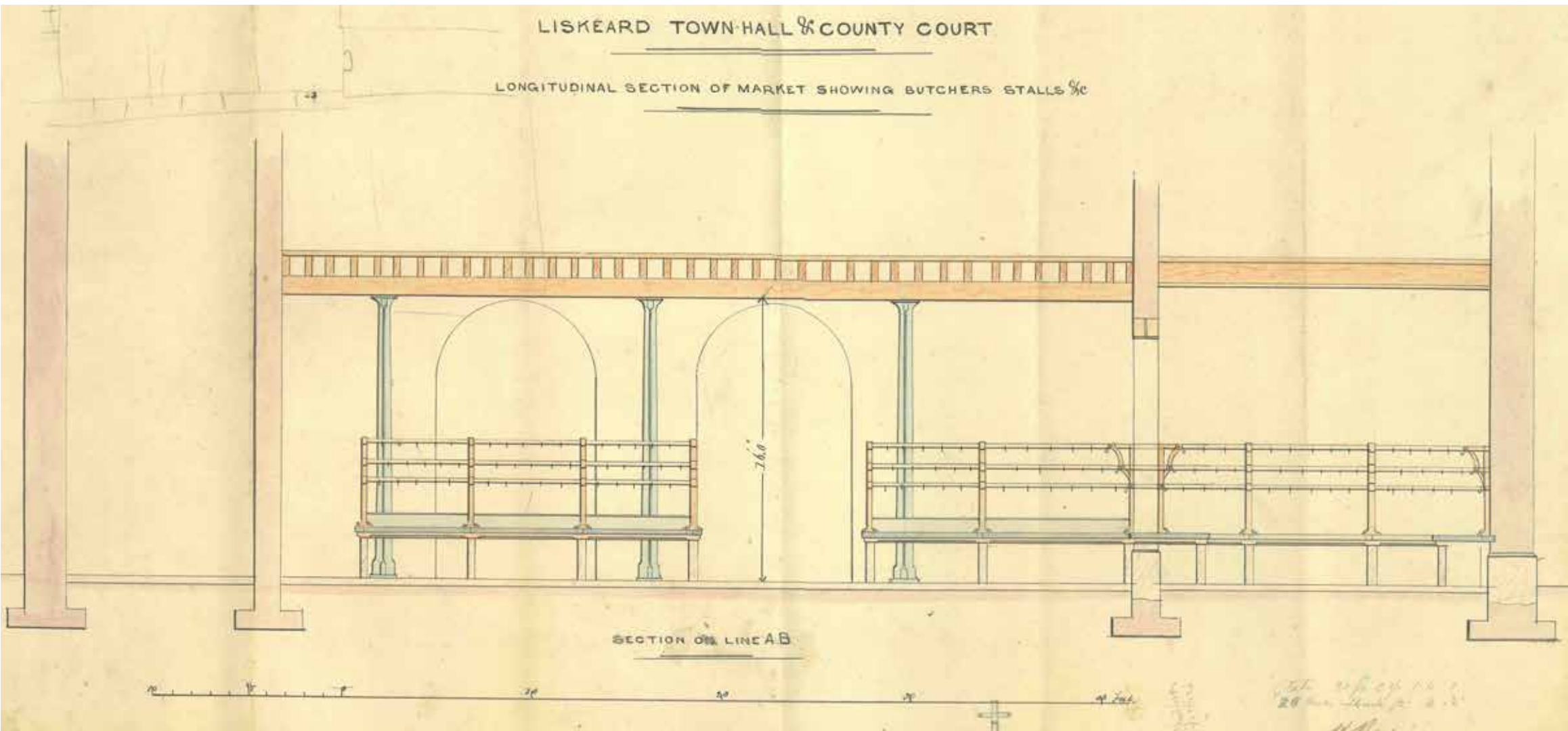
Whilst the staircases of the building, the sense of internal space within the two principal rooms, and some of the original internal fixtures of the building survive, the original

dias platform of the main courtroom has been lost, as have a number of fireplaces. The original meat market fittings were replaced by the mid-20th century by the current shop-units, which subdivide and conceal the original surface finishes here.

The building's first floor spaces appear to have served its original uses for approximately 100 years, but by the mid-20th century it is clear that the building was increasingly seen as unfit for modern requirements.



### Le Page Architects

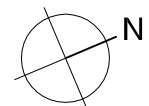


#### Images

List of images to appear here...



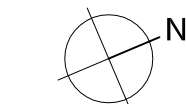
## Refurbishment and Remodelling Project



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### Concept Design

Given the historical importance of the Guildhall within Liskeard and its Grade II\* listed status, Le Page Architects have approached the project with the aim to sensitively renovate and refurbish the existing building. The priority is to remove and strip back previous modern interventions to reveal more of the original character and proportions of the building. New elements are to be of a design and material suitable for use within the historic setting and original features are to be conserved and maintained as part of the new scheme.

The proposed design comprises 3 commercial units to the ground floor space, set back from the front elevation on Fore Street so as to create an open arcade area. This open arcade is to provide space for possible open markets or activities and displays that may spill out from the commercial units, which are all accessed from this area.

The main hall itself is to be largely retained as existing, with the existing building fabric being conserved and carefully refurbished and repaired

A new passenger lift to the first floor hall is positioned to the north end of the ground floor arcade with the intention that this is highly visible and accessible to all visitors. This lift will provide access up to the first floor main hall.

New wc facilities to support users of the main hall are propose to the mezzanine level, accessed via a set of stairs to the back of the building.

Exterior Lighting to Arcade for evenings and events will help to elevate the presence of the building in the town centre



By increasing the depth of the current arcade, there is more flexible use of the space

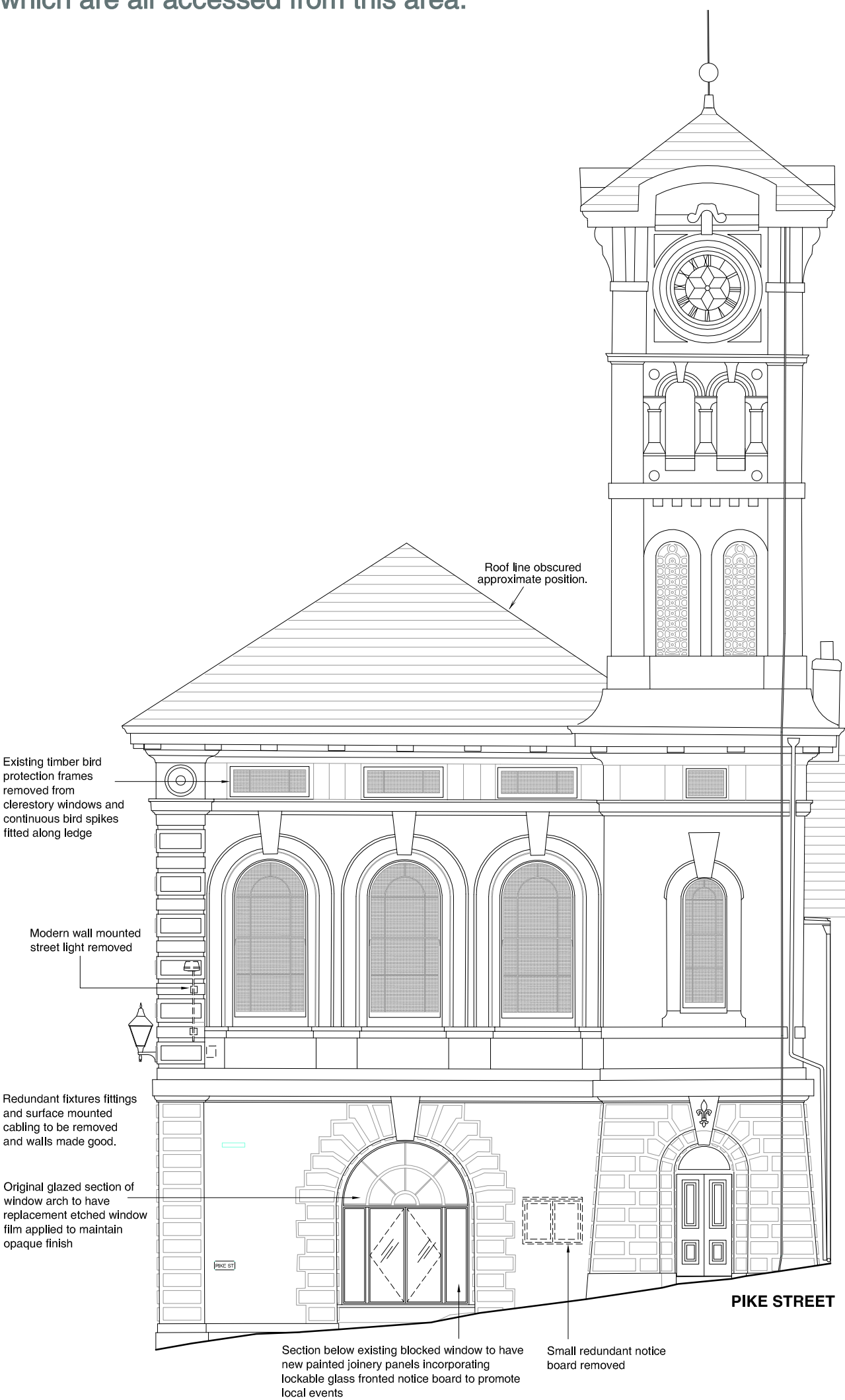


With lighting, the Arcade could become a space used for food markets, seasonal stalls and events throughout the year



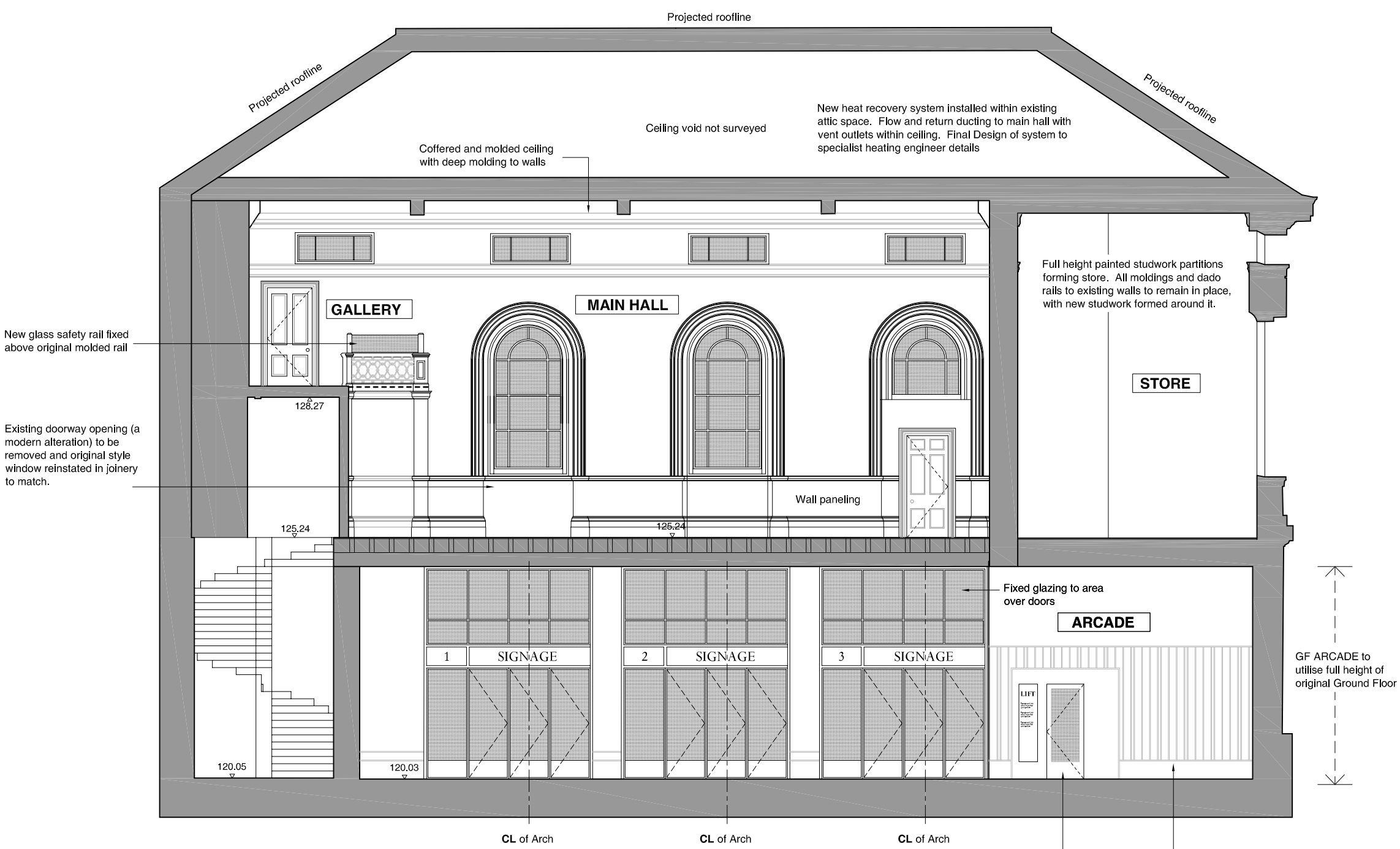
### Concept images

A more open frontage to the street creates interest



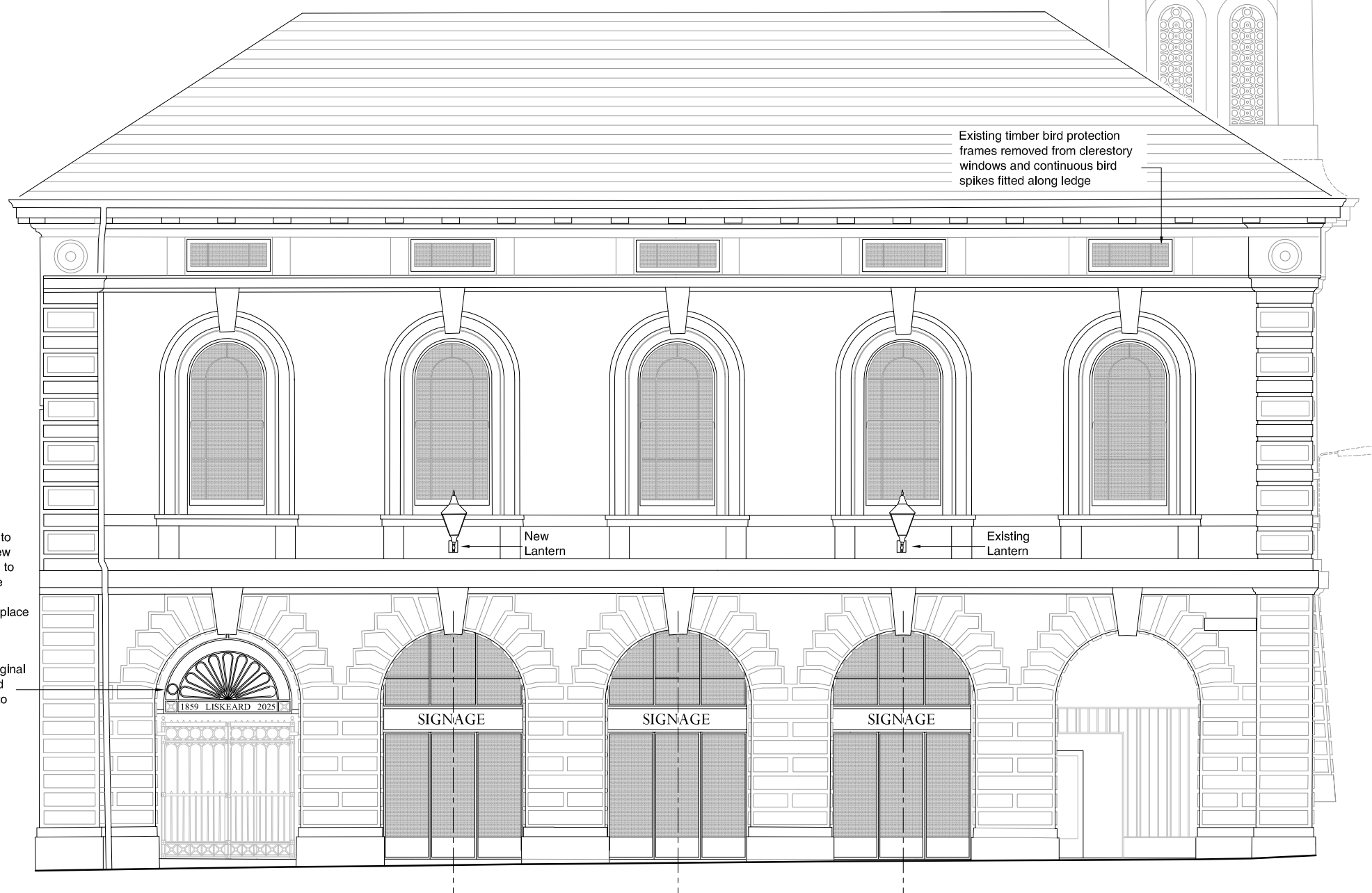
#### Proposed Pike Street Elevation

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#### Proposed Section

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#### Proposed Fore Street Elevation

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