

Submission

Conservation Project / Regeneration Project including
those involving an extension to an existing building



Refurbishment & Extension to a former, circa 1822, Prison
Governor's Residence in Guildford, Surrey

Completed: January 2022

Stedman Blower Architects

Project Details:

Address:

South Hall,
Castle Hill
Guildford
Surrey
GU1 3SX

Category of Project:

Conservation Project /
Regeneration Project including those involving an extension to an existing building.

Name of Client:

Mr Peter Cluff

Architect:

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Project Description:

Historical Context:

South Hall is a detached 19th Century villa with later modifications, situated on its own generous steeply sloping site within the lower density neighbourhood rising south and west above Guildford Castle. The project comprises extensions and alterations to this locally Listed house in the Guildford Town Centre Conservation Area.

The property has an extensive and well documented history from the time it was built as the 'Guildford House of Correction'. The current house was built in 1822 as the resident Governor's quarters when the Third House of Correction to serve the County was built in the town in the aftermath of the Napoleonic Wars and the penal reform that followed. It ceased being used for this purpose in 1851 and was sold off as home to a Mr CF Smyrk who developed the villas and built the roadway that would later become Castle Hill through the site, cleaving off South Hall from the prisoner's barracks and yards on the opposite side of the new road.

The property had been extensively altered once its use as part of Guildford Gaol ceased and it became a rather impressive gentleman's residence of the later Victorian period. Originally with 3 or 4 floors of accommodation, including three holding cells and kitchens in the entrance lower ground level. The principal state rooms were on the next 2 floors with a housekeeper's attic. The house was extensively altered and apart from fragments of the original 1822 building in the central section of the core of the house and the basement walls and some fitted ovens, doors and cupboards, little of the original building survived.

These new extensions and alterations respect the history of the structure, lead to the removal of some workmanlike later 20thC alterations and introduce new features that add to the design appeal and improve the overall internal layout of the house for a 21stC family. The project involved significant investment in the fabric that will lead to its continued protection. The extensions and alterations lead to an improved set of elevations that repair some of the recent alterations. The general setting of the Conservation Area is preserved and enhanced by the retention and improvement of this important local building.

Project Description:

Design Strategy:

The material alterations of the project are as follows:

The Kitchen extensions (east and west)

The kitchen was originally set within a smaller room at the back of the house at the upper ground level, thus with no access to the gardens and away from the usual service spaces one would wish for close at hand. It was apparent that this was a missed opportunity and thus it was proposed to use the sparely used ballroom as a new kitchen. In order to improve its relationship to the gardens and the basement level, the floor was dropped by 60cm. The wing then extended in both east and west directions. On the east side providing a much-needed cloakroom for a house of this quality, larder and utility spaces and a back door. On the west side, overlooking the Wey Valley, the kitchen is opened up, with a central fireplace and glazed rooflight. The roof is further extended to provide an external but covered loggia with views and aspect over the Wey to the south-west.

The Drawing Room extension (west)

The existing deck and utility space below was demolished and a new segmental bay built, lining up with the current extent of the elevation facing west. This bay matches closely the architecture of the original 1822 building, re-introducing a feature that was originally built as three bays in a classical Georgian plan, but which was later reduced to the single bay facing the Castle Grounds to the North. This bay links the kitchen back through to the house, bypassing the drawings room, which retains both its bays, just one now internalised.

The Central Hallway wall (west)

This is most incongruous, where the 1822 front door would have been, and has since been much altered. Leaving an odd outward projecting top floor corner window and recessed below. This wall is to be taken down and lined up with the remaining elevation, so that the west elevation reads as single composition, in the same way that the muscular and most antique elevation facing north reads.

Other minor material alterations

The stair to the top floor did not sit well with the floors below, thus leading to a stepped landing and odd ceiling levels cascading through the house. The result is that the main entrance hall was ruined by the half landing projecting through the ceiling. By moving the stair to the top floor into the later mid-Victorian extension, it was possible to change the stairs to stack correctly as they would have done originally. This allowed the hallway ceiling to be corrected and the full experience of the long aspect through the arched hallway and picture window to be experienced. The new stair required a small dormer projection at the roof level to gain head height, but this is almost invisible in any wider setting.

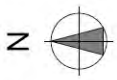


Before

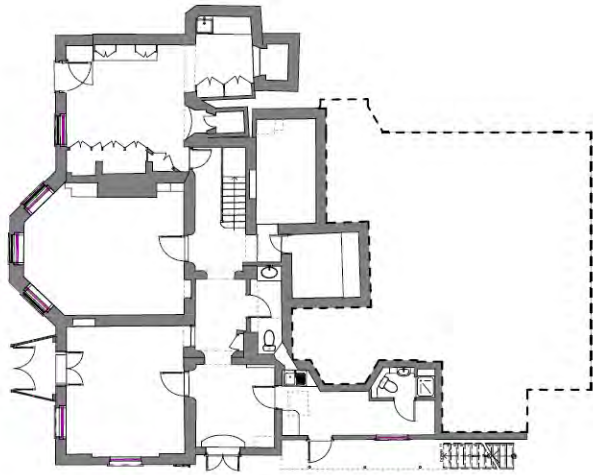


After





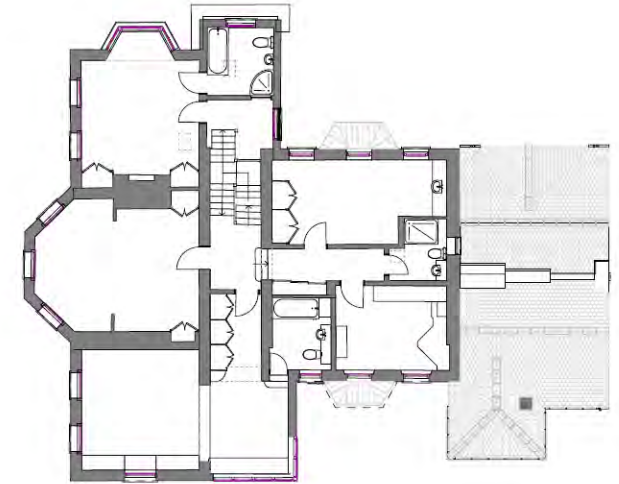
Existing Floor Plans



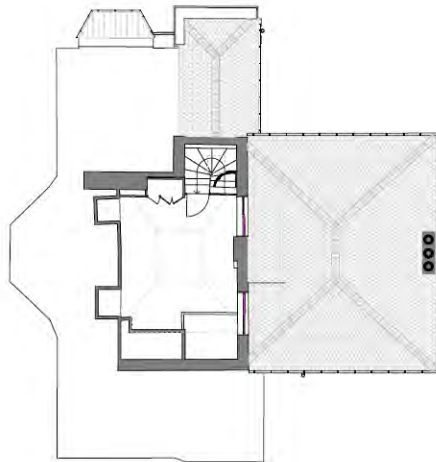
Lower Ground Floor Plan 1:100



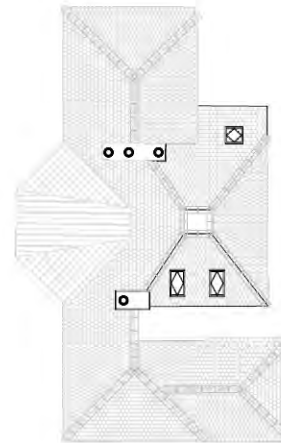
Ground Floor Plan 1:100



First Floor Plan 1:100



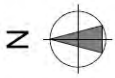
Second Floor Plan 1:100



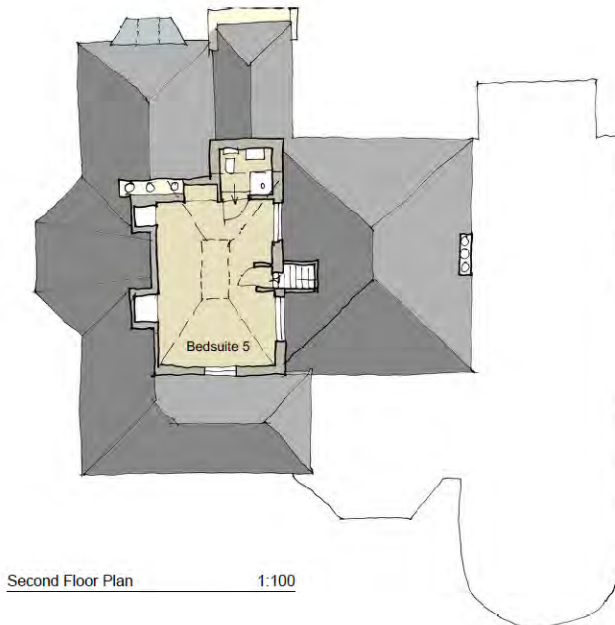
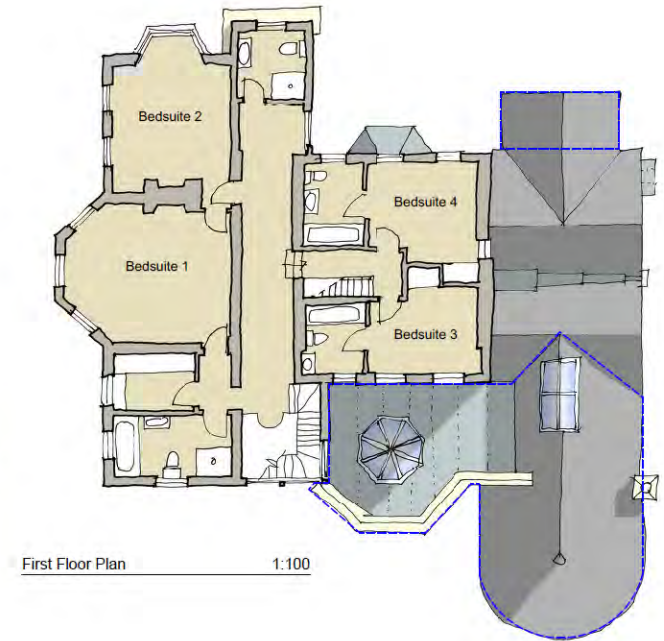
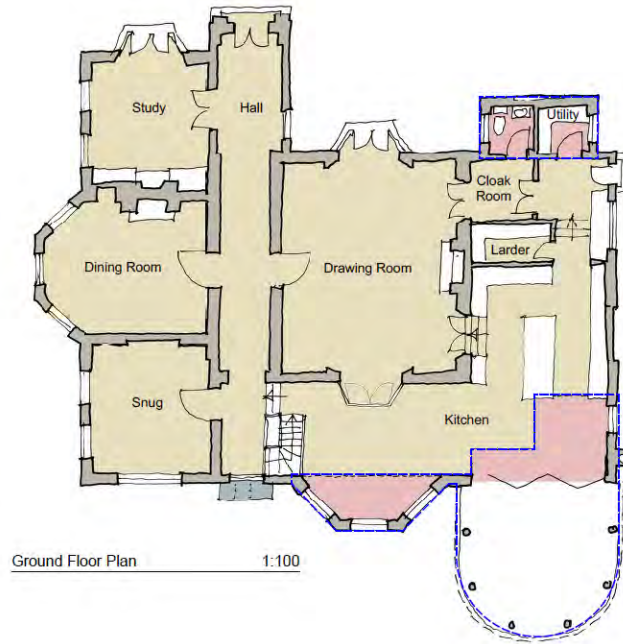
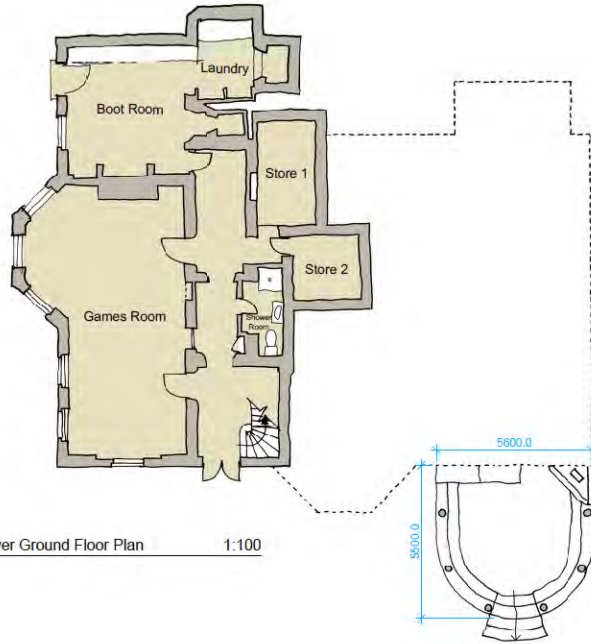
Roof Plan 1:100



Illustrative drawings: Areas highlighted in red are new areas to be introduced



Proposed Floor Plans





Photographs of completed project,
June 2022, by Mark Hardy Creative

Ground Floor Entrance Hall



Before and after relocation of principal staircase to rear of property



Entrance Hall Design Development



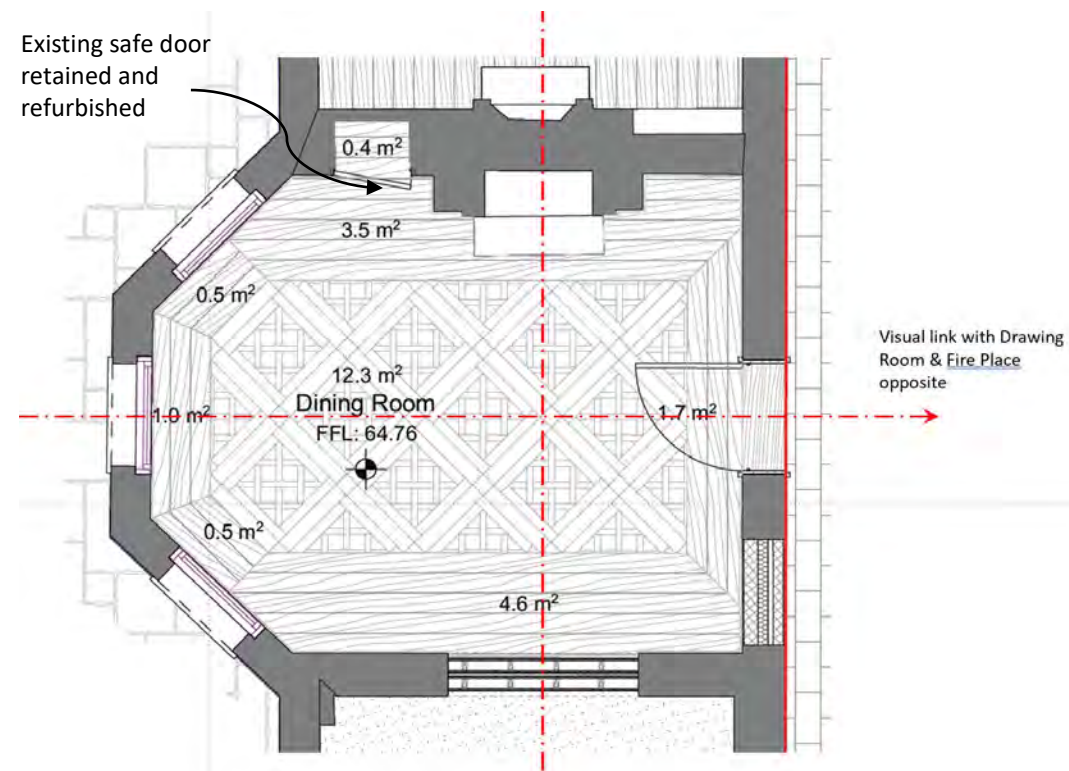
Dining Room



Existing arched opening to be infilled



Existing safe door retained and refurbished



Ground Floor Drawing Room



Existing plaster features retained



Kitchen

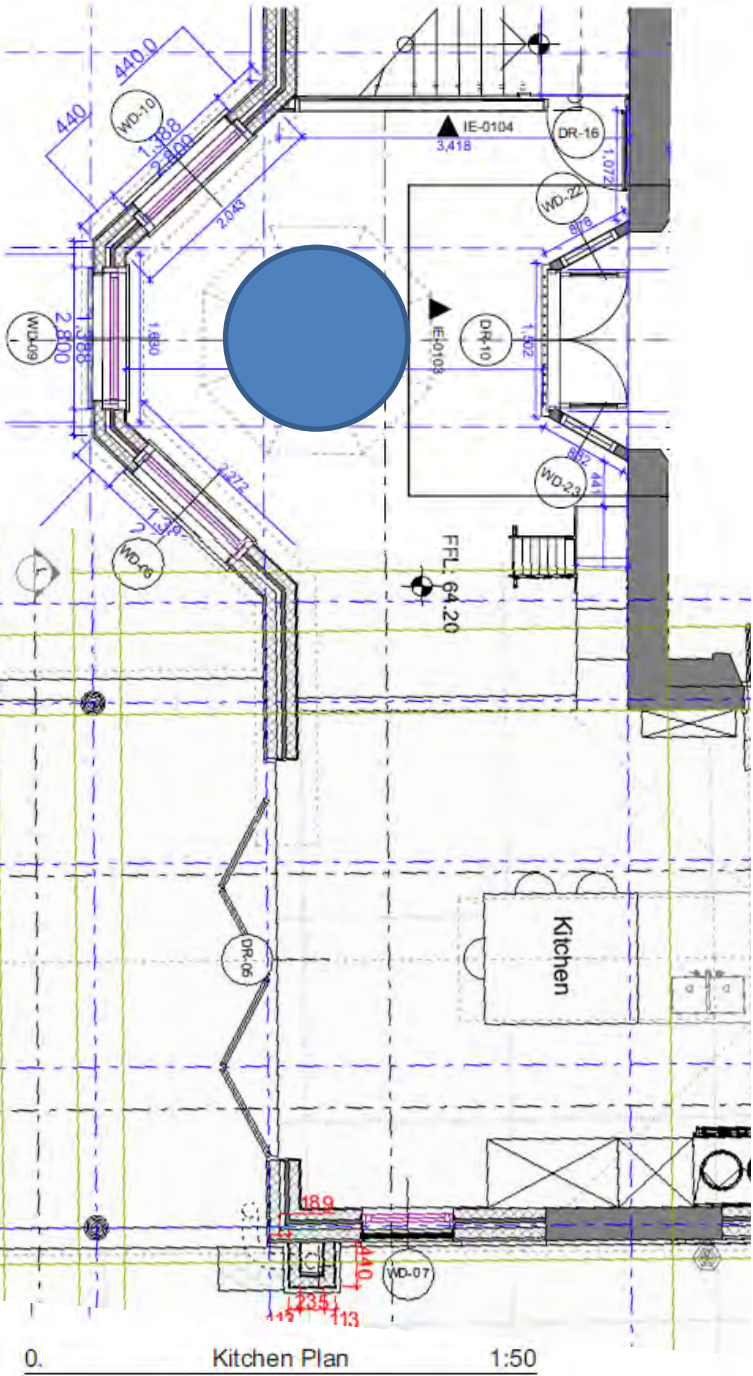


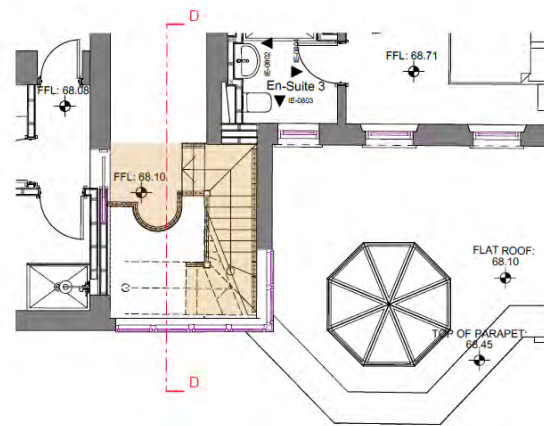


Kitchen

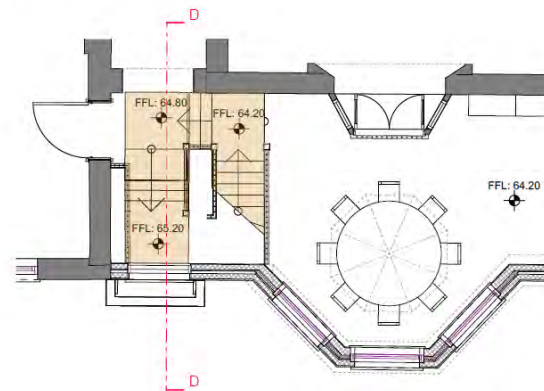


Breakfast Room

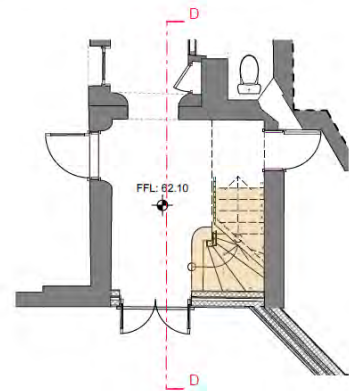




First Floor Plan 1:50



Ground Floor Plan 1:50



Lower Ground Floor Plan 1:50



D D-D 1:20

NOTE:
Timber staircase and newel posts with metal balustrade by specialist, to comply with all relevant parts of Part K of the Building Regulations.

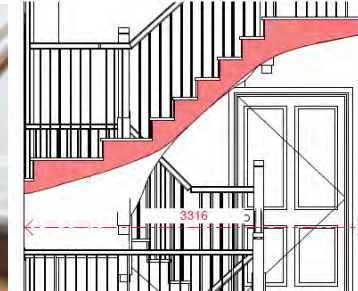
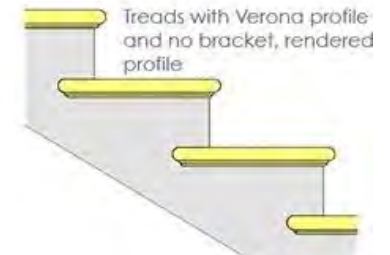
All dimensions to be checked on site prior to manufacture

Finishes:
Plasterboard soffit with skim plaster and paint finish.

Softwood string with plasterboard facing to blend with soffit.

Black wrought iron spindles

Oak handrail, treads & risers expressed with natural finish



Staircase



Lower Ground Floor – Scullery & Wine Cellar



Repurposing of original prisoner's cell with same treatment as original ground floor walk-in safe