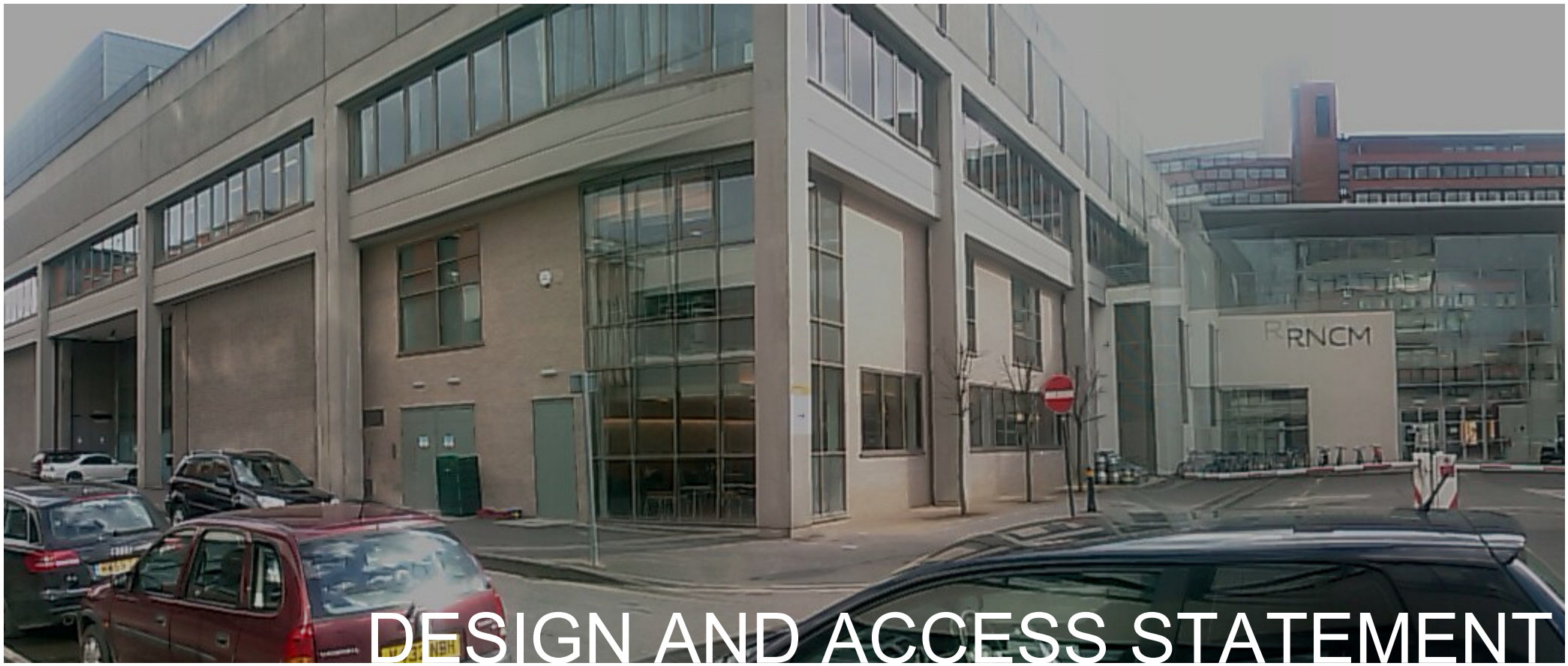

DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT

RNCM
ROYAL NORTHERN COLLEGE of MUSIC

BDP.

April 2010
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Royal Northern College of Music, Proposed Eatery.

To walk around the college is a beautiful experience. Alive with young talented students at all hours of the day and alive with the background hum of music. This is truly a place with a passion and reputation to match being of Royal charter status.

The building is equally impressive having a massive robust quality with the extensive use of concrete and load bearing masonry walls designed to acoustically separate itself from the surroundings. As such the outside has an introverted feel having little opportunity to showcase what really goes on inside.

As much as it is about teaching this place is also about performance hosting numerous events throughout the year. The college need to maximise this potential not only to reinforce their reputation but also to build on this important source of revenue.

The existing Eatery is currently a hidden opportunity and the College see its potential as an ideal venue to improve its offer for pre-theatre dinning.

The objective is to:

- Improve the dinning experience throughout the day transforming it from an Eatery to Bistro

- Create a new entrance allowing the restaurant to cater for a wider audience

- Make its location more obvious and help to animate the street corner

The solution has been to create and new glass lobby capped with a stainless steel pelmet that extends between the existing columns. The pelmet helps to unify the elevation mimicking the concrete beams above whilst keeping the focus on the ground floor activity.

The adjacent fire exit and service doors will be remodelled to make the elevation below the pelmet feel more consistent and look less like a back. Indeed with the development and plans for the Arts School opposite this will help to improve the character of Rosamond Street West which currently gives the impression of the service end for each building.

Signage:
The existing corner column will be used to place a vertical sign which will act as a marker for the new entrance. This has been expressed in a graphic way with a floating back lit stripe in black metal with white internally illuminated letters. This graphic style will be continued with a sign on the wall elevation as indicated on the drawings. At this moment in time the restaurant name has not yet been determined.

Accessibility:
The new entrance lobby doors will be power assisted and activated with a push panel located on top of a bollard. A clear pavement width of 2.2m is maintained around the lobby allowing for the passage of 2 wheelchair users. Please refer to drawings

Trees:
There is a row of 3 Maple saplings along the South elevation. Whilst the lobby does project into the planted zone in accordance with BS 5837:2005 it should not damage the root bulb. Please refer to drawings

Security:
The College and neighbouring MMU have worked collectively using each other buildings to provide CCTV coverage. This includes the main entrance and Eatery. Whilst cameras are a necessary deterrent the project needs to be secure by design. It is felt that by transforming the corner of the Eatery and extending the opening hours this will add a positive effect helping to better self police this area. The lobby construction will add to this by being fully glazed enabling views in, out and through.

Visibility Splays:
The Eatery is on the corner of the College car park entrance. The new entrance does not hinder the visibility splays as indicated on the drawings.

Future plans:
Whilst outside of the scope of this project the College have considered creating an alfresco area on under the trees. This would be a managed space for the Eatery and help to bring people together and animate this entrance of the College.



approach from Rosamond Street West…



a new entrance…


signage


signage



existing side elevation…



a potential future plan…