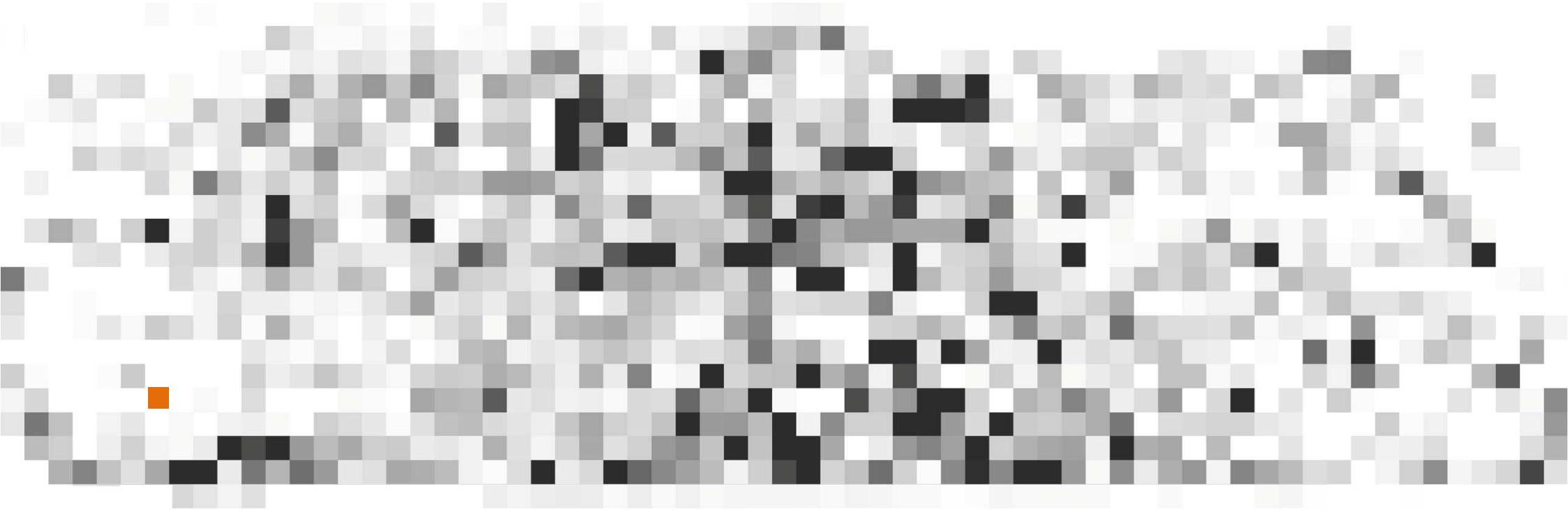
IAN PALMER ARCHITECTS



Royal Northern College of Music

Library Decarbonisation – Phase 2

Design & Access Statement

22.01.24
P230721_(RP)_A_150_P04

12.03.24	P01	First Issue
19.03.24	P02	General updates
10.04.24	P03	General updates
10.06.24	P04	Stair A1 omitted

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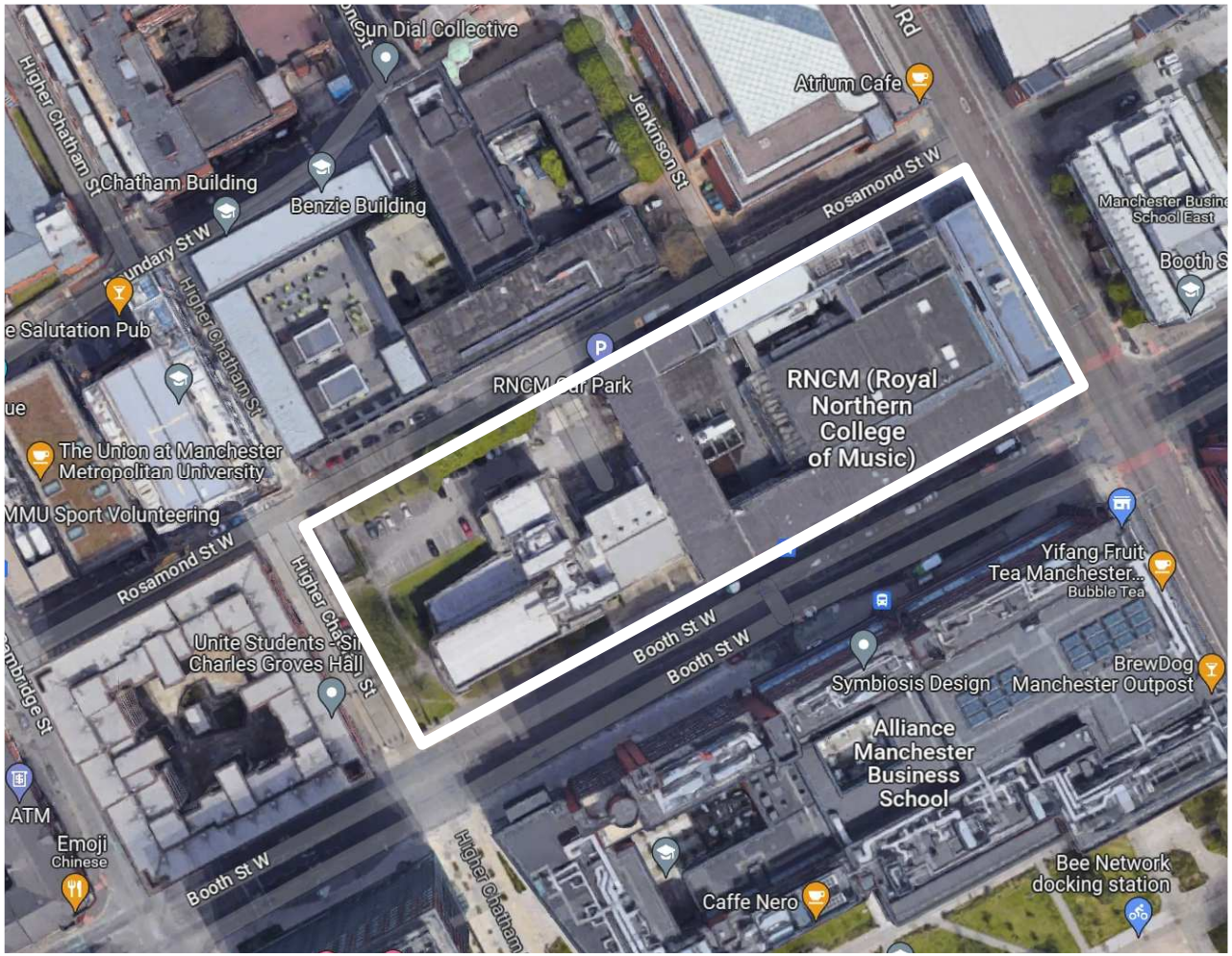
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Supporting Greater Manchester's decarbonisation bid, this is the second phase of works proposed by the Royal Northern College of Music (RNCM).

Under Planning Applications 132328/FO/2021 & 130714/FO/2021, Phase 1 introduced an ASHP and fabric upgrades to the main building reducing the reliance and use of gas boilers.

This Application for Phase 2 creates a harmonised 'district' heating and cooling strategy across the estate.



Path to decarbonisation

The estate has evolved over time and is formed from several developments.

The jewel in the crown is the Main Building which was conceived in the late 70's by Bickerdike, Allen, Rich and Partners. The building has a large structural grid and is fashioned in concrete and silver quartz masonry. The building was originally conceived with 2 entrances, with its upper levels of the flighted concourse connecting to the Oxford Road high level pedestrian walkway.

At the time, this was an ambitious project supporting Manchester's vision to grow and created a new city block in a vacant and underdeveloped part of the area of the City.

The Library Building conversely is an object building and is representative of the 90's architecture of the time. Its building form is sculptured and modelled in buff masonry with super slot windows defying the load bearing properties of brickwork.

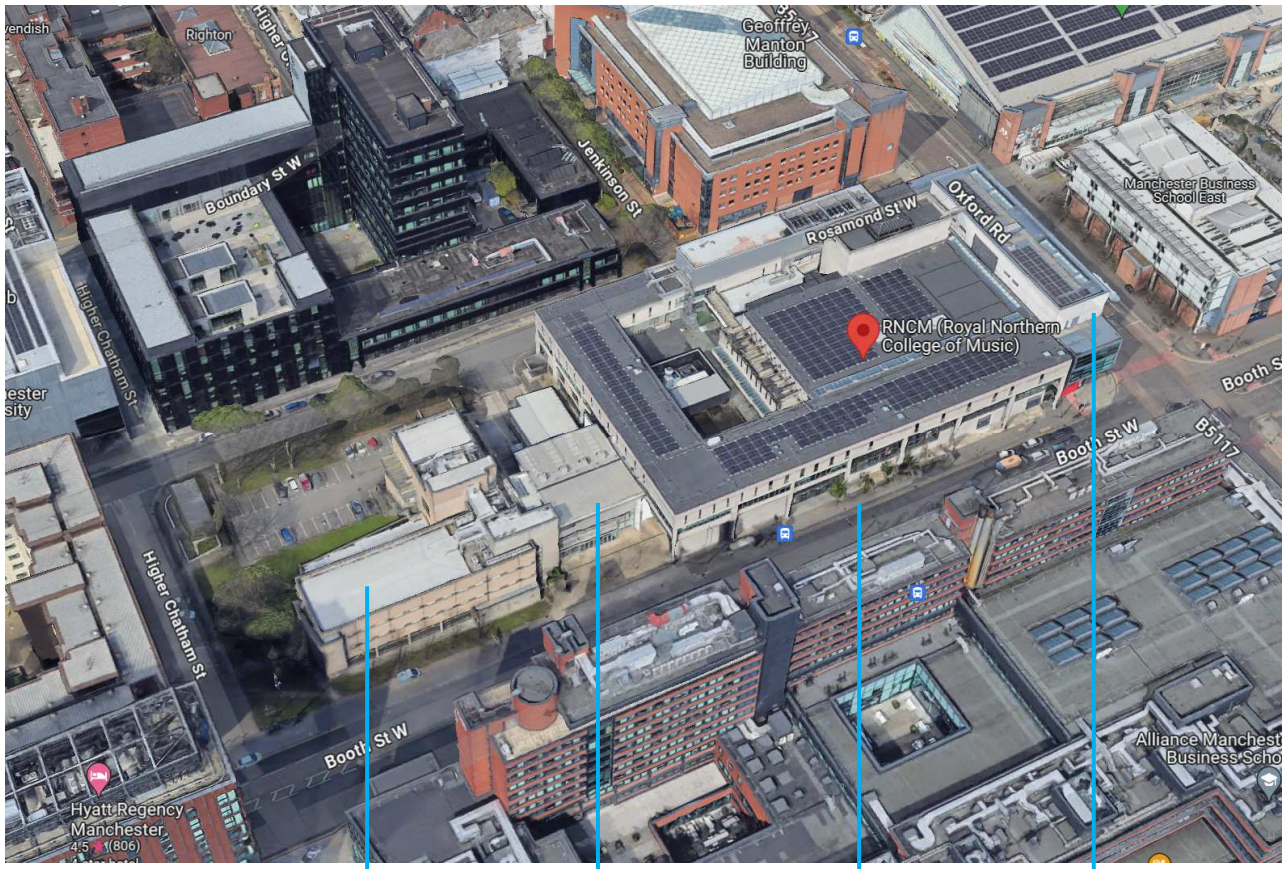
The College was unified shortly afterwards with the Link Building connecting these 2 isolated developments. The Link Building is the College's main entrance, having a dual aspect with doors serving both Rosamond and Boothe Street West. It is an early atrium typology, housing a reception and box office under a winged roof.

Later the Oxford Road wing demolished the high-level pedestrian gesture, replacing it with a veneer of practice rooms, studio and offices. Black silicone pointed glazing, capped with a modular concrete rainscreen, present the Oxford Road façade.





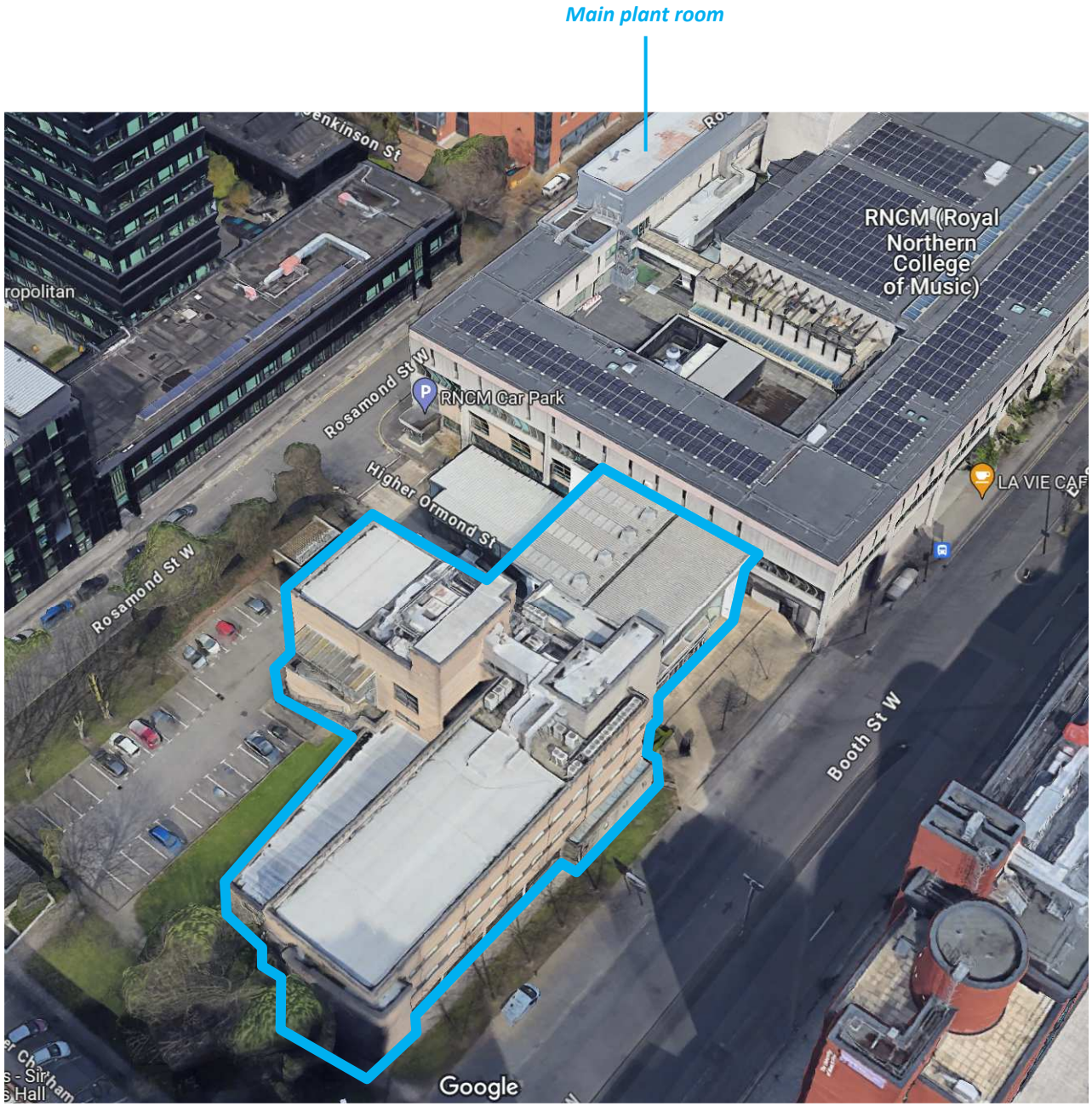
Main building – a new city block



RNCM evolution

Phase 2 centres on the Library Building and includes:

- Thermal upgrades including the roof and window replacement
- Replacement of roof mounted mechanical plant
- A heating and cooling network in the form of 2 additional ASHP and associated pipes connecting to the main central plant room
- Plant decks allowing the building to remain operational whilst the old is replaced and the new installed & commissioned.
- Improved access and maintenance with the introduction of permanent edge protection
- Compliant means of escape from the library roof

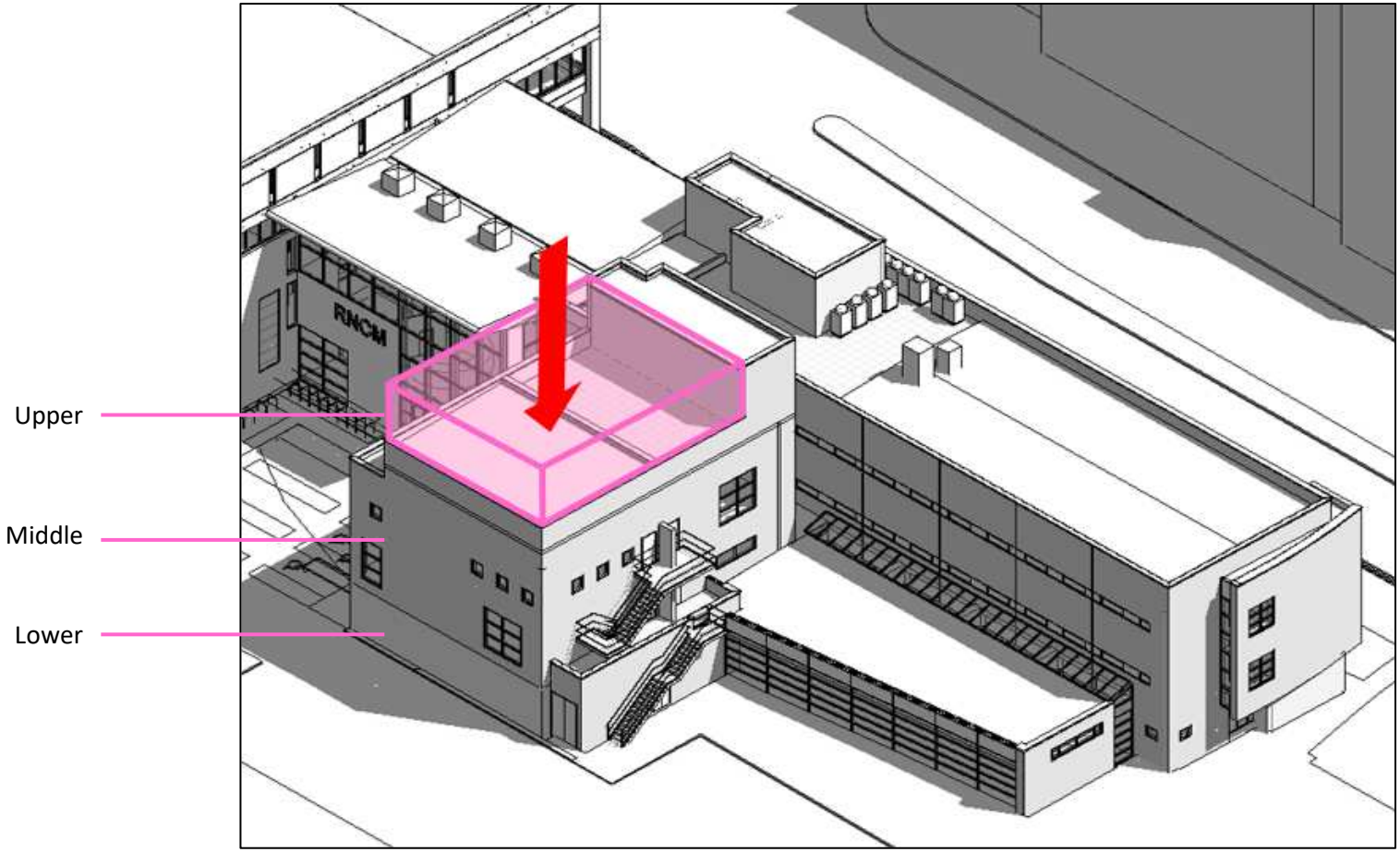


Project deliverables

Whilst the focus of the project rightly remains with decarbonisation, these works need to marry with the existing architecture and create a holistic vision.

The library building is an object building with modelled elevations articulating its form. We have used this to our advantage by infilling the negative spaces to create a cohesive mass.

The Studio Plant Deck mass forms a tripartite composition with its blockwork base, buff masonry and plant screen.



Positive & negative spaces

Massing & materiality



Rosamond Street West



Booth Street West



Booth Street West



Booth Street West main entrance



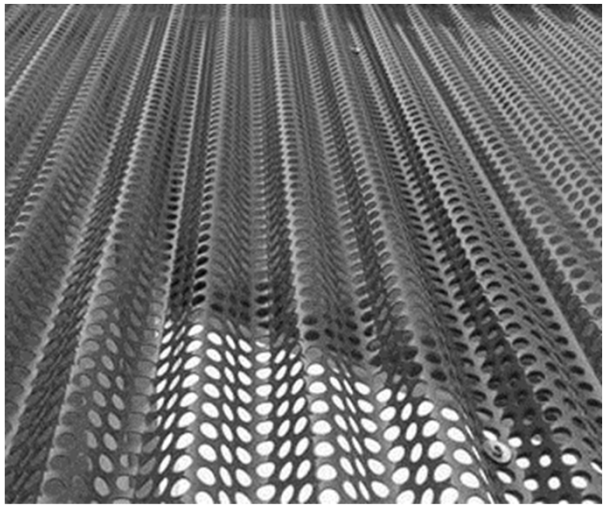
Rosamond Street West



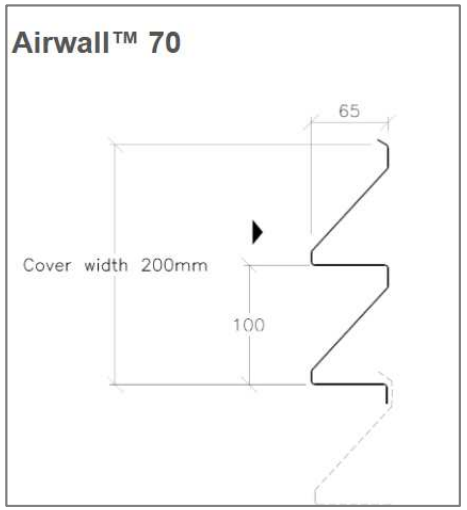
Higher Chatham Street




RNCM







Profiled perforated cladding



Studio plant enclosure



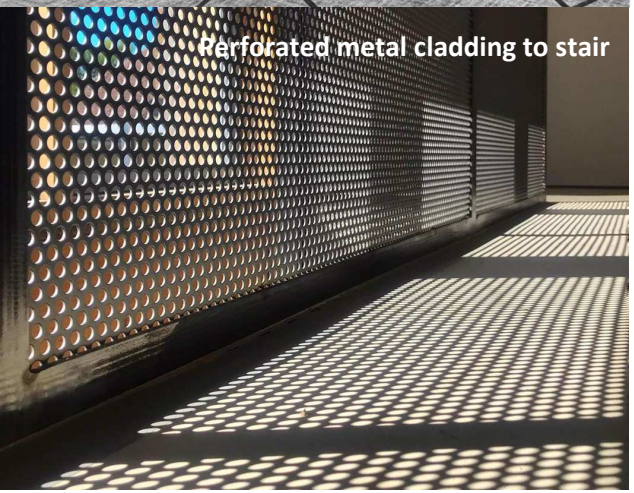




Colour: Sampling a window/cladding but lighter [RAL 7044]



Geometry inspired by the concourse stair



Perforated metal cladding to stair



Link Building maintenance and egress stair

IPA