



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH
Estates Department



Rainy Hall, New College
Interior Works

November 2019

History of the Building

New College was built on the Mound, in the city centre of Edinburgh, in 1846, the University's School of Divinity have been based in the building since 1935.

Rainy Hall was built in 1900 by Sydney Mitchell and Wilson, it named after Robert Rainy who was appointed Principal in 1874. The gothic style dining hall features timber paneling, unique chandeliers, ornate paintwork and intricate hand painted crests. Rainy Hall still serves as a refectory and common room for the School of Divinity.

The Project

Rainy Hall is a pivotal room within New College however over the years the well-used room had suffered from wear and tear.

The rationale for the works was based on five distinct drivers all designed into one integrated package of works:

- To improve accessibility to Rainy Hall
- To increase levels of fire protection
- To create a more functional kitchen and servery
- To restore the interior of Rainy Hall in recognition of its architectural quality
- To enhance the use and ambience of Rainy Hall as the central social, function and gathering space for the School of Divinity.

The restoration of Rainy Hall's interior took place between September 2018 and May 2019.

Works carried out

Accessibility Works

- Widen the door between main lift and lobby
- Replace chairlift on approach stairs
- Automatic door control systems on main access doors
- Hold open devices on kitchen servery doors
- Accessible dias in Hall

Fire protection Measures

- New VESDA detection system
- Compartmentation of Kitchen area
- Fire upgrade works to doors
- New cross corridor fire doors

Kitchen/Servery Works

- Alterations to doors and lobbies
- Removal of Internal wall between kitchen and store to create larger open space
- New Kitchen Layout, equipment, servery and fittings
- New Kitchen services including ventilation extract

Rainy Hall Interior Works

- Paneling repairs and redecoration
- Ceiling cleaning and decoration – input from specialist art conservator
- New and refurbished lighting
- New sound system
- New floor perimeter and restoration of main floor
- Upgrade to heating system including additional decorative radiators
- Full redecoration
- New low noise extract Ventilation system in ceiling
- New, high quality chairs and tables
- Demountable dias and lectern

Semple Rooms

- Upgrade of post graduate rooms
- Decanting of book store



New chair lift in refurbished corridor



Upgraded semple room



Repainted crests



Fully restored Rainy Hall



Ceiling cleaning and decoration