

‘What are the Library Vibes?’

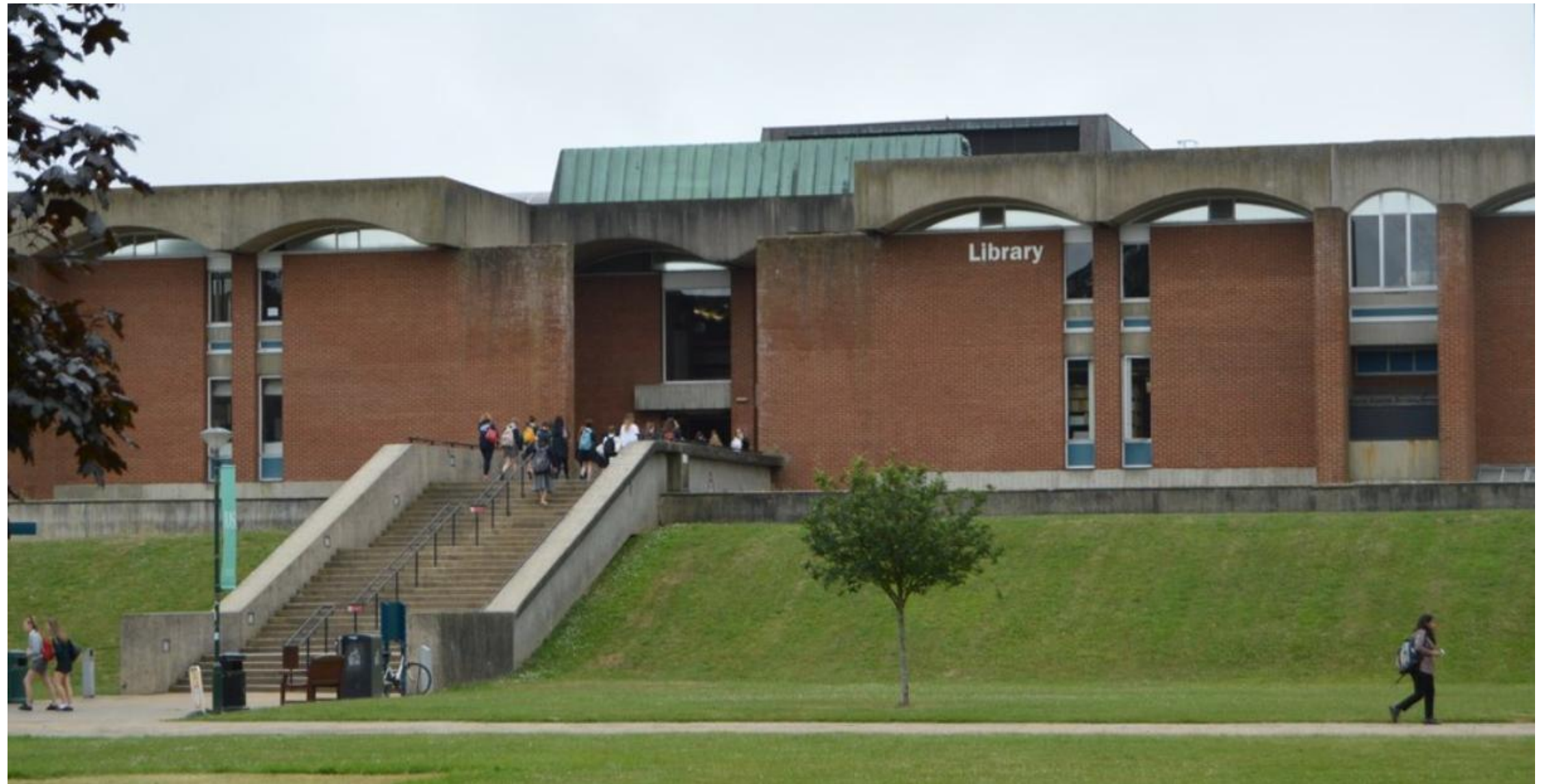
Investigation,
collaboration and-co-
creation at the
University of Sussex
Library

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The Libraries Programme





Libraries Programme overview

Library Pavilion

A brand new Library space which will sit **at the heart of the new students community created by major development work to the west of the campus**

Student-centred, user-focused, flexible, with **accessibility, inclusivity, sustainability and wellbeing** as major drivers

It will be **staffed by students, for students**; engendering a **sense of ownership and community**

Main Library Refurbishment

Our Grade II listed building is a key part of the Sussex campus, but its **age and design present challenges**

Inaccessible due to steep bank of steps at the main entrance and **the way we use space inside** can also be improved

Progress has already been made to **improve the material structure** of our Library, with significant improvements to the roof already completed

The main Library will house our **physical collections and bespoke services**

Study Spaces Project

Every student has **individual learning needs and preferences**; and they **study, collaborate and learn in different ways**

This project will **improve access to and discoverability of study spaces across campus**

We will advertise opening hours and generally improve information so **students can choose a dedicated study space to suit their needs**



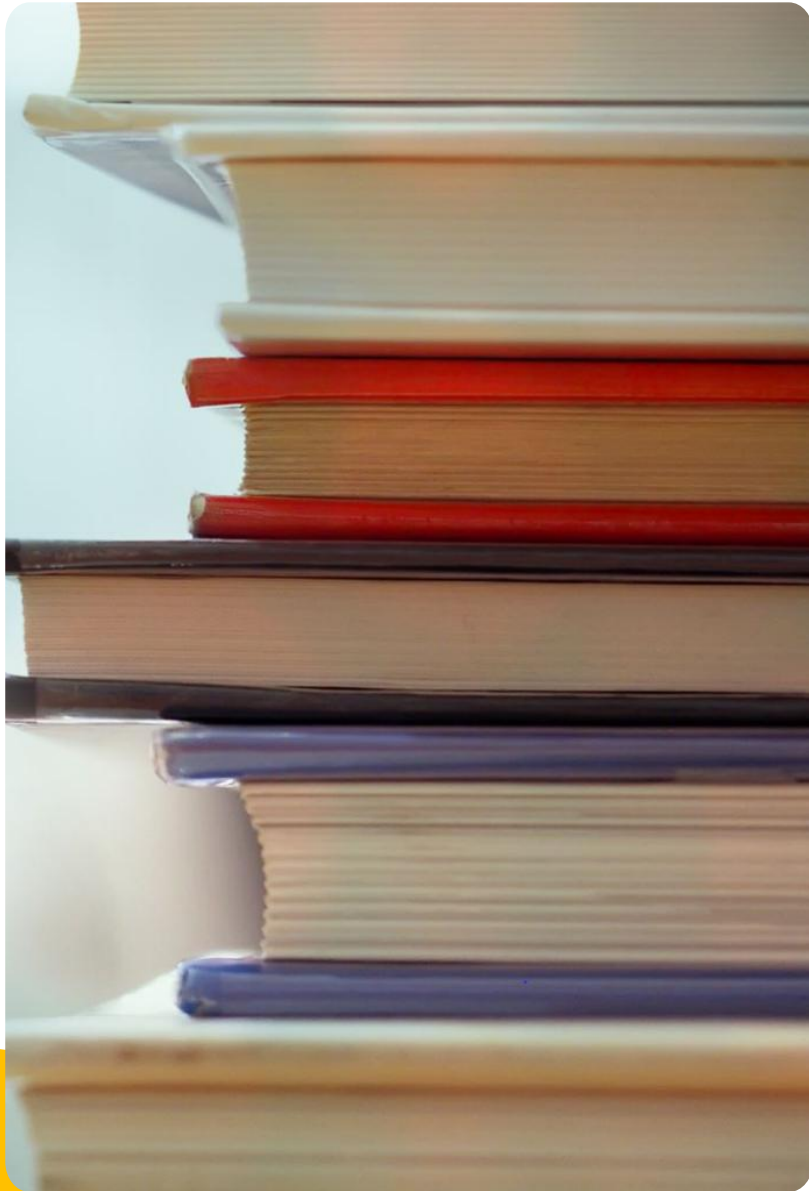
Collaboration: working with multiple stakeholders

Internal to the University

- Students including specific groups
- Academics
- Professional and support staff
- Partner organisations: outsourced catering and FM companies

External to the University

- Alumni
- External members (including reciprocal/SCONUL)
- 16+ school and college students



Conflict...? Consultation!

Consultation must be:

- Embedded
- Robust
- Meaningful
- Encourage and facilitate 'buy-in' from stakeholders

Consultation should **surface dependencies** and **mitigate issues** arising from conflicting expectations



The Library Pavilion vision

In April 2022, we opened our new Student Centre

Key that the Library Pavilion is **different to** and **distinct from** the Student Centre, since they will be situated quite close together on campus

The new Library Pavilion is an **extension** of the current library rather than a different library: almost like an extra room

It will be **bookless!**

It's a different building, at the other end of the campus from the main Library building. How do we bridge that gap?

The **essence** of the library; in a **new building, without any books... how** do we recreate that?



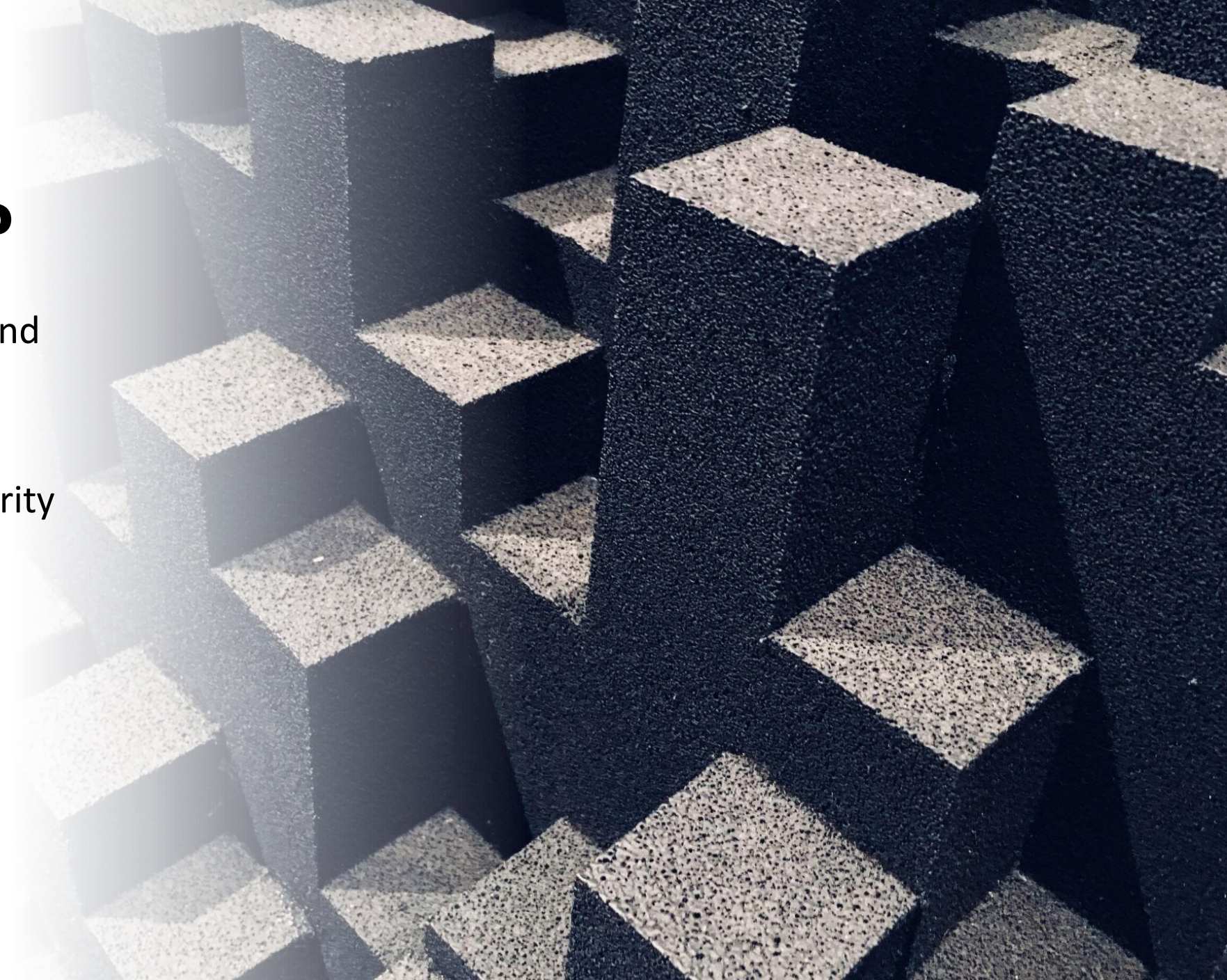
THE LIBRARY VIBES...

Working with the Student Connectors

- The Connector Programme is an initiative involving students and staff working as equal partners, collaborating to improve the student experience at Sussex
- Connectors are formally recruited, trained and paid at National Living Wage
- Through co-creation, Connector teams develop careers support, embed technology in learning, design new course modules and more
- Library staff will work with the Student Connectors to co-create the student-run service model for the Library Pavilion

What are the 'Library Vibes'?

- Warmth (both temperate and atmospheric)
- 'Homeness'
- Sense of community/solidarity
- Views of nature
- Acoustics
- Softer lighting
- Muted colours
- Variety!
- BRICKS!





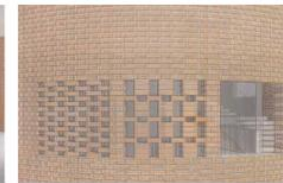
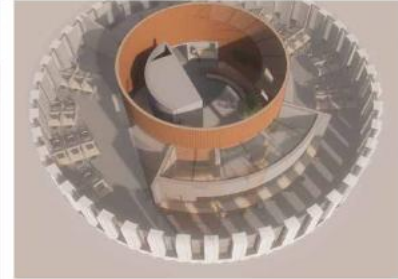


Another brick in the wall...?

INTERIORS

LIBRARY PAVILION

Design Development



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Consultation with Access Sussex

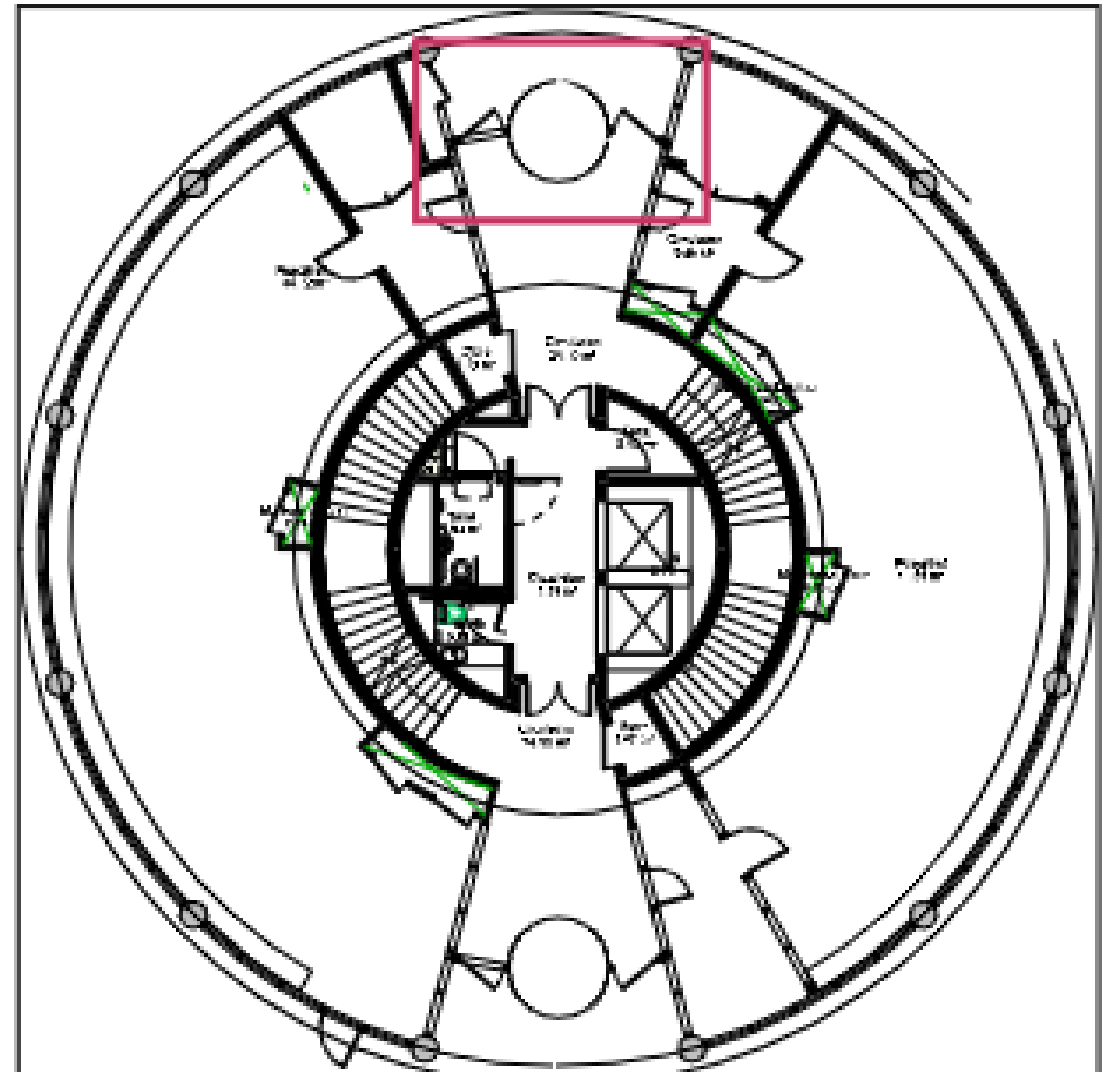
‘Access Sussex is a student-led campaign that aims to make the University of Sussex accessible to everyone, including to students and staff with visible or invisible disabilities, long-term conditions and those who are neurodivergent’.

Key concerns:

- Accessible furniture
- Lifts: distance from entrance; clear route
- Lighting
- Signage and way-finding
- An alternative entrance

An alternative entrance...

- It's not a service entrance
- It's not a disabled entrance
- It's not an accessible entrance (because the whole building will meet and hopefully exceed accessibility standards)
- It's an alternative entrance for anyone who needs to use it, at any time



UX Findings About UX...

- Put simply, UX is a **conversation**
- Speak to students on **their** platforms! Email? No. Paper? No. Students are 'born digital'
- Don't underestimate the power of just talking to people!
- Decide what you want to find out: but don't be too prescriptive...
- Don't presume or assume! What we find problematic is almost certainly different for our users
- Ask for help! Collaboration is key.
- Books...??

THE UNIVERSITY
IS NOTHING WITHOUT
DIALOGUE.



Any questions...?

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