

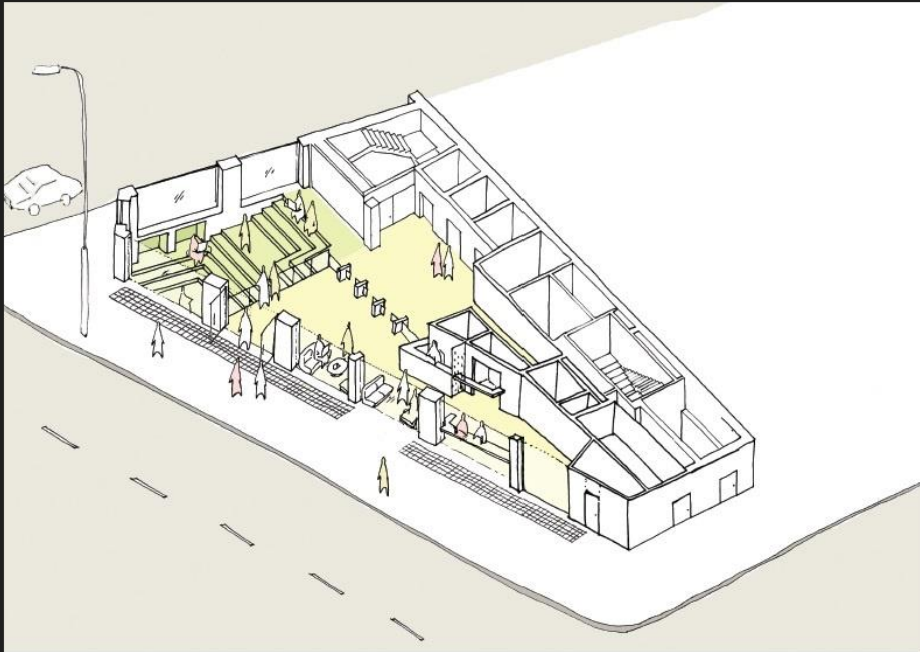
## Penoyre & Prasad's 'gem-like' lecture hall extension wins approval

23 APRIL, 2018 BY ELLA JESSEL AJ

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# SKELLY & COUCH



## Camden planners have approved Penoyre & Prasad's sculpted 'gem-like' rooftop lecture theatre for Birkbeck University

The London-based practice's plans to refurbish Cambridge House, a 1920s former car showroom on Euston Road, and build a two-storey extension were backed by councillors on Thursday evening (19 April).

The building will be used as a second campus for the evening university, which is based nearby on Malet Street, and will include 440m<sup>2</sup> of additional teaching space providing capacity for 610 students and staff.

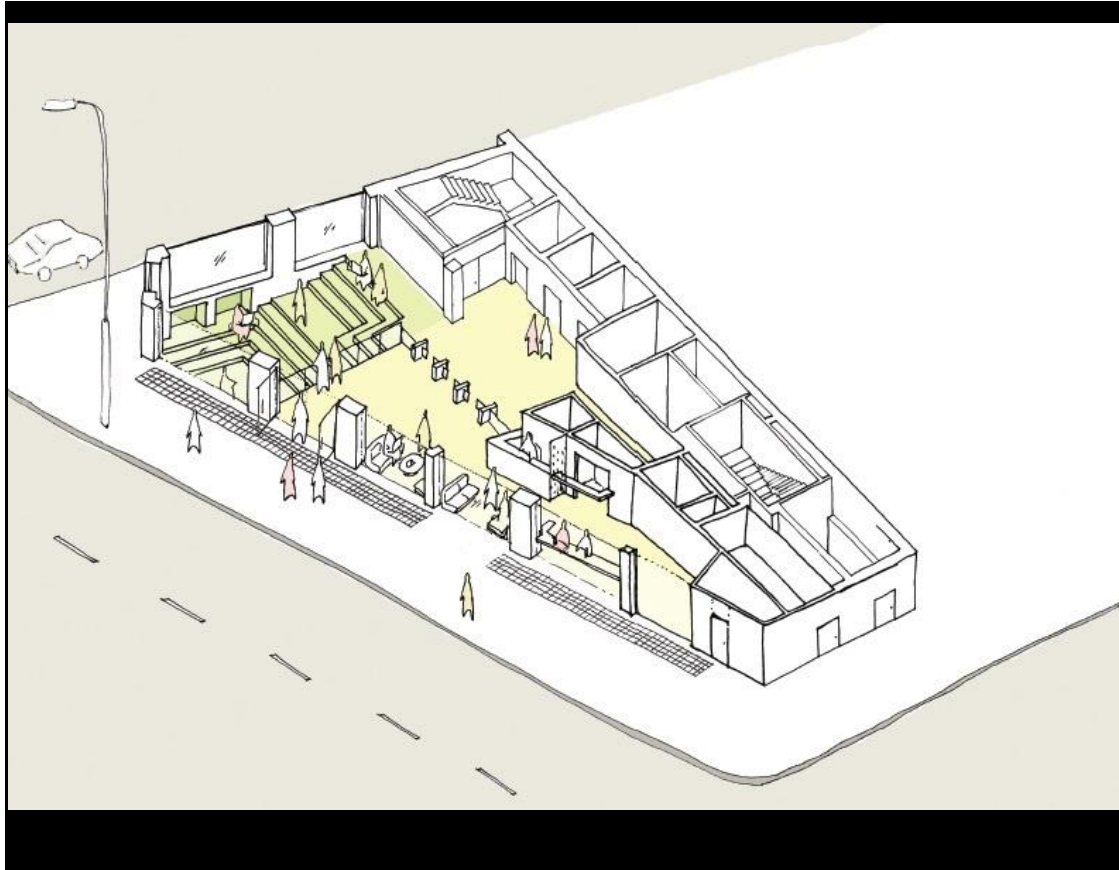
The plans include a café and active learning space on the ground floor, a basement with teaching classrooms on the upper floors and a large lecture theatre in the rooftop extension.

[Penoyre & Prasad](#) said the geometric lecture hall, which will be clad in copper, will create a 'striking landmark for the university' and reinvigorate the existing building below.

Architect at the firm Louise Boddie added that the extension aimed to create 'a beautiful moment' that addressed both the character of Warren Street and its residential neighbourhood, as well as the dominant scale of Euston Road.

Birkbeck purchased Cambridge House in 2015 as part of its wider plans for high-quality teaching space close to their main campus.

The most recent feedback from Camden's design review panel said it supported the 'conceptual approach' of designing the lecture theatre as a 'gem-like' structure perched above the existing building.



## Project team

**Client** Birkbeck College  
**Architect** Penoyre & Prasad  
**Project manager** Mace  
**Planning consultant** Turley Associates  
**Cost consultant** Artelia UK  
**Structures** Webb Yates  
**Services** Skelly & Couch Ltd  
**Fire** MLM  
**Acoustics** Acoustics Central  
**Transport** Alan Baxter  
**BREEAM** Scott White and Hookins