

36-38 Gordon Square University College London

HEDQF

Higher Education Design Quality Forum

A project to refurbish 3 listed Georgian townhouses has provided an opportunity to rediscover important aspects of heritage fabric whilst transforming historic residential accommodation into a stimulating academic environment for research and teaching.

Nos. 36-38 Gordon Square are three linked townhouses at the end of a terrace within the Bloomsbury Conservation Area in the London Borough of Camden. They were built between 1825 and 1831 by the renowned architect-builder, Thomas Cubitt, as part of the residential development of the Bedford Estate. Cubitt's terraces in north Bloomsbury, all constructed in a short time period, bear many stylistic similarities. Nos.36-46 Gordon Square is typical of the type, being a four-storey red brick

terrace with wider projecting end bays and stucco detailing in the form of pilasters rising from a rusticated ground floor to a large modal entablature at second-floor ceiling height, and a further simple cornice above the third-floor windows. For their connection with Cubitt, external intactness, and the high quality of design and construction, they were listed at Grade II in 1969.

The properties have largely retained their external appearance and many internal historic features including staircases and decorative plasterwork, although the previous internal planning amendments have reduced the coherence of the original plan form. Overall, many elements of the original fabric are judged to be of high significance due to the building's architectural quality and connection with Thomas Cubitt.

Location: London, UK

Scope: Heritage transformation

Brief: Refurbishment of 3 listed Georgian townhouses to provide teaching & meeting space for UCL

Floor area (GIA): 1430 sq m

Sustainability: SKA Gold

Completion date: April 2020

Project Team

Client: UCL Estates Development

Architect: Nicholas Hare Architects

M&E Engineer: Fowler Martin

QS: Gardiner & Theobald

PM: Arcadis

Contractor: Overbury

