



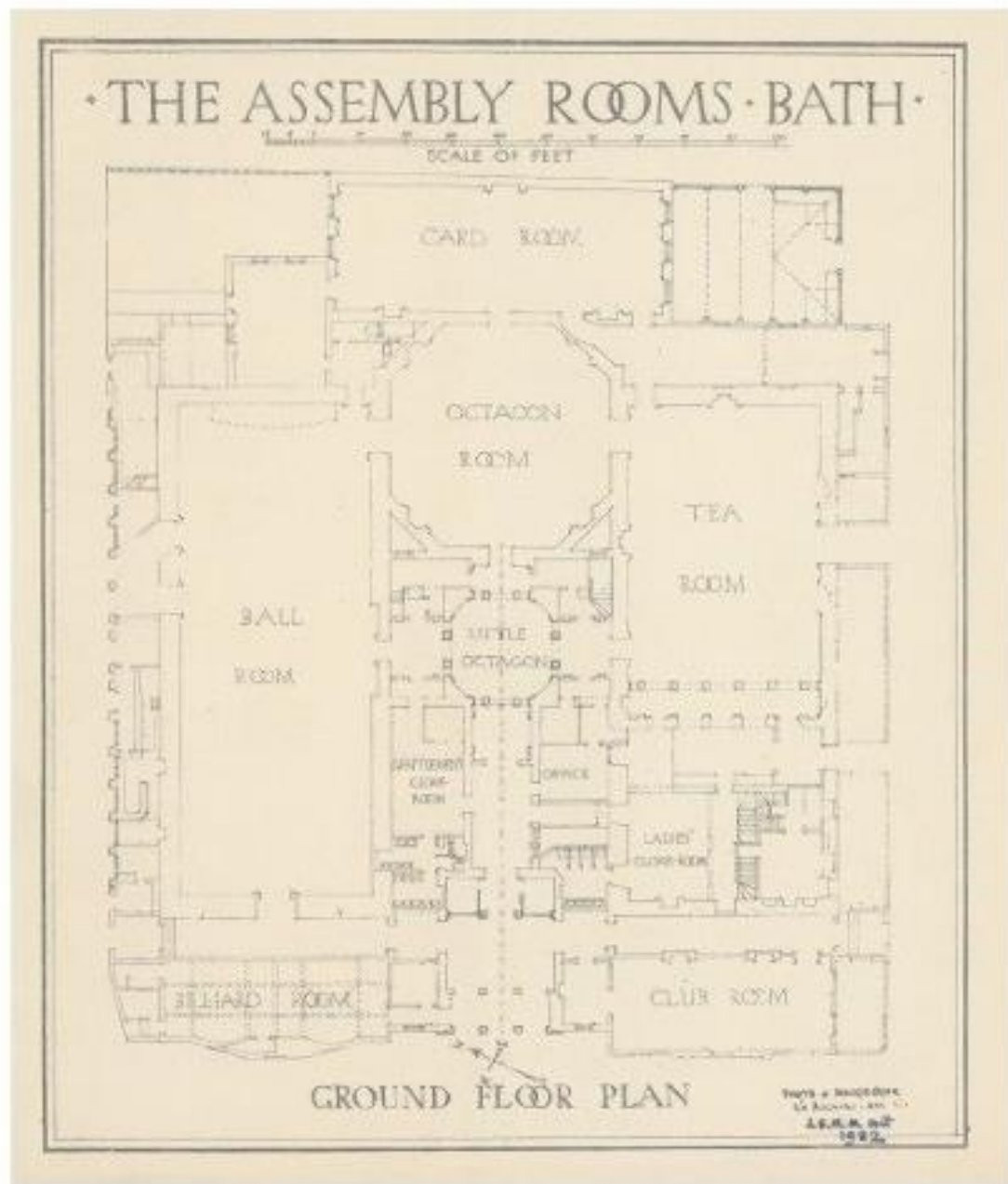
National
Trust

Bath Assembly Rooms

January 2024
Tom Boden, General Manager







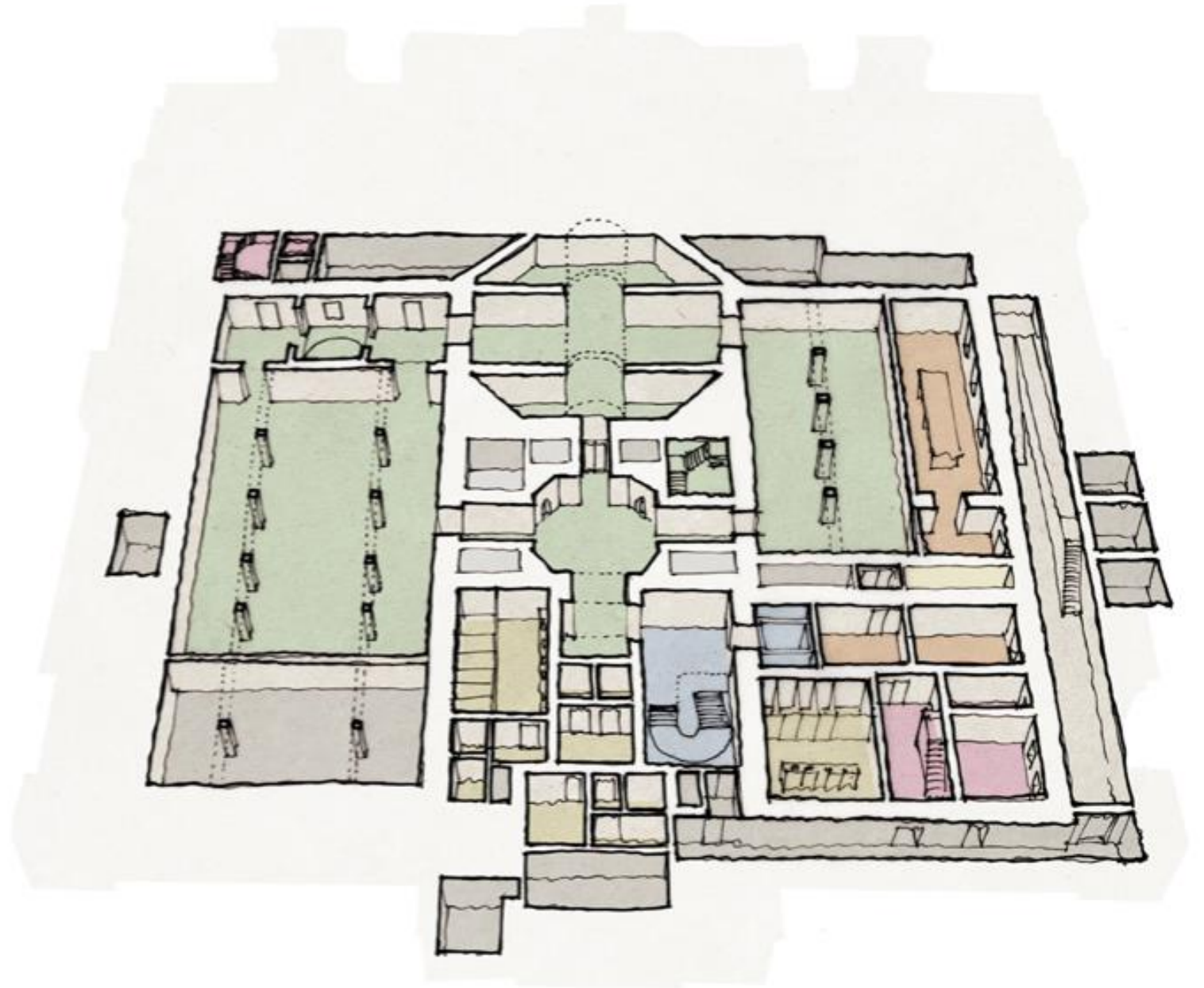
Project Objectives

- **Experience:** Create a world class visitor attraction
- **Public Benefit:** Revive BAR as a place which convenes and celebrates the power of connection
- **Conservation:** Conserve and enhance this Grade 1 listed building
- **Sustainability:** Make this building an exemplar for climate action
- **Accessibility:** Achieve NT gold standard
- **Inclusion:** A flagship property for “Everyone Welcome”
- **Community:** Curate and co-create a programme of 21st century assembly

Lower Ground Floor

Comprising:

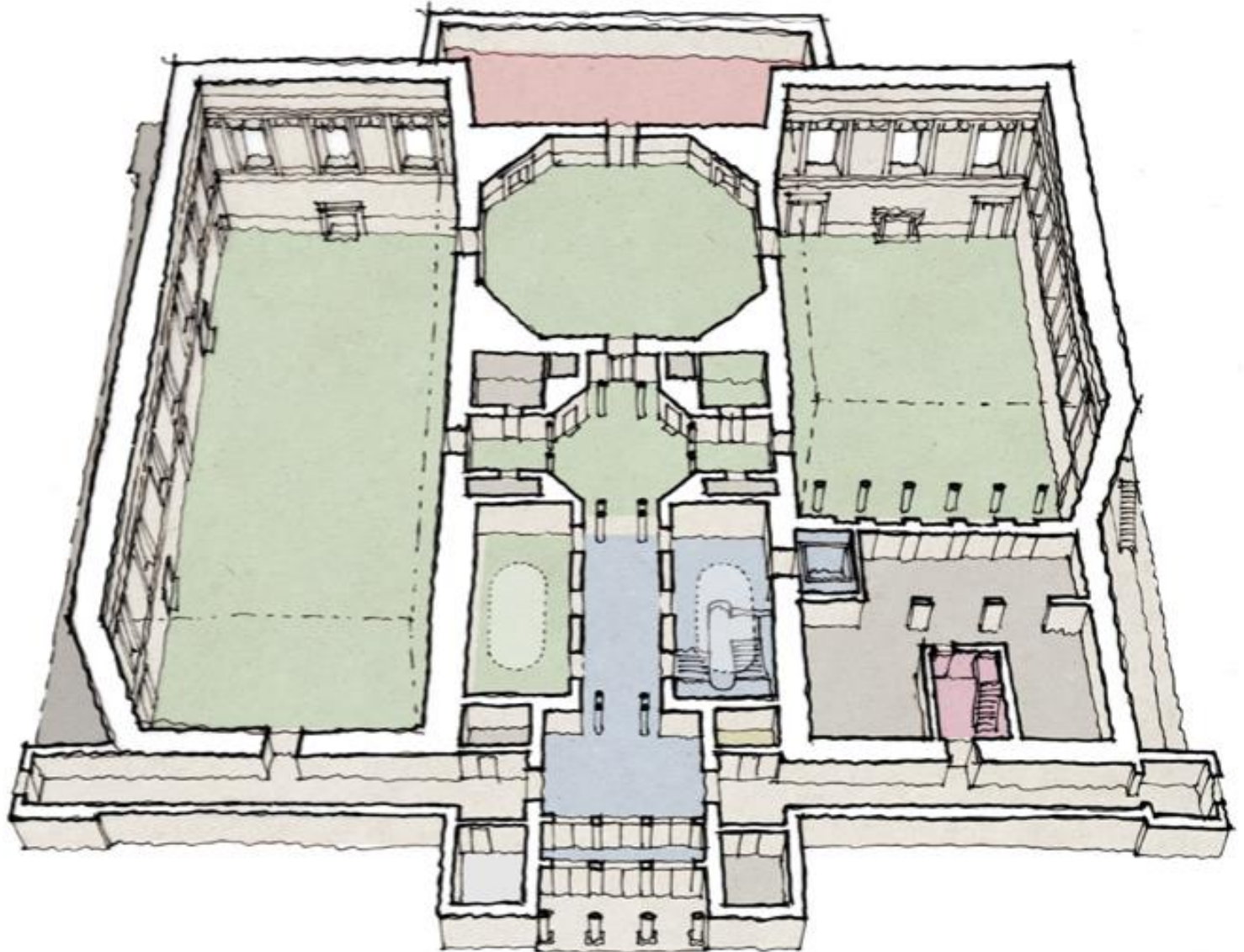
- new Visitor Experience
- newly revealed Cold Bath
- new fully accessible WC facilities (incl. Changing Place)
- new Community and Co-creation Centre



Ground Floor

Comprising:

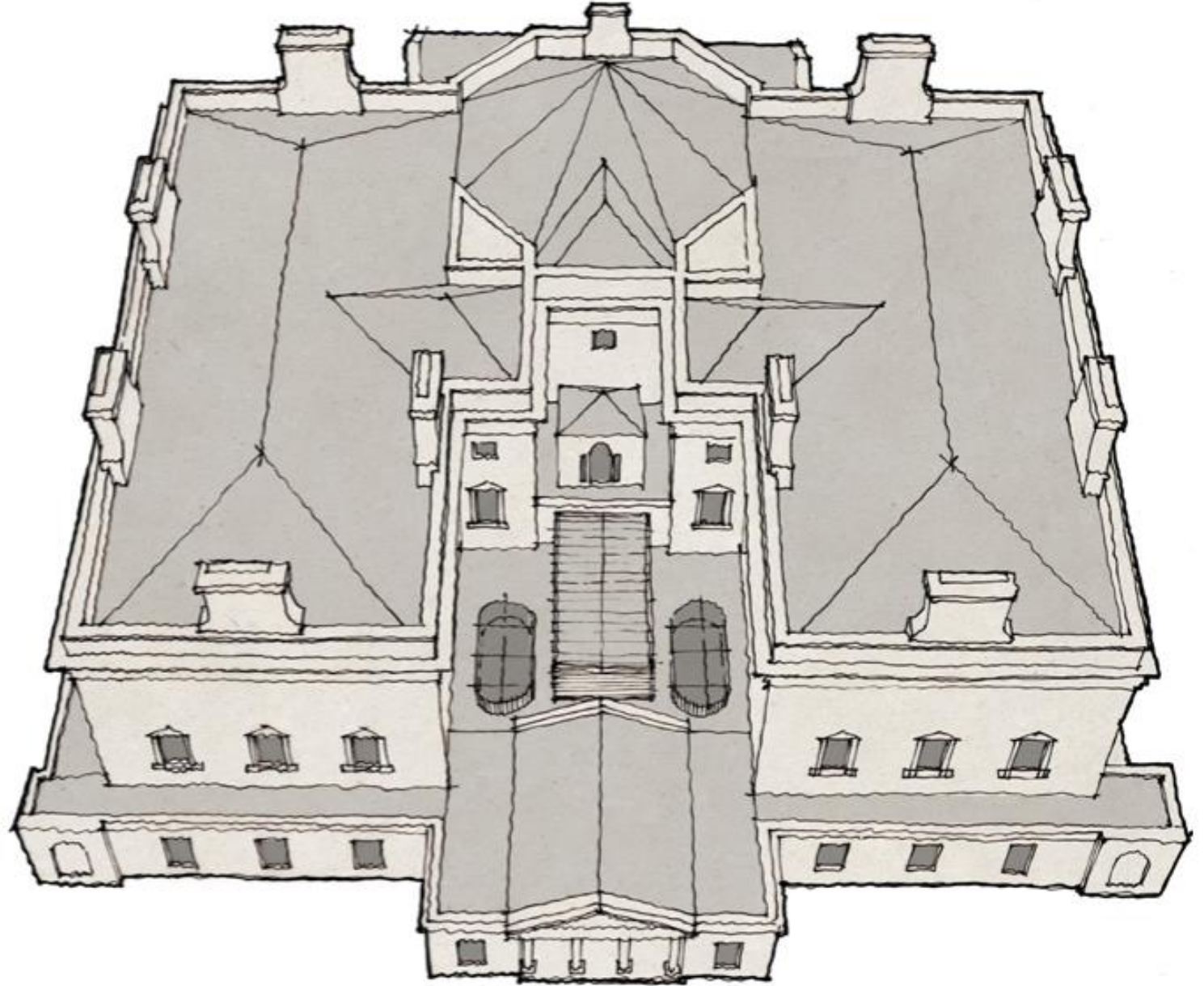
- Principal Rooms
- new food and beverage offer in New Card Room
- new catering facilities to kitchen
- new lift (to all floors)
- new stair down to lower ground floor (highlighted)
- new visitor welcome, shop and cloaks



Upper Levels & Roofscape:

Comprising:

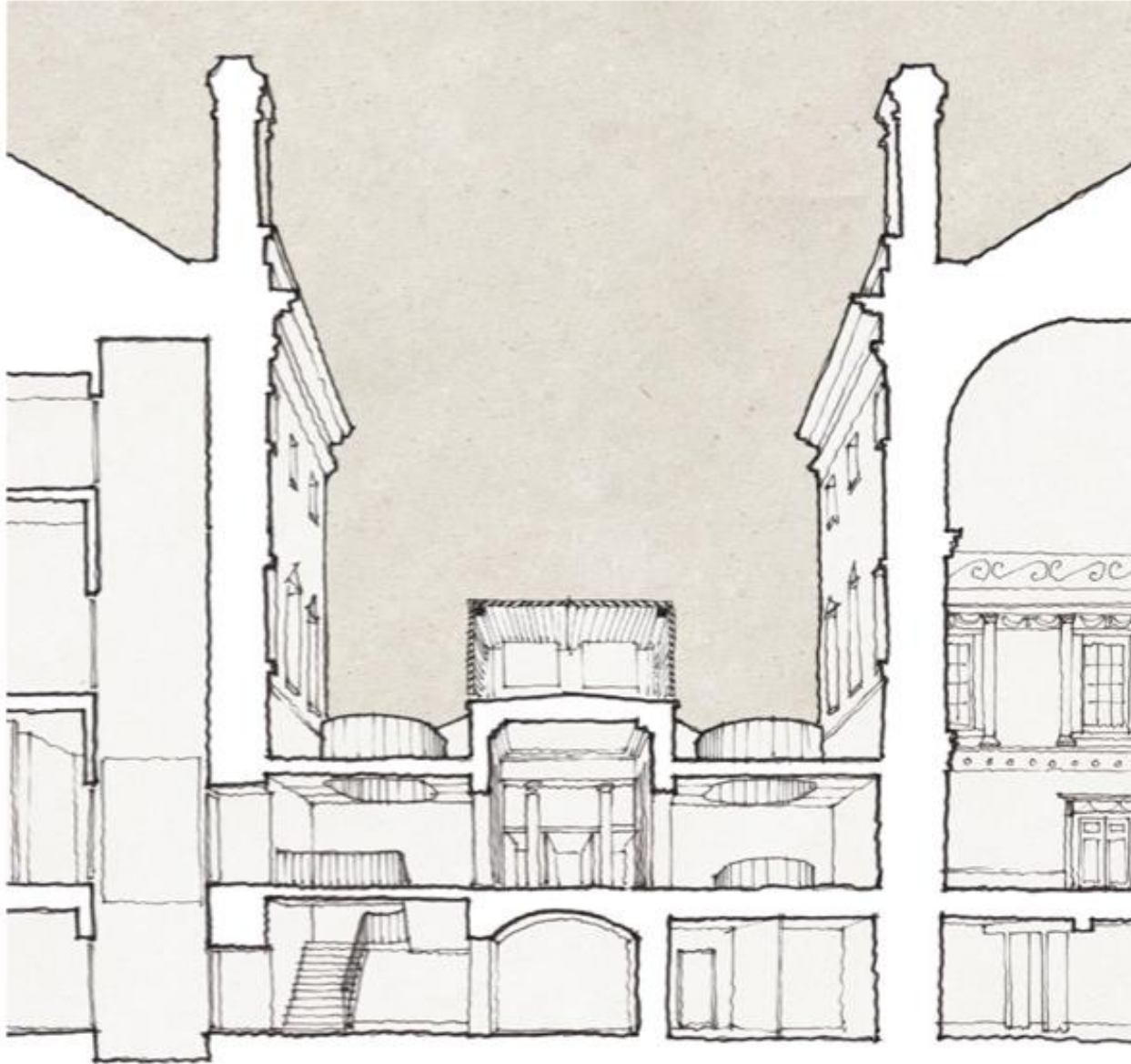
- meeting rooms
- staff offices
- new low energy service systems
(including air source heat pumps)
- solar panels (discreetly located)



Central zone: Arrangement

Comprising:

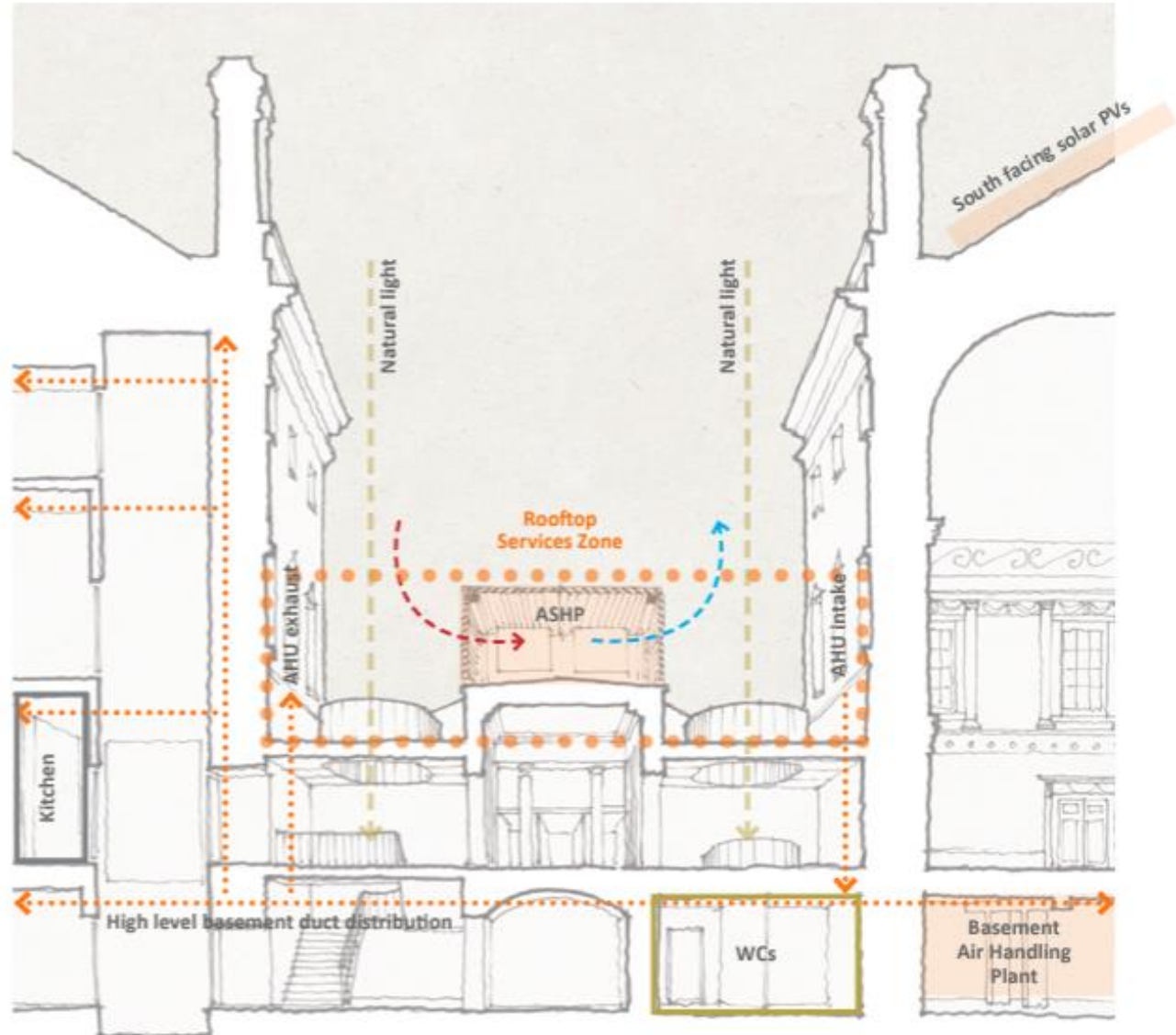
- Repair of failing roofs
- new lift (to all floors)
- new stair down to lower ground
- new fully accessible WC facilities (incl. Changing Place)
- new light well lanterns
- discreet external plant in least visible area of roof



Central zone: Servicing

Comprising:

- New services distribution across basement
- discreet external plant in least visible area of lower roof
- discreet solar panels on least visible pitches of upper roof



5.0 Public Stair

Concept Designs

The historic conservation philosophy of the building – post war- also intrigues us. We have discussed the restorative approach to the building's repair with the client team and stakeholders almost as 'defiant conservation'. Interiors and exteriors are fully restored, using contemporary construction techniques, with minimal reference to the legibility of their repair.

Upon inspection, we can see 'expanded metal lath' throughout the buildings construction. Given more decorative contemporary samples of this building material, we are interested in opportunities that showcase its use- perhaps denoting areas where no historic structure would originally have been- as a quiet nod to its use at scale throughout the historic building.

In plan terms, we have sought to achieve open, generous landings at both ground and lower ground levels- recognising the movement of large number of people at this level (1). Regular intermediate landings ensure the stair is gentle enough for as many users as possible, whilst securing head heights beneath landings for ancillary spaces (2). To give a sense of the whole being considered together, the landern above aligns with the structure beneath whilst allowing natural light down to the lower level- much as it historically would have done (3).



5.0 Public Stair
Concept Designs



*Above and right: sections through stair looking west and south respectively. Showing 'cantilevered' stair, with lantern aligning above.
Bottom right: view from bottom of stair looking up to lantern.*

The Narrative Research Themes

The Georgians



George Moutard Woodward, *Cross Readings*, 1800

Bath & BAR



Thomas Rowlandson, *Bath Races*, 1810

Food & Drink



Carington Bowles, *Lady Nightcap at Breakfast*, 1772

Health, Disability & Wellness



Thomas Rowlandson, *Comforts of Bath*, 1798

Decency & Depravity



Thomas Rowlandson, *Comforts of Bath*, 1798

Gambling & Gaming



Thomas Rowlandson, *A Gaming Table at Devonshire House*, 1791

Music



George Cruikshank, *Fancy Ball at the Upper Rooms*, 1825

Dance



George Cruikshank, *Fancy Ball at the Upper Rooms*, 1825

Fashion & Image



Isaac Cruikshank, *The Gallery of Fashion*, 1796

The Assembly



Isaac Cruikshank, *The Gallery of Fashion*, 1796



National
Trust

Tom Boden, General Manager, Bath Portfolio
tom.boden@nationaltrust.org.uk

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/bath-assembly-rooms>

X - [@NTAssemblyRooms](#)

Facebook – BathAssemblyRooms

Instagram – ntbathassemblyrooms