

# MCR BUILDING COMMITTEE AGENDA

10 MAY 1994

Meeting: Tuesday, 10 May, 8:30 pm  
6 Beaumont Street, Room 3

Committee: Patrick O'Hagan  
Asim Siddiqui  
Adrian Nankivell  
Steve Pethick

Notes:

After meeting with the Bursar, Dean of Graduates, and Clerk of Works yesterday evening, I now have four floor plans for the new MCR building. We must decide which plan best serves the three primary functions of this building—lounge area, reading room, and computer room. We will need to prioritize these functions and decide how best to allocate space, money, and energy for their completion. I am happy to report that Arthur Dexter and I share a sense of optimism about the potential for completing this renovation by late September in time for next Michaelmas Term. However, this makes it imperative that we act quickly to communicate our thoughts and plans decisively to the Bursar.

I expect this meeting to take 60-90 minutes because the plans are quite detailed and require our close attention. I look forward to seeing all of you tonight. If you have a conflict with this meeting time, please contact me immediately so we can adjust accordingly.

Yours sincerely,

*(Signature)*

Patrick O'Hagan



WORCESTER COLLEGE • OXFORD • OX1 2HB

Tel: (0865) 278-335 Fax: (0865) 278-387

*from the MCR President*

25 May 1994

Dear MCR Building Committee,

I met with the Bursar yesterday and received an update about plans for the new MCR building. The Bursar first said that he was very pleased with our proposed changes: he found them sensible, feasible, and clearly presented. Therefore, he passed this letter along to the Clerk of Works, who is presently working to draft a final floor plan. Because his obligations are first to Merton College, the Clerk cannot act on our deadlines, but he is aware of our eagerness to complete this project. Once this floor plan is finished, it will be sent to three building contractors, and they will return competitive cost proposals. The contractor will then be selected, and construction will begin hopefully soon after.

I then asked the Bursar how our Building Committee could proceed in the meantime so as to hasten the project's completion. He advised that we draw up more specific plans about how exactly we anticipate this building will be used. For example, we should estimate the number of people using each room, the number of social events to be held, the type of furniture and decoration we seek, desired lighting, and so on. He believes this plan would answer many questions that will inevitably crop up. He also remarked that he finds our Building Committee very competent, so he is content to let us make these decisions. If we need more professional advice, then we can ask the College to hire a design consultant.

In light of these developments, I would like our Building Committee to meet right away and make progress on this front. I suggest that we meet on Friday 27 May at 10:00am. We will first convene in the MCR to gather our thoughts about what we currently possess and need, then move to room #3 at 6 Beaumont Street for a discussion. I realize this meeting is on very short notice, so I am prepared to be flexible about the time. Please let me know of any conflicts immediately with a note in my pigeon hole by tomorrow, Thursday 26 May. I look forward to seeing you soon.

Yours sincerely,

Patrick O'Hagan

**WORCESTER COLLEGE • OXFORD • OX1 2HB**

Tel: (0865) 278-335 Fax: (0865) 278-387

*from the MCR President*

12 May 1994

Dear Bursar,

I am writing to present the MCR Building Committee's reaction to the floor plans delivered on Monday 9th May by Michael Jeffs, the Clerk of Works. Overall, we were very impressed by his efforts to meet the MCR's needs as they were outlined in our renovation proposal. After two meetings and a visit to the site, the MCR Building Committee has reached a decision on which floor plan it finds most appropriate: we would like to combine the Ground Floor from scheme A with the First Floor from scheme D, the latter because it includes a second toilet. Because each plan is structurally compatible—using the identical staircase—we expect this combination to be feasible. I would like to explain in detail the reasons for this decision and suggest several modifications to these schemes:

**Ground Floor from scheme A**

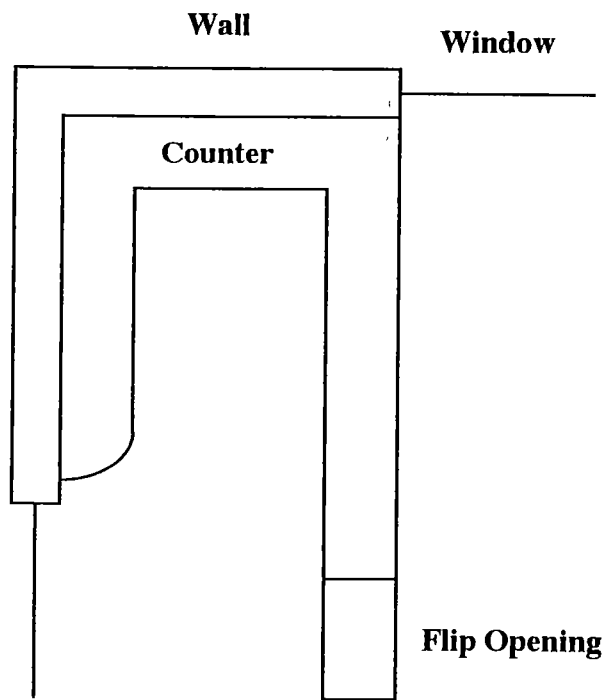
We like this Ground Floor plan because it includes a long bar area with several features of distinctive character. These include the alcove next to the College-side window and the post which stands at the center of the bar area. The toilet is conveniently located and would not require relocation. This scheme does not include a lockable store, but we can compensate by introducing lockable cabinets beneath the kitchen counter and using the cupboard under the stairs. We also like the use of dwarf walls to create a feeling of space and the placement of a bench seat beneath the stairs. Following are our suggested modifications:

- We would like to maximize sources of natural light. This could be accomplished by expanding the present window structures or by installing window panes which take fuller advantage of the available space, notably the arch areas. We feel that the combination of ample natural light with attractive interior decoration would induce students to socialize on the Ground Floor and not interrupt the quietness of the First Floor.

- We would like the main swing doors to be glass and the fire exit door to be solid. Concerning the large window next to the fire exit door, we would like to maintain this structure

but make it more secure by installing smaller window panes and covering it with blinds. We regard this window as important because it adds natural light to an already dark space and allows a view onto the “MCR corner,” which includes the Worcester Place flats and the site of the future MCR building.

- We would like to position the kitchen sink in the back corner of the kitchen area.
- We like the appearance of the painted brick walls and see no need for plastering. Yet, we would like two minor improvements—first, new posts which could be stained black, and second, the trunking or sinking into walls of the electric power lines.
- Finally, we would like to reconfigure the bar counter into an L-shape which eliminates the back counter space in front of the window, rounds off the corner, and adds a counter along the College-side wall:



#### **First Floor from scheme D**

We like this First Floor plan because it includes large amounts of space for the reading and computer rooms. We prefer this plan to scheme A because it also includes a second toilet, which we regard as necessary. Following are our suggested modifications:

- We would like to leave out the sink. We feel its absence would discourage students from bringing in drinks and causing a disturbance in the reading and computers rooms.

- We would like the toilets on the Ground and First floors to be unisex.

- We like the idea of removing the false roof from above the reading room and would like to expand this approach to the whole floor. Its absence would contribute more natural light from the flat roof windows and add a sense of airiness.

- We like the idea of installing College-side windows in the reading room to allow a pleasant view back into the Worcester grounds.

I would like to stress again how much we appreciate these careful efforts to satisfy the MCR's proposals. We found these floor plans very satisfying and believe our suggestions involve only minor changes. I have written a lengthy letter in order to specify precisely our thoughts and facilitate Mr. Jeffs' task of preparing a final floor plan. As you know, we are enthusiastic about this project and excited to assist its completion. I look forward to meeting with you, Michael Jeffs, and Dr. Arthur Dexter again very soon.

Yours sincerely,

Patrick O'Hagan