



DESIGN & ACCESS STATEMENT

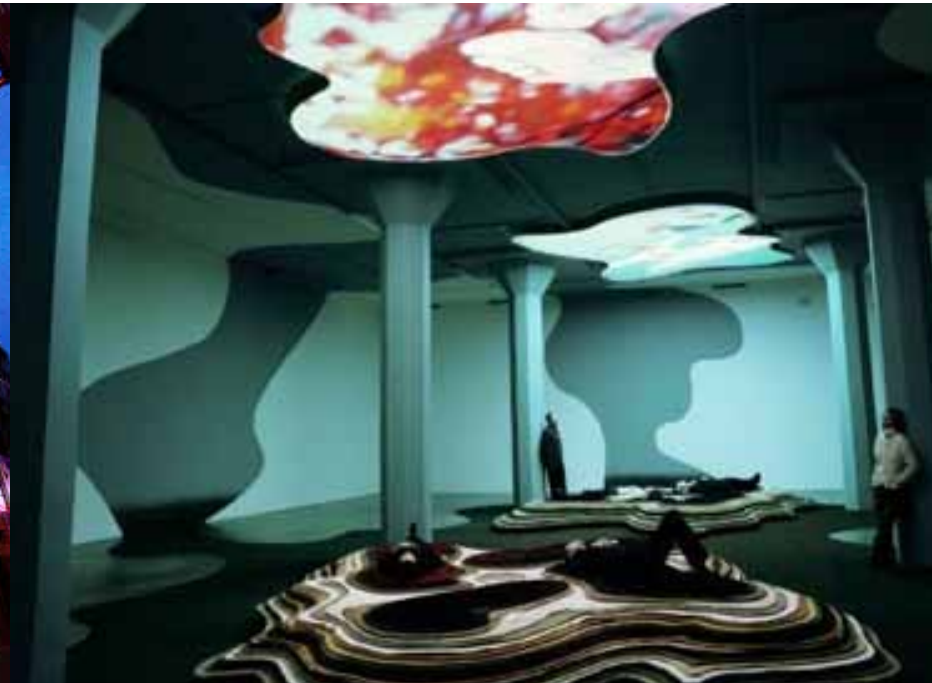
Foundation for Art & Creative Technology

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Digital Projection from FACT onto Ropewalks Square



Pipilotti Rist at FACT Gallery 1



Shanghai Broadcast - The Box

1.1 FACT - The Existing Operation

FACT (Foundation for Art and Creative Technology) is a registered charity and has been leading the UK video, film and new media arts scene for 20 years with groundbreaking exhibitions, education and research projects. The organisation aims to pioneer new forms of artistic and social interaction with individuals and communities.

During its history, FACT has commissioned and presented over 250 digital media works with artists including Pipilotti Rist, Bill Viola, Apichatpong Weerasethakul, Vito Acconci and Isaac Julien.

FACT is a member of LARC (Liverpool Arts Regeneration Consortium), a partnership of eight of the leading cultural organisations in Liverpool set up to help ensure that the cultural sector plays a significant role in the regeneration of the Liverpool City Region. The organisation is based in the heart of the RopeWalks area of the city and is central to the regeneration of the area.

FACT Programme is the artistic core of the organisation, commissioning and exhibiting projects by artists in film, video and new and emerging media forms and working with a wide variety of partner organisations.

FACT Programme delivers four seasonal exhibitions a year in the FACT gallery spaces, which are linked by a common theme. In 2009 this has been UNSustainable, in response to Liverpool City Council's Year of the Environment. In 2010 Innovation and Wellbeing will be examined under the theme of Progress.

Films shown in the building are programmed by two organisations FACT and Picturehouse. Much of the FACT film programme relates to the exhibitions that are shown within the galleries and are chosen to enhance and extend the exhibition experience. FACT also programmes special screenings and one-off events so keep checking the website for updates.

To find out more about the FACT film programme, contact: Omar Kholeif

Picturehouse at FACT is part of City Screen, the leading independent cinema operator and the fourth largest in the UK. The Picturehouse film programme includes mainstream blockbusters but independent, art-house and foreign-language films are also central to their profile. The cinema is programmed in response to the local Liverpool audience.

Since 1992, FACT's Engagement Team (formerly Education & Collaborations) has been delivering a range of programmes aimed at addressing issues such as community cohesion, social exclusion, technological exclusion, citizenship and civic participation.

With programmes dedicated to schools and colleges, communities, young people, families, interest groups, health, housing and regeneration, the Engagement Team use creativity and innovate projects to foster sustainable communities and to improve quality of living.

FACT's Engagement programme endeavors to:

- Ensure the widest participation and engagement in FACT's offer and building
- Continue to build world renowned / locally respected models of engagement
- Produce and present new works of artistic significance and social benefit
- Engage FACT's audience empowering individuals and communities to engage
- Commission leading thinkers and artists to work with communities
- Develop ethical commercial opportunities to sustain programmes



Wood Street main entrance from Ropewalks Square



Fleet Street secondary entrance



Back Colquitt Street from Arts House Square

2.1 The Brief

FACT is an important cultural asset to the City and the UK's leading centre for new media. Locally and nationally significant but partially restrained by its civic context, the ambition is to project the centre as the jewel in the crown of The Ropewalks district which is emerging as a progressive national hub for digital innovation, exploration and research.

The building is currently submersed within the grain of this district, to most having visual affiliations with Bold Street and Ropewalks Square which hosts a series of digital metascopes signalling an intelligible route to the building's main entrance. It is also well used as a sheltered public pass between the transitory routes of Bold Street and Duke Street that like both Ropewalks and Artshouse Squares.

This project aims to preserve the centres future and reinforce FACT in the psychogeography and visibility of the city and is the catalyst for developing plans to develop Ropewalks Square and adjacent buildings as a congenial digital hub. The centre wishes to extend its offer by way of (i) improved public engagement, (ii) signposting and wayfinding and (iii) extended outreach initiatives (iv) address more pragmatic issues effecting the elevation facing Back Colquitt Street.

The brief has been developed in close collaboration with FACT and its stakeholders and has concluded as follows:

(i) Improved Public Engagement

- New muster / seating invitation to the main entrance foyer
- Relocated FACT bookshop to the main entrance foyer
- New information opportunities offering improved information

(ii) Signposting and Wayfinding

- The creation of internal, external cube installations that reinterprets FACT's logo into a family of installational cubes. These cubes remodel the main external entrances and internal entrances to existing cinema / gallery spaces within the building

(iii) Extended Outreach / Educational Initiatives

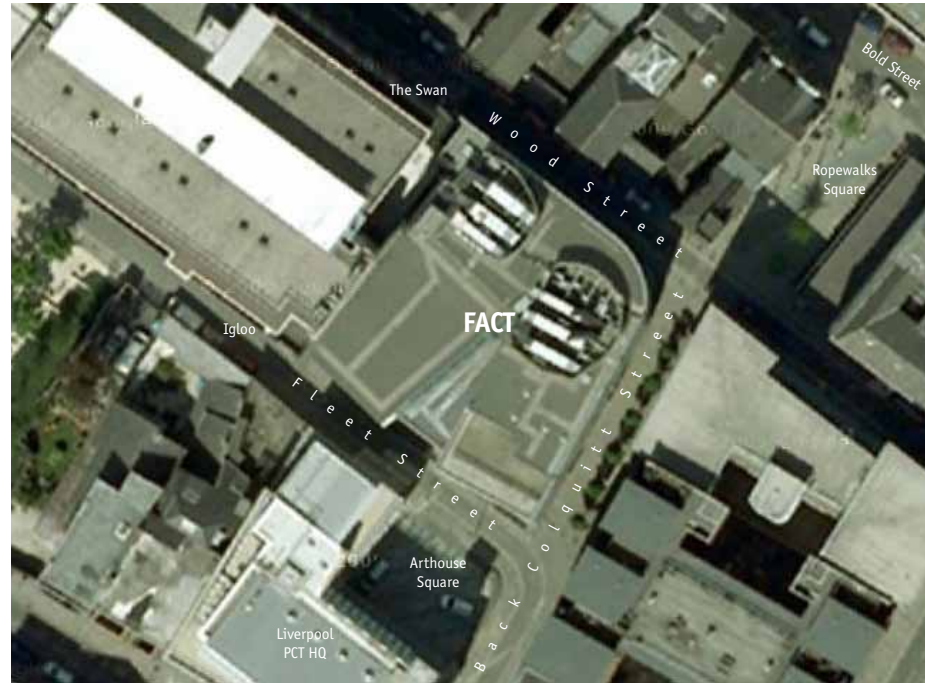
- New mezzanine education hub level that can accommodate 40 school children that also serves as a multi-use space for a number of revenue generating events. It is intended for this space to demonstrate regional leadership for digital media and set a precedent for the 'classroom of the future'.

New spaces and installations will provide engaging art and new media experiences and in the process raise FACT's profile and develop future audiences.

(iv) Back Colquitt Street

FACT also wish to address issues effecting the lobbies to the Back Colquitt Street elevation. This sees the remove the existing recesses to emergency escape doors in favour of outward opening flush faced doors and screens.

This project is the subject of a funding application to The Arts Council of England which is currently under review. The outcome of this is expected in January 2011.



Aerial Photo



Arthouse Square



Back Colquitt Street



Ropewalks Square looking towards Bold Street

3.0 Site Analysis

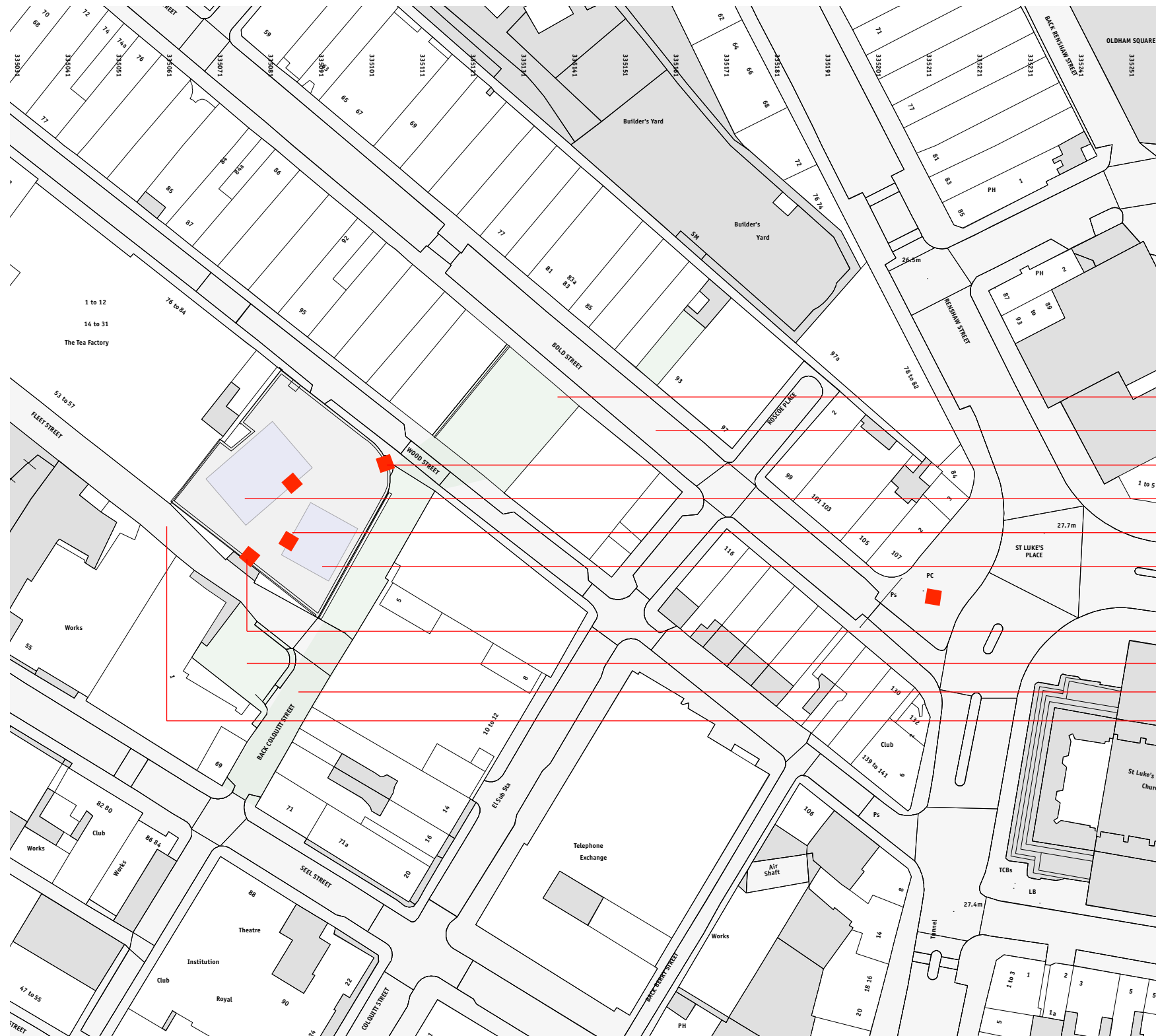
The FACT centre occupies a city block bounded by Wood Street, Fleet Street and Back Colquitt Street. Completed in 2003, the 6 storey zinc clad building provides an internal thoroughfare between Ropewalks Square between Wood and Bold Streets and Artshouse Square to Fleet and back Colquitt Street. Adjacent buildings include a recent 7-8 storey brick apartment block to the east of an equivalent height; The Swan Inn Freehouse, a popular real ale public house and live venue (back to back with Igloo bar) immediately to the west; Liverpool Primary Care Trust Headquarters to the south (bounding Arthouse Square) and a succession of aged brick rear elevations to commercial premises fronting onto Bold Street, an aesthetic which extends downhill to Wood Street and defines much of the district's character.

Bold Street is a thriving shopping street on a busy thoroughfare between Leece Street and Church Street, Liverpool's original shopping promenade and is seen as a primary route to the FACT centre via Ropewalks Square.

Fleet Street provides a secondary entrance and is home to a number of small bars and restaurants interspersed with a number of residential conversions of traditional brick buildings, the Tea Factory being one of the more recognised. Back Colquitt Street represents a shaded infrequently narrow passageway which is landscaped with trees and concrete seats. This alley is generally used as a transient street that traverses the main thoroughfares heading into the city centre and Church Street shopping areas.

Both Ropewalks and Arthouse Squares regularly host events and works of art (i.e. Go Superlambananas! in 2008). There are a number of controlled seating opportunities in both squares but are generally underused given the degree of footfall surrounding them.

FACT have a presence on Ropewalks Square in the form of a series of Metrosopes (5no.) that reinforce the desire line from Bold Street to FACT's main entrance onto Wood Street. Each represents Liverpool and all of its twin cities: Odessa, Dublin, Shanghai and Koln and automatically displays information directly from the internet relating to each. They are described as Barometers for current thinking about our great cities capturing the ebb and flow of information without human intervention.



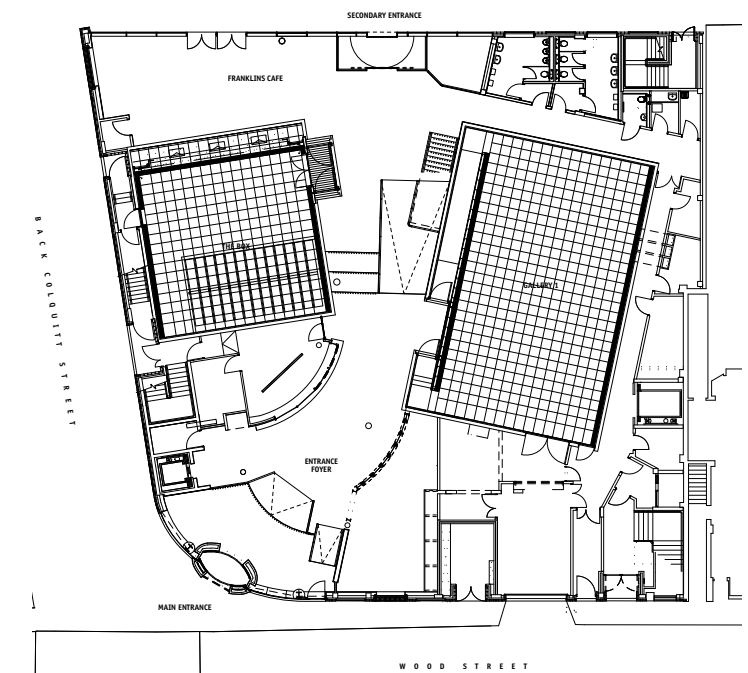
- Ropewalks Square with new signage cube
- Wood Street
- Entrance cube addressing Wood Street and Ropewalks Square
- Gallery One
- Internal cubes provide new entrances to gallery / cinema spaces
- 'The Box'
- Entrance cube addressing Fleet Street and Arthouse Square
- Arthouse Square
- Back Colquitt Street
- Fleet Street

The existing cube logo informs the narrative of the new interventions proposed for the FACT centre. The cubes serve the purpose of node, beacon and satellite to disseminate information, encourage interaction, promote wayfinding. Expanding FACT's identity and message to a broader audience is at the heart of the proposals. At the point of arrival FACT will engage audiences proactively, make core activities more manifest and invite subscription to the creative ethos and progressive agenda.

4.1 SITE PLAN



4.2 PROPOSED GROUND FLOOR PLAN

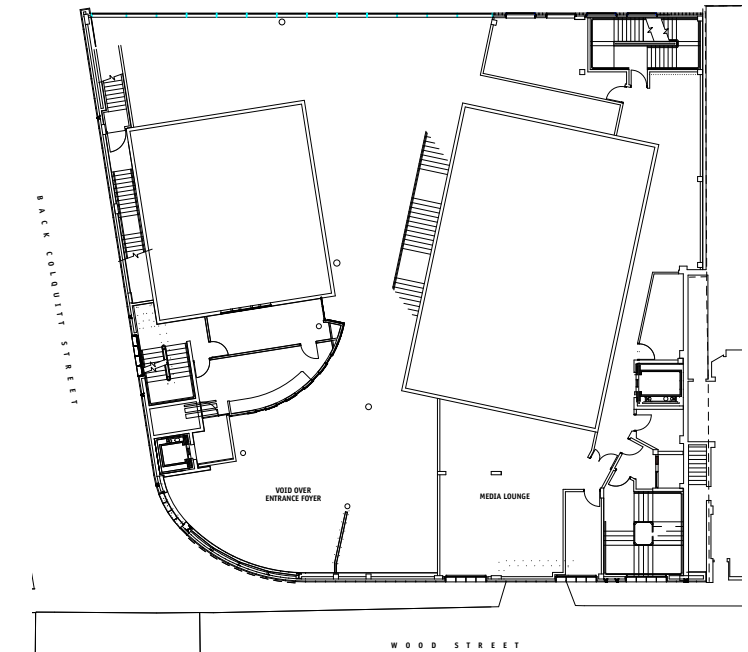


EXISTING GROUND FLOOR PLAN

A series of cubes mark the way between both front and rear entrances acting as portals into the existing gallery spaces, imparting information about events and exhibitions. The shop is brought to the front of the building along with a casual seating area and new information adjacent to the main entrance (see page 20 for more details)

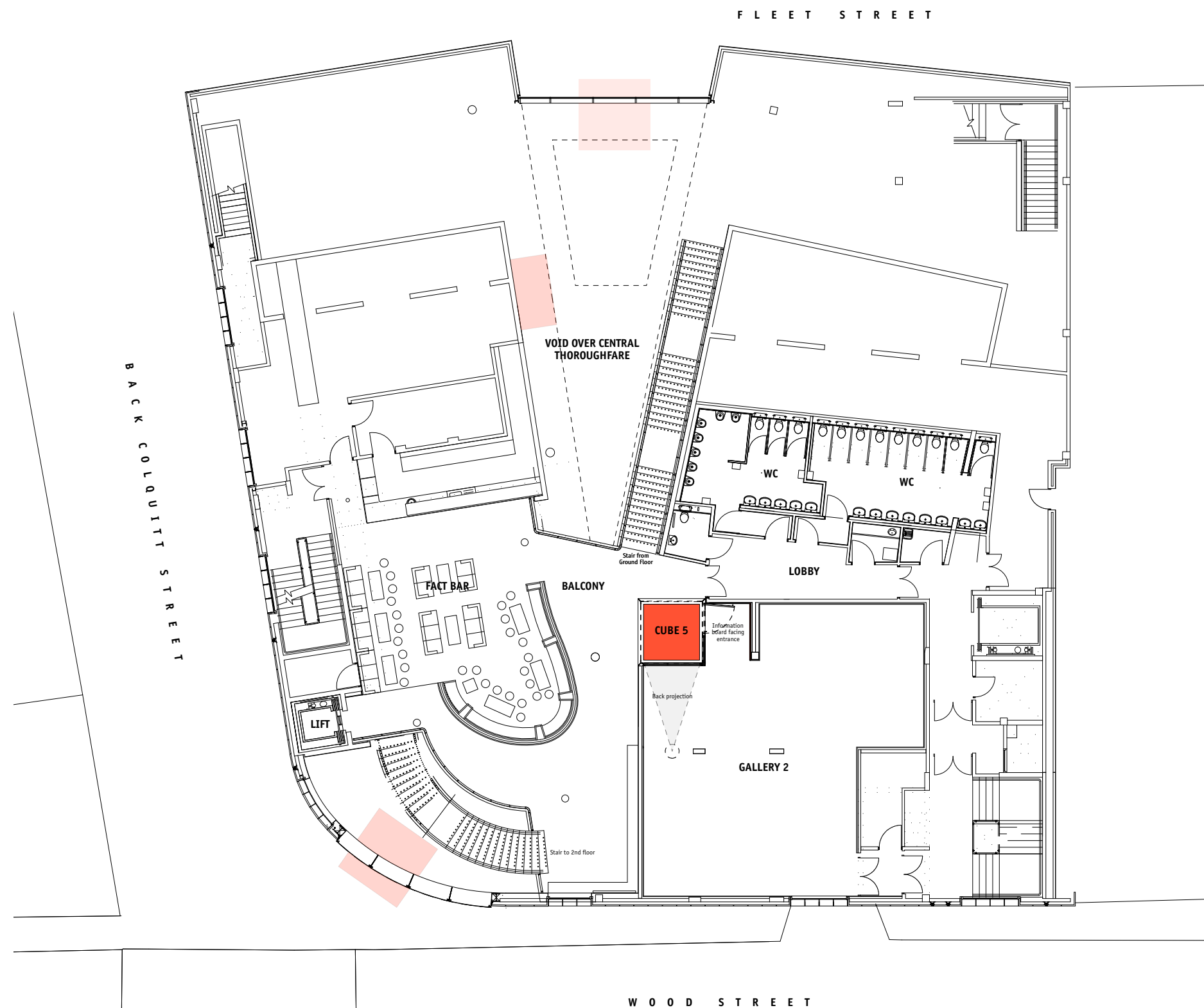


4.3 PROPOSED MEZZANINE FLOOR PLAN

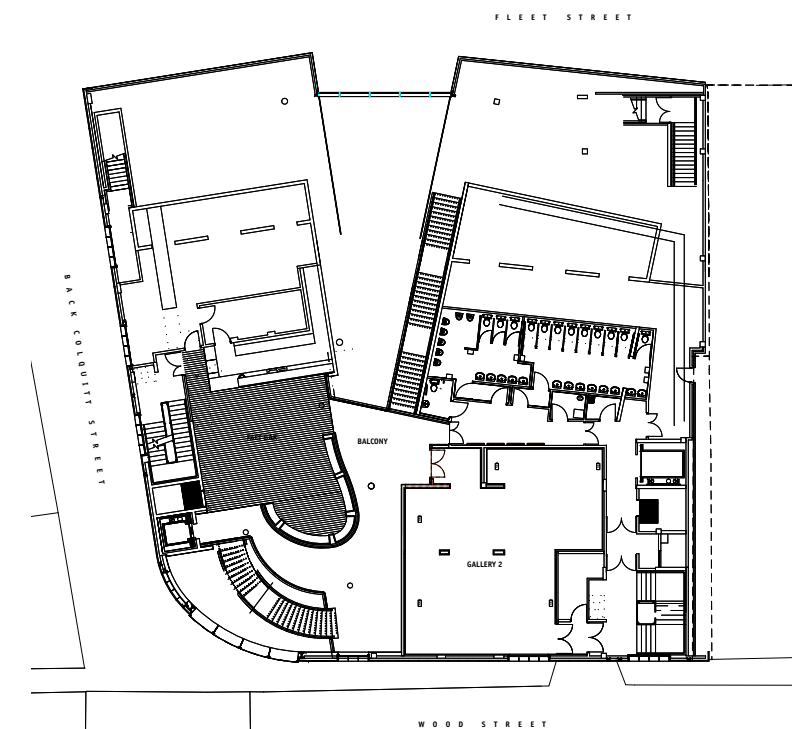


EXISTING MEZZANINE FLOOR PLAN

A new mezzanine level is created as a mixed use space / education suite (additional 34m²) accessed directly from the entrance foyer via a new stair / passenger lift. This utilises unused double height space within the existing main entrance area and sits above the new shop / seating area

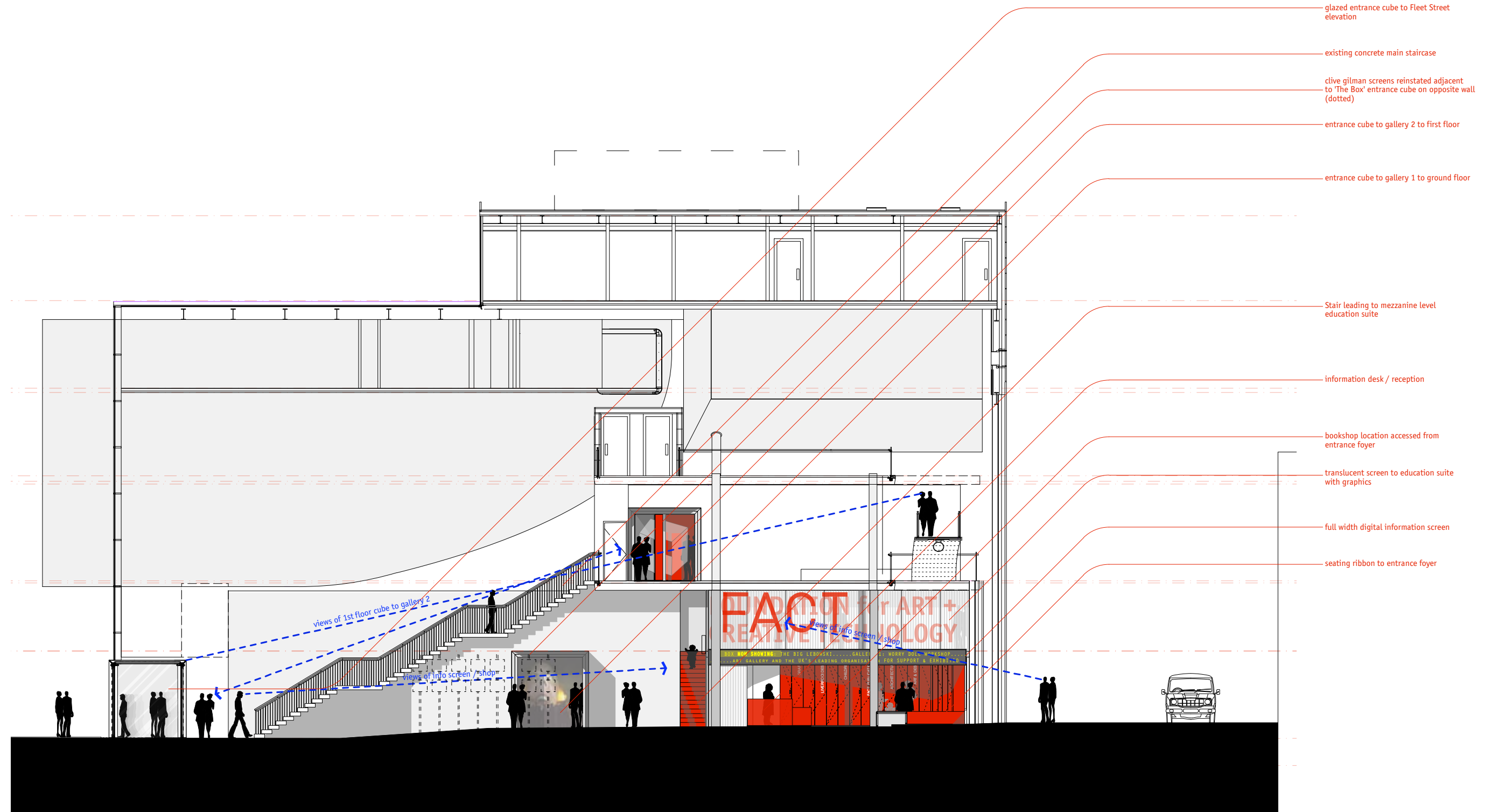


4.4 PROPOSED FIRST FLOOR PLAN

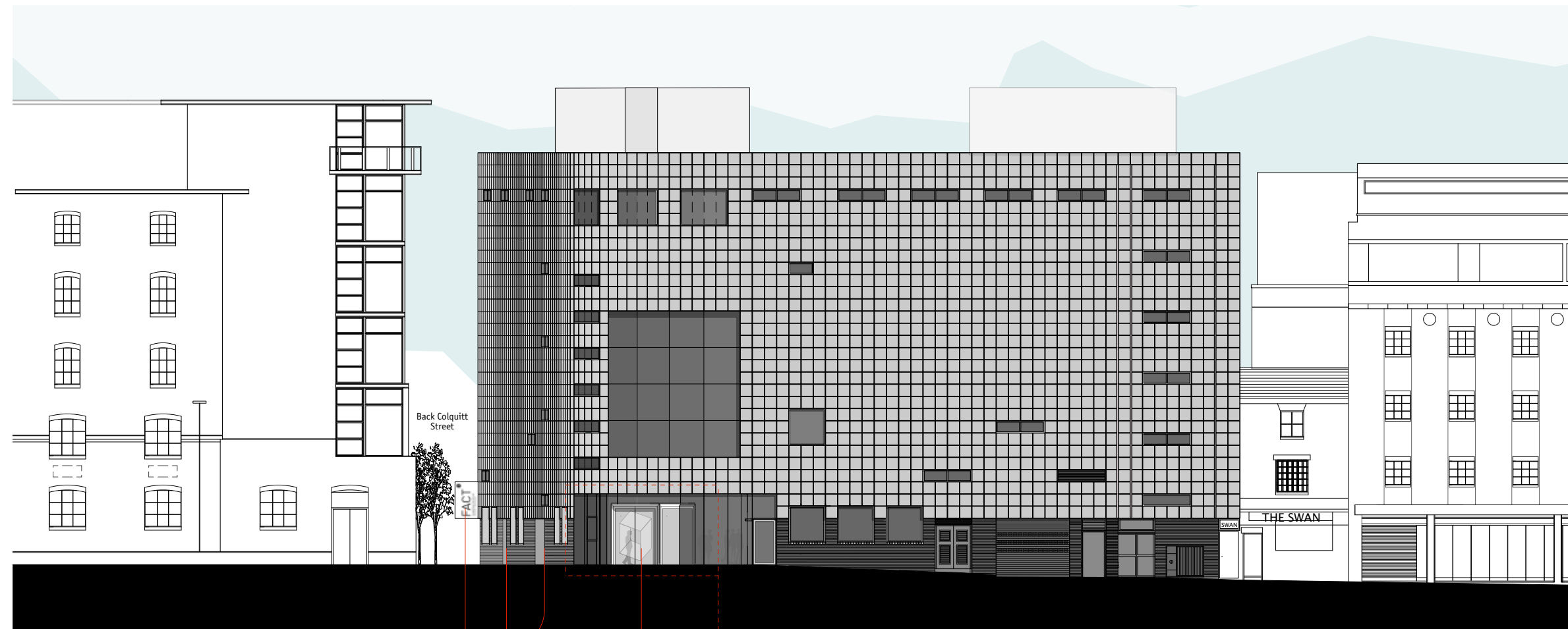


EXISTING FIRST FLOOR PLAN

A new entrance cube is sited to the existing entrance to Gallery 2 on the first floor of the building. This takes the form of an inverted / open sided cube and addresses the adjacent bar area and forms a key node at the top of the existing concrete staircase. This cube is visible from ground floor level on arrival at the Fleet Street entrance (see pages 8 & 16)



4.5 SECTION THROUGH CENTRAL THOROUGHFARE



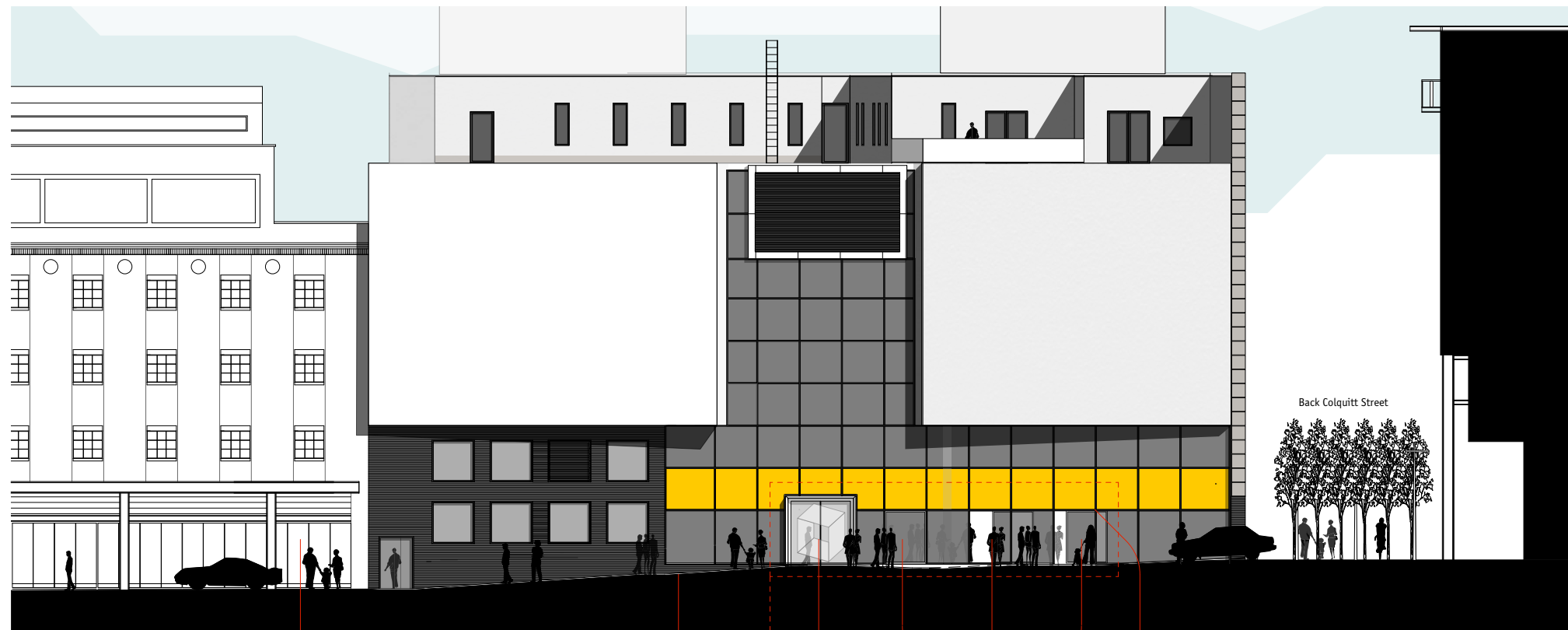
WOOD STREET (FRONT) ELEVATION 1:200

- new signage to back colquhitt street (in mandarin)
- new security doors to back colquhitt street elevation
- existing masonry entrance lobby to be removed with air replaced with new entrance cube
- see inset
- existing curved glazing to be remodelled around new glazed cube
- new full height glazed sliding doors with FACT logo



WOOD STREET (FRONT) ENTRANCE CUBE 1:50

4.6 PROPOSED FRONT ELEVATION (WOOD STREET)



FLEET STREET (REAR) ELEVATION 1:200

existing curved glazing to be remodelled around new glazed cube

new full height glazed sliding doors with FACT logo

new full height glazed sliding doors with FACT logo

igloo bar

existing entrance lobby to be removed with roller shutter boxes & replaced with new entrance cube

existing ramp up to entrance

see inset

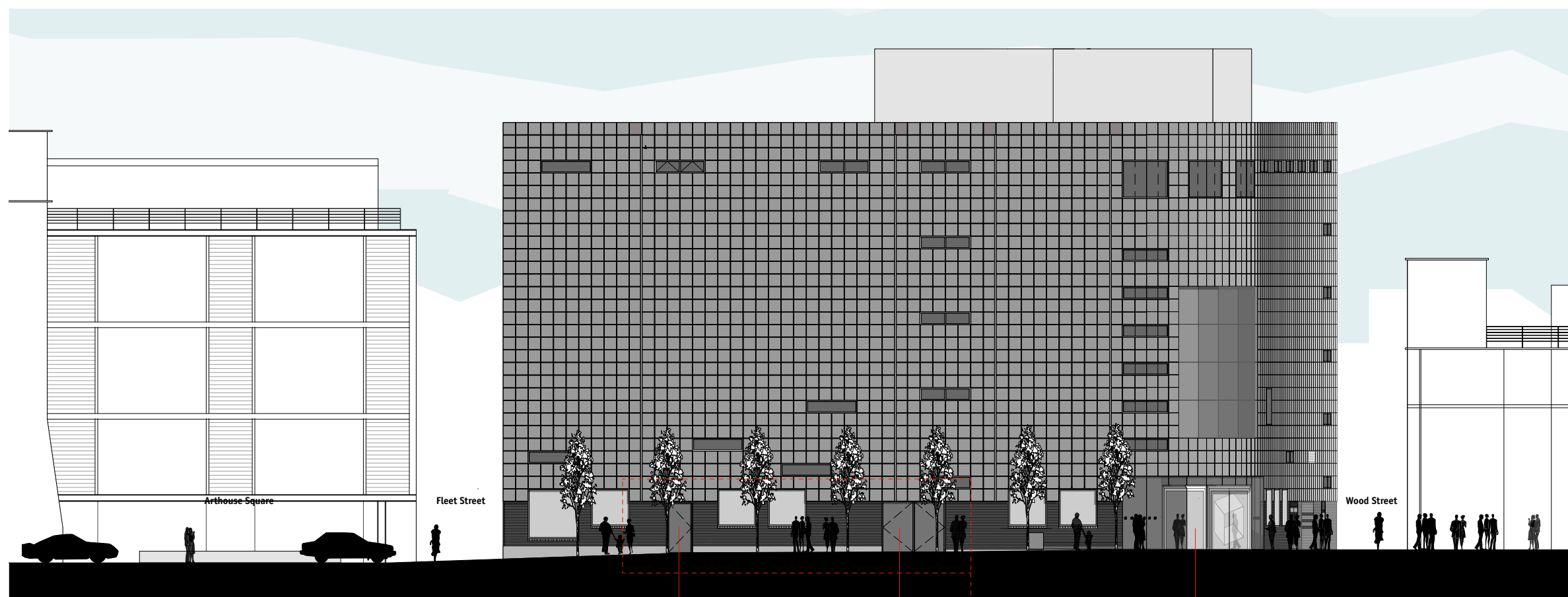
3no. new sliding doors to fanlights cafe to match egg curtain walling

2no. roller shutter doors to be removed from existing doors

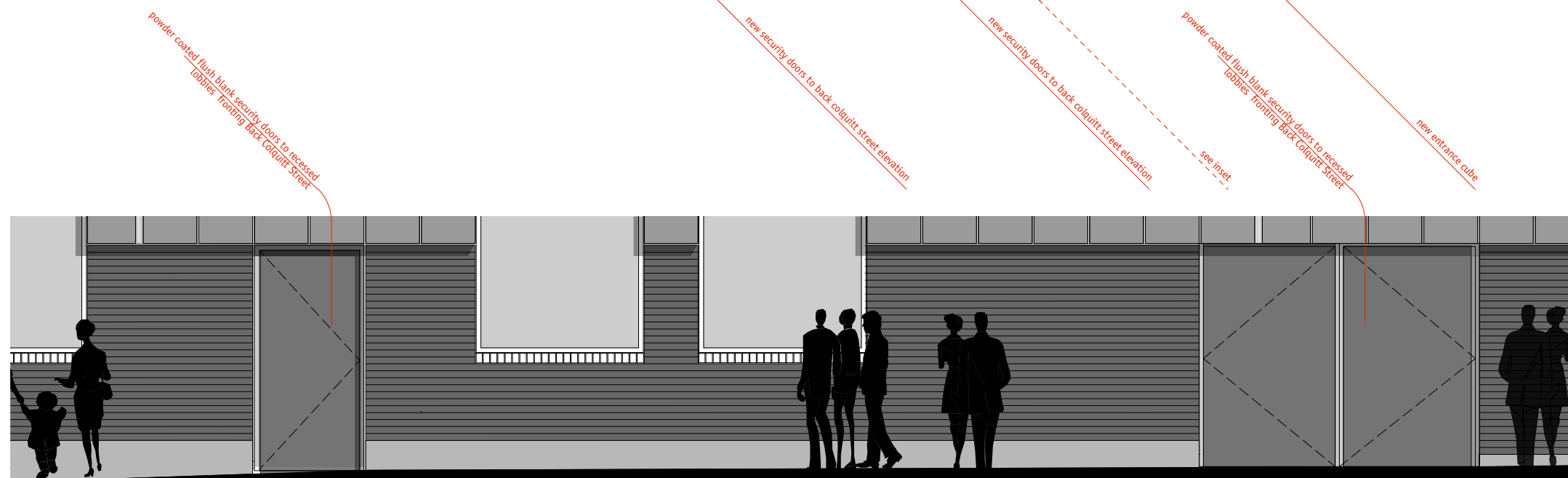


FLEET STREET ENTRANCE CUBE & DOORS 1:50

4.7 PROPOSED REAR ELEVATION (FLEET STREET)



WOOD STREET (FRONT) ELEVATION 1:200



4.8 PROPOSED SIDE ELEVATION (BACK COLQUITT STREET)