

Sliding partition at  
West Architecture's  
Therefore Offices  
in London

## 06.10 WALLS, CEILINGS & PARTITIONS SPECIFICATION

**OVERVIEW**  
FELIX MARA

**THEREFORE  
OFFICES,  
LONDON**  
WEST  
ARCHITECTURE

**PHIPP STREET  
MIXED  
DEVELOPMENT,  
LONDON**  
WAUGH  
THISTLETON  
ARCHITECTS

**ST EDMUNDSBURY  
CATHEDRAL  
CEILING,  
BURY ST  
EDMUNDS**  
FREELAND  
REES ROBERTS  
ARCHITECTS

# THEREFORE OFFICES, LONDON WEST ARCHITECTURE

## Specified products

**Engineered timber screens** Multi-plywood, oak tri-ply, 40mm-thick, 2,430mm-high, 1,200mm-wide. Front face of each batten oak veneered by hand; finished with water-based varnish

**Endplates to screens** Cutting technologies, 4mm stainless steel, laser-cut to profile of battens

**Top tracks to screens** SDS London, Standard 140

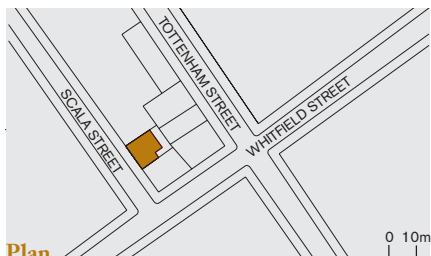
**Acoustic seals to screens** Häfele, Sealmaster bulb seal (950.21.042), brush seal top and bottom (950.07.269)

**Wall linings** Side wall to meeting room, 12.5mm Gyproc WallBoard on metal firrings with skim finish, used as service route for AV cables and AC pipework from high level to basement

**Ceilings** Existing ceilings replaced with 12.5mm Gyproc WallBoard on timber framework with skim finish. Ceilings lowered to accommodate AC, lighting and fire curtain at entrance

**Lighting** Erco, Quadra gimbal spotlights in bespoke recessed sprayed MDF ceiling assemblies housing smoke detectors

**Bathrooms** Back-painted glass bonded to WBP plywood, to form enclosures accommodating cisterns and localised electric water heaters, walls panelled with acid catalyst lacquered MDF



## Project details

**Name of project** Therefore Offices

**Start on site** November 2009

**Completion** February 2010

**Form of contract** JCT Minor Works

**GIA** 125m<sup>2</sup>

**Construction cost** Confidential

**Client** Therefore

**Architect** West Architecture

**Main contractor** AMPM Building Works

**Specialist joinery** Therefore

**Approved inspector** Regional Building Control

This refurbishment of offices is for product design consultant Therefore. The company operates from a five-storey 1970s building. The ground floor is a large single space treated as four separate rooms, providing arrival, breakout and meeting areas. A private meeting room is generated by closing a set of timber sliding screens.

The screens are constructed from oak veneered 40mm tri-ply and were manufactured outside the main contract by the client's workshop team. The sliding screens are mutually supported back to a fixed end panel, avoiding the need for a bottom track. Stability is increased by hanging them at their precise centre of gravity. Inside the main meeting room the screens are battened to improve acoustics.

**Graham West**, director, West Architecture



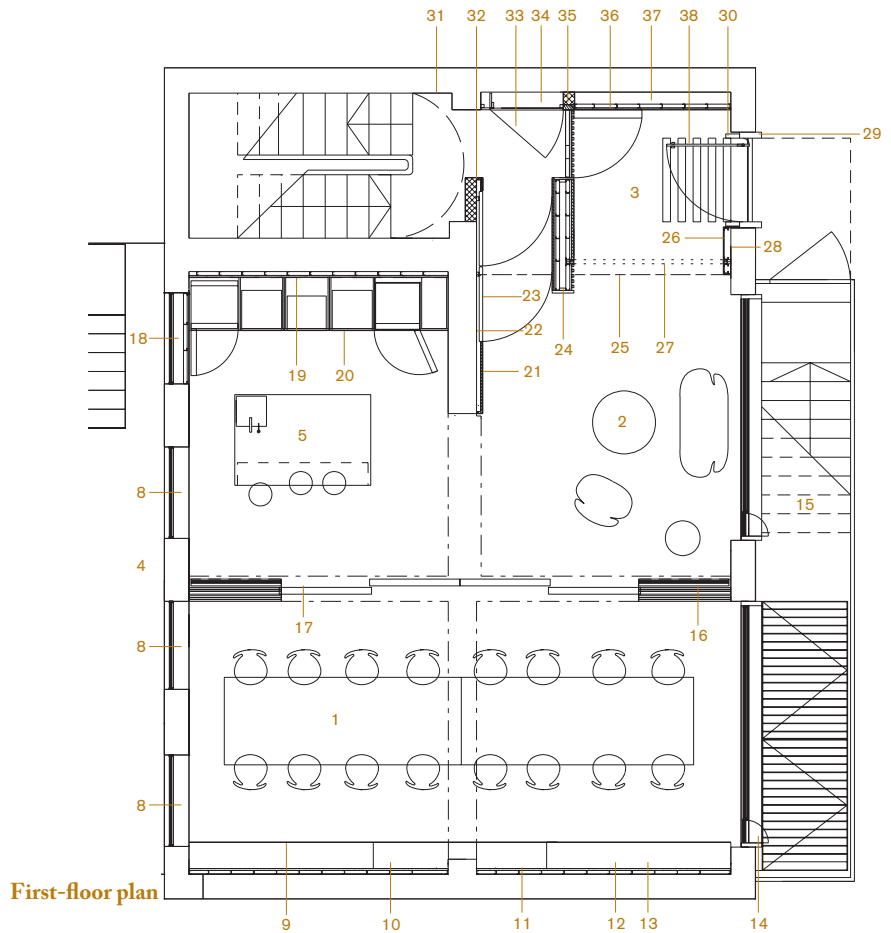


Opposite, top left View from Scala Street  
Main image and above Multi-plywood and oak tri-ply screens  
with battens to improve acoustics  
Top Facade Below Screens suspended from recessed rails

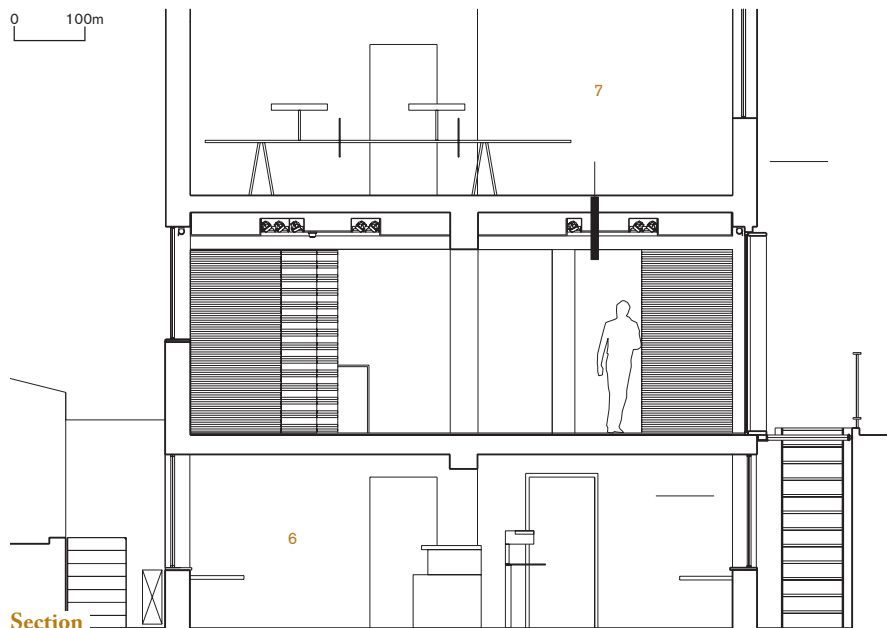
PHOTOGRAPHS BY PETER COOK

# THEREFORE OFFICES, LONDON PRODUCTS IN DETAIL

1. Meeting space
2. Waiting/informal meeting space
3. Lobby
4. Lightwell
5. Island – stainless steel unit with glass frontage
6. Workshop
7. Studio
8. Window sill ground down flush and made good. All plaster skimmed
9. New cabinets to base of wall
10. Electronic white board
11. Wall lined with plasterboard on metal studs
12. LCD TV
13. HD in cupboards below TV. Two feeds of coaxial cable from cupboard to rear of building with enough length for dish fixing to roof
14. Timber opening vent
15. Stair to basement
16. Bespoke sliding partition system comprising ash-faced tri-ply engineered board
17. Sliding partition in closed position
18. Window lined on internal face with studwork and gypsum board to face of existing wall. Sill ground flush and made good. All plaster skimmed
19. Existing stud partition moved back towards wall and cables encased within void. New partition lined with single layer gypsum board, and cupboard to move back in line with new wall location
20. Storage/kitchen cupboards with satin acid catalyst MDF frontage
21. MDF with acid catalyst lacquer on batten system
22. Exposed brickwork wall to receive light plaster skim and white paint finish
23. MDF door finish with acid catalyst lacquer, flush with panelling in open position. FD30S automated electromagnetic hold-open device linked to fire alarm system. Concealed door closer mounted within depth of jamb (Allgood 9133S)
24. Lobby wall to be clad in oak panelling
25. Line of dropped ceiling bulkhead
26. Dry lining to enclose fire curtain channel
27. 30-minute fire-rated fire curtain activated by fire. 30-minute insulation and integrity with permanent obstruction detection to suit 2,080mm opening
28. Side channel for fire curtain on face of wall
29. Existing precast surround to entrance
30. Aluminium profile in line with concrete opening
31. Existing section of wall removed and made good
32. New section of wall to form doorway
33. Panel door with painted finish flush with adjacent wall
34. Relocated switchboard, consumer unit and fire detection mirror behind FD60 door
35. FD60S door to receive batten finish to match adjoining panel work to include vision panel
36. New studwork to wall in line with existing recess to receive paint finish and contain lighting switches
37. Repositioned alarm panels
38. Dorma toughened glass door on patch fittings

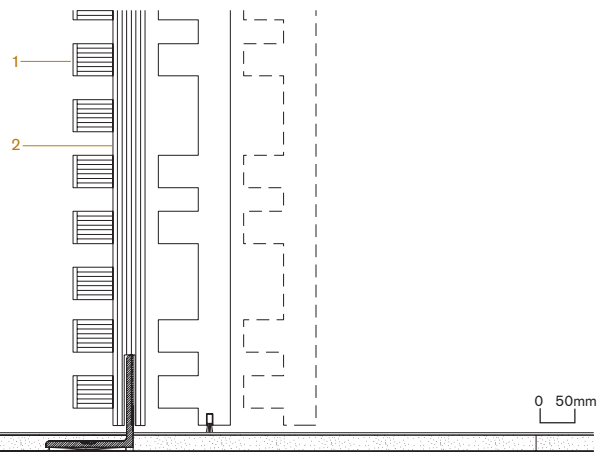
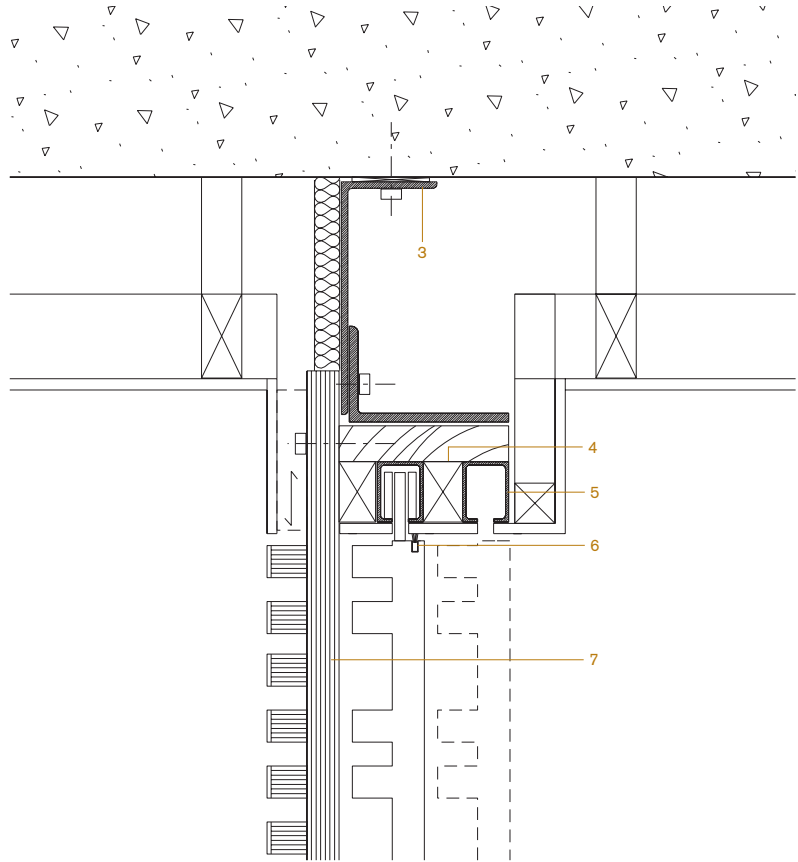


First-floor plan



Section

# THEREFORE OFFICES, LONDON PRODUCTS IN DETAIL

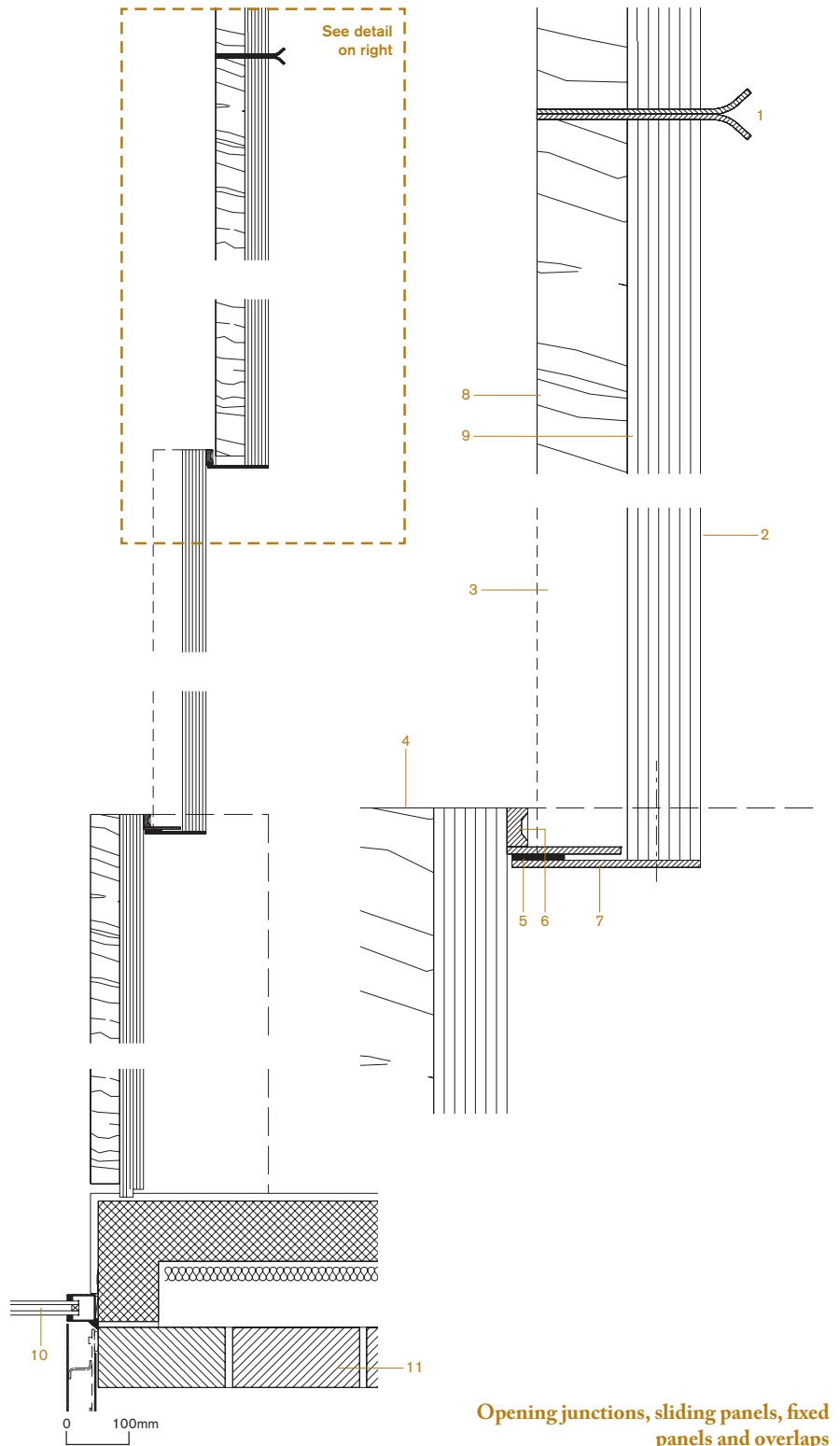


- 1. Oak batten
- 2. 40mm oak tri-ply with water-based varnish
- 3. Steel angles bolted to existing slab
- 4. Planed hardwood rail to receive door tracks
- 5. Top track to separate specification
- 6. Acoustic brush seal
- 7. Fixed panel restrained at head to steel angle

Head and base details

# THEREFORE OFFICES, LONDON PRODUCTS IN DETAIL

1. 3mm gauge stainless steel plate; full-height end plates with folded handle profile
2. 40mm oak-faced multi-plywood, sealed with satin water-based varnish
3. 40 x 30mm planed oak batten, secret-fixed to ply panel
4. Edges of tri-ply revealed on inside faces
5. Acoustic seal
6. Fabricated stainless steel end plate with laser-cut profile between battens
7. Stainless steel plate screw-fixed to side of panel
8. Oak-faced batten to door
9. 40mm oak tri-ply with water-based varnish
10. New full-height glazing in aluminium profile
11. Existing engineering brick pier



Opening junctions, sliding panels, fixed panels and overlaps

# THEREFORE OFFICES, LONDON PRODUCTS IN DETAIL



**Clockwise from above** Stainless-steel island and kitchen/storage units; waiting room; main meeting room; bathroom with



# THEREFORE OFFICES, LONDON MATERIALS BOARD

## 01. Engineered timber for screens and lobby walls

We chose a timber with character that appears crisp but not corporate. The edges are as important as the face, since they are usually on display and reveal the construction of the screens. The mass of the 40mm-thick panels takes care of the acoustics.

[www.multiplywood.com](http://www.multiplywood.com)

## 02. Resin floor

Low-cost, heat-treated softwood that does not need coating or further weather treatment.

[www.stratum.uk.com](http://www.stratum.uk.com)

## 03. Stainless steel end plates

Brushed stainless steel is used for its robustness throughout the scheme and dominates the kitchen in the form of an island unit. The end plates were laser-cut by Cutting Technologies to the profile of the battens on the screens.

### Architect's choices

Influenced by the client's role as product designer, we sought to create a series of spaces that were clearly defined by legible objects: these screens are part of a family of objects. They need to contribute to the space even when open, rather than just looking like they are parked and waiting to be used. They also need to provide substantial visual and acoustic separation between the spaces.

*Graham West, director, West Architecture*

## 04. Plaster skim

Every surface was replaced. The majority of solid walls were lined, and the ceiling was dropped to conceal services and fittings, all skimmed with 3mm plaster. The concrete window sills to the rear elevation were ground flush and the wall reskimmed.

## 05. Blackout blinds to front and rear elevations

Total blackout isn't required but privacy from the street during presentations is, because many products are confidential. The fabric for these blinds is woven but remains opaque.

[www.sun-x.co.uk](http://www.sun-x.co.uk)

## 06. External frames to external glazing

A colder grey with more blue was used externally to complement the existing London stock brick and engineering brick central pier. RAL 7012.

## 07. Internal frames to external glazing

The internal aluminium glazing profiles were powder-coated with a warm grey. RAL 7013.

## 08. Coloured glass

Chosen for its clean edges. RAL 3005 in bathrooms, RAL 1018 in kitchen.







MICHELE PANZERI