



## The Orient Express of Furniture!

**Graham Construction & Mace**  
**Type** 5 Floors  
1000+ Students  
170 Colleagues  
**Location** Aldermanbury Square, London



*SOAS (School of Oriental and African Studies) is one of the most prestigious higher education institutions in the world.*

We worked with Graham Construction to consult, procure and install a full furniture package across five floors for the SOAS move into Senate House North Block Building in Bloomsbury, London.

### The Project

The contract was won on the basis of our impeccable reputation in the industry and our competitive pricing. We initially met with the SOAS project team and closely examined all aspects of the project specification, making alterations dependent on their exact requirements. One of their major concerns was the replacement cost of statement pieces.

This began a 3 month consultation process, during which we mapped out precise solutions for the varying spaces that were to be refurbished, from academic offices to seminar rooms,

lecture theatres and the stunning newly built atrium at Senate House, where a courtyard had been converted into an incredible, open indoor space.

The biggest challenge we faced was managing the supply chain, which had to correlate with Graham's phased approach to the construction project. This sometimes entailed storing pieces of furniture on or off site, quickly moving pieces between the storage and site locations and generally being quick to respond to the rapidly changing demands of the project.

The key to the successful completion of the project was maintaining close liaison with the three essential stakeholders, Graham, SOAS and the project manager Mace. This was a complex project with a wide array of variables and dependencies that all had to meticulously monitored and managed to ensure the smooth running of the installation.

### **The Outcome**

The visual highlight of the project is undoubtedly the beautiful new atrium at Senate House, where sofas and armchairs from Allermuir's Haven range, together with Ad-Lib coffee tables from Senator,

sit perfectly in this breathtaking space. A sprinkling of Allermuir Pebble stools offer additional seating and are visually intriguing, their hues complementing the spectacular wooden staircase. The café area on the lower ground floor is fitted with Senator Dine benches and chairs from Vitra's DSX and Vegetal ranges.

The academic offices feature desking from Senator's new Chemistry range and Feeflex Task chairs. The bookcases and pedestals are by Senator & Bisley. Howe 40//4 chairs and Tutor table are used in the seminar rooms. The student lockers are from Bisley.

The more challenging the project, the greater the sense of satisfaction upon successful completion, and this was certainly the case in this instance. The end results are stunning, with a range of bespoke solutions tailored to the unique requirements of the varying spaces. Graham were delighted with the quality of our service and have expressed a willingness to work with us again in what looks to be the beginning of a fruitful and mutually beneficial relationship. The SOAS & Mace teams were also a joy to work with and contributed significantly to the impressive final outcome.

