

# Case Study: The Supreme Court, London

## Government

In October 2009 the new Supreme Court, the highest court in the land, opened in the former Middlesex Guildhall, on Parliament Square. The remodeling included extensive alterations and refurbishment, necessary to form new courtrooms and judiciary accommodation to support the Supreme Court. While security was of paramount importance, protection of the historic fabric and creation of an accessible environment, for visiting public, judiciary and court staff, were key influences on the final design.

In listed buildings, the scope for making alterations to improve accessibility has to be balanced with the desire to protect the historic features of the existing. In the Supreme Court accessibility has been provided, with only minimal alteration to the historic fabric of the building or its approaches, and with minimal reliance on mechanical installations or staff assistance. This accessibility includes the common areas, the Judges' bench, positions for court staff and all of the viewing galleries, apart from the raised viewing gallery overlooking Court Room 3.

As well as advising on overall layout and provision of necessary facilities, David Bonnett Associates advised on courtroom layouts to ensure that these key elements are truly accessible to all. The completed building acts as a flagship for accessible design in a historic setting, its existing decorative arts enriched with modern works of art and craftsmanship, specially created to celebrate the building's new function.



The Supreme Court, London



## Project Details:

<b>Location</b>	London
<b>Completion</b>	2009
<b>Architects</b>	Gilmore Hankey Kirke (GHK) Architects / Feilden and Mawson
<b>Client</b>	Wallis & Kier Group