

VENUE HIRE



Somerset
House, is
without a
doubt, the
best venue
in town.

TIFFANY & Co.



VENUE HIRE AT SOMERSET HOUSE

As the home of cultural innovators, Somerset House connects creativity and the arts with the wider society. It brings worlds and minds together to intensify creativity and multiply opportunity, driving artistic and social innovation at once.

Built on historic foundations at the very heart of the capital, Somerset House is home to the UK's largest creative community working globally across art, technology, business, and social enterprise, it continually draws in fresh ideas and new talent. It enables surprising alliances, convergences, and chance encounters, which move people and disciplines outside of themselves. Somerset House celebrates differences and apparent incompatibilities with surprising and often magical results.

As one of London's best loved public spaces, Somerset House's most iconic experiences cannot be created elsewhere. They mix the unusual, the transgressive and the joyful in the most original and memorable ways.

Somerset House pursues a spirit of 'Step Inside, Think Outside' for everyone, regardless of age, stage or background. It is a place to escape the comfort zone in the safest way. It freshens minds, eyes and the world at large. Its energy is unending - intensifying creativity, multiplying opportunity, driving artistic and social innovation, sometimes personal transformation, all at once.

This spectacular, neoclassical building also offers 12 blank canvas event spaces, suitable for staging events of all styles and size. Clients can enhance their event by connecting it with the diverse cultural programme.

Run as a charity by the Somerset House Trust, all event hire income directly contributes to its programme, education and outreach work and helps us to maintain our Grade I listed site and deliver our public benefit. You can be confident that your event will be directly supporting an organisation offering immense value to an audience that goes far beyond your attendees.

The grandeur and heritage of Somerset House, coupled with the expertise of its Commercial Events team, offers an unrivalled location for unforgettable events.

To find out how we can help to develop your event from concept to reality, contact us on +44(0)20 7845 4618 or via events@somersethouse.org.uk

Find out more information on our spaces on our [venue hire page](#)

Watch our [Promo Video](#)



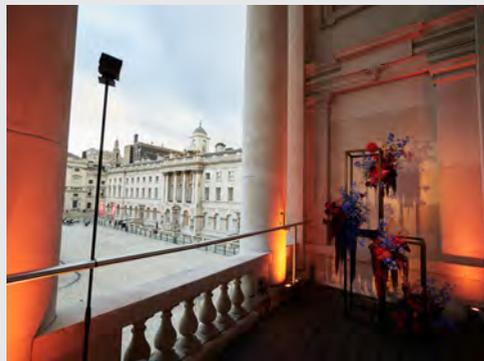
THE PORTICO ROOMS

Located on the first floor of the South Wing, the [Portico Rooms](#) are a spacious and versatile suite of rooms offering a contemporary and elegant location for both daytime and evening events.

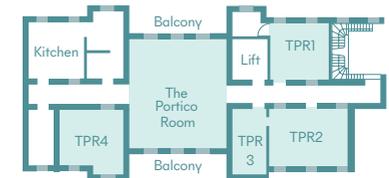
With original features, natural daylight and uninterrupted views of the London skyline, the Portico Rooms offer a stylish and versatile backdrop which can be tailored to any event brief. This network of four elegant 18th century spaces can be adapted for press days, fashion events, meetings, conferences, receptions, dinners, wine tastings and exhibitions.

Included in the hire are two private balconies for your guests. Whether you prefer to watch the sunset across the River Thames from the south facing balcony or marvel at our sensational fountains from the north facing balcony, the Portico Rooms are a truly stunning venue for your event.

The Portico Rooms are connected to the Navy Board Rooms, and you can hire the two venues in tandem for larger bookings.



200 Reception
100 Dinner
100 Theatre Style
60 Cabaret Style



Available for daytime, evening or all-day hire
 Available for set up 24-hour set ups

TPR	The Portico Room	.....	10m x 11.5m
TPR 1	The Portico Room 1	.....	5.5m x 5.8m
TPR 2	The Portico Room 2	.....	5.5m x 8.5m
TPR 3	The Portico Room 3	.....	5.5m x 4m
TPR 4	The Portico Room 4	.....	5.5m x 6.3m



‘The event was a wonderful success and all our delegates were - dare I say - blown away by the venue, how we were able to transform the space and bring our training event to life in the most inspiring manner because of all your support!’

– CHANEL



NAVY BOARD ROOMS

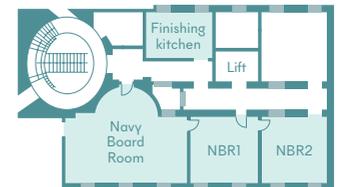
Steeped in history and dating back to the 18th century, the [Navy Board Rooms](#) are an impressive suite of rooms with a distinctive sense of charm and heritage.

Climbing the grand, sweeping Nelson Staircase is an experience in itself, as each flight is a one-off architectural work of art. Entering the main space, marble fireplaces and wooden floors create a grand atmosphere, with large sash windows offering panoramic views across the River Thames.

Originally home to the Navy Board, overseeing British naval affairs around the globe, the Navy Board Rooms are now a hugely popular venue for meetings, conferences, receptions, intimate dinners and press days.

The interconnecting rooms offer wonderful natural light, original features and great flexibility. You can focus your booking on one room or use all three spaces for different purposes. For larger events, you can combine the rooms with the adjoining Portico Rooms.

100 Reception
50 Dinner
60 Theatre Style
32 Cabaret Style



Available for daytime, evening or all-day hire
 Available for 24-hour set ups
 Late night license available upon request

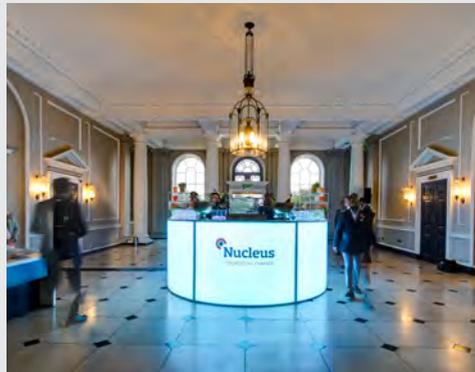
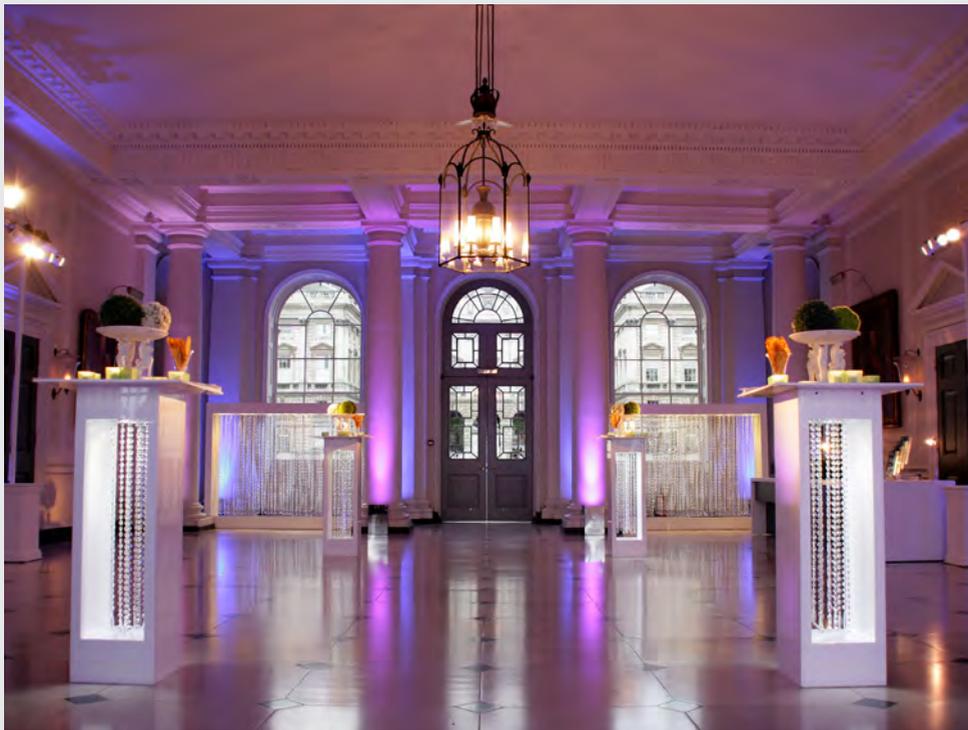
NBR	Navy Board Room	.....	10m x 5.5m
NBR 1	Navy Board Room	1	..... 5.5m x 5.5m
NBR 2	Navy Board Room	2	..... 5.5m x 6m



BREAK THROUGH
PLANTING SEEDS OF CHANGE FOR THE FUTURE OF THE WORLD'S MOST VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES

Stack of white plates

White teacups and saucers



SEAMEN'S HALL

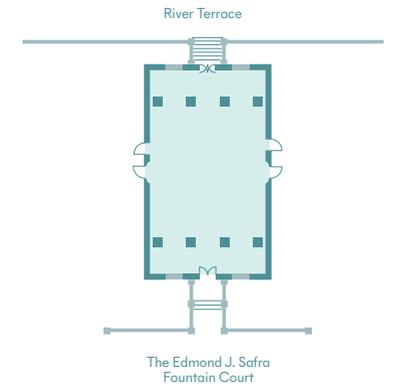
The Seamen's Hall, located on the ground floor of the South Wing, has marble floors, imposing Corinthian columns and huge windows, making it the perfect space for receptions, private dinners and other evening gatherings.

panoramic views of the Thames and surrounding iconic London landmarks. With original period features including black and white marble flooring, it offers an air of expansive elegance, lending itself beautifully as an evening venue.

Entered via central doors from our stunning Edmond J. Safra Fountain Court, the Hall leads directly out onto our exclusive River Terrace, a section of which is included in the hire of the Seamen's Hall, offering

You can hire the Seamen's Hall as a stand-alone venue or in combination with other spaces – for instance, a drinks reception in the Portico Rooms followed by dinner in this beautiful room.

200 Reception
100 Dinner



Available for evening hire only
Late night license available upon request

Seamen's Hall 17m x 10m



‘I think it was the perfect location for the first Charity Dinner... everything went smoothly and it was really nice working with you and your team. I wouldn’t hesitate to recommend Somerset House to someone looking for a venue for an event in London!’

– Dauphine Foundation



RIVER TERRACE

Set against the backdrop of Somerset House's iconic 18th century façade and with sweeping views across the Thames, the [River Terrace](#) is one of our most exclusive spaces and the perfect location for up to 500 people for a standing reception.

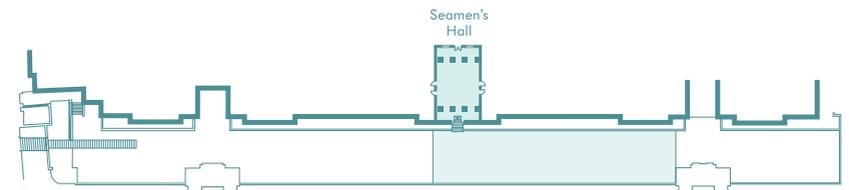
The River Terrace is a glamorous alfresco London setting to entertain guests in the warmer months and the stunning Seamen's

Hall is included in your hire as a wet weather contingency, with a capacity of up to 200, along with jumbrellas should a British seasonal downpour prevail.

Perfect for summer parties, you can invite your guests to a private barbecue expertly planned by one of our caterers or simply enjoy a drinks reception while the London landmarks light up your event.

500

Reception



Available for evening hire only
Late night license available upon request
*With use of Seamen's Hall as a wet weather option

River Terrace.....49.5m x 11.7m



‘We cannot thank the team at Somerset House enough for everything they did to make our event a success. From the earliest meetings when we talked over our options, through the production and design stage, and right up to the night, the team was responsive, helpful and understanding. They took the time to understand our objectives, vision and our requirements, especially with regard to accessibility. On the night itself, nothing was too much trouble for our Event Manager and every request or question was dealt with immediately. The venue worked brilliantly and is the perfect space for a summer reception.’

— Camelot Group

CAMELOT
operator of





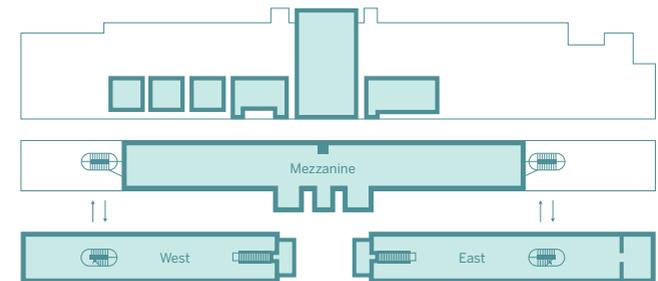
EMBANKMENT GALLERIES

Originally a barrel vaulted bargehouse linked directly to the Thames, the Embankment Galleries are now our most modern and adaptable event space. Spread over the ground floor and mezzanine level, this network of rooms have been reinvented as home to some of Somerset House's most celebrated exhibitions.

Dramatic steel and glass feature staircases, hard stone flooring and bright feature walls introduce a contemporary and urban element to this historic space. The mezzanine level is an impressive space for large scale dinners and receptions, while the entire gallery spaces offer a spectacular setting for fashion events, press days and conferences.

Late night license available upon request River Terrace

800 Reception
340 Dinner
320 Theatre Style



Limited availability
 Available for day time and evening events
 Available for 24-hour set ups
 Late night license available upon request

Embankment Galleries.....1,059m²





EAST WING

Located just across from our famous Edmond J. Safra Fountain Court, this venue offers a blank canvas space featuring beautiful high ceilings and large windows, with a series of open plan, interlinking rooms.

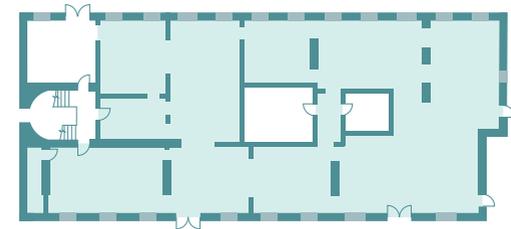
including press days and drinks receptions, while proving equally popular with location managers. The East Wing combines ultramodern flourishes with neo-classical lines, conveying a real sense of occasion to your guests.

The [East Wing](#) offers an abundance of space and natural light, perfect for events



300

Reception



Available for all-day hire
Available for 24-hour set ups
Late night license available upon request

East Wing 338m²



‘Thank you for letting us hold the event in the beautiful Somerset House - it really was a stunning venue and worked well for what we wanted to do with the space. We had lots of lovely feedback!’

— Pixi Beauty



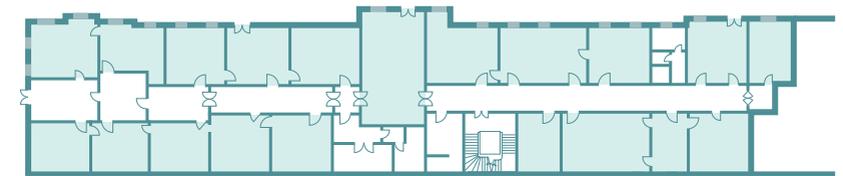
WEST WING

Entering directly from the grandeur of The Edmond J. Safra Fountain Court, linked via spacious, stylish corridors and connecting doors, the West Wing can be adapted for a multitude of events.

with the blank canvas nature providing a fantastic backdrop for exhibitions, showcases, press days, product launches and experiential events.

With 19 renovated rooms, this expansive area boasts light wooden flooring, beautiful fireplaces, high ceilings and ample natural light. The understated elegance of the West Wing has something to suit all tastes,

When hiring the West Wing, you can choose to hire the entire space, or the space can be divided into 3 separate galleries, known as The Fountain Galleries 1, 2 & 3. Perfect for smaller exhibitions, pop-ups, presentations and showrooms.



Available for all-day hire
 Available for 24-hour set ups
 Late night license available upon request

West Wing 679.2m²





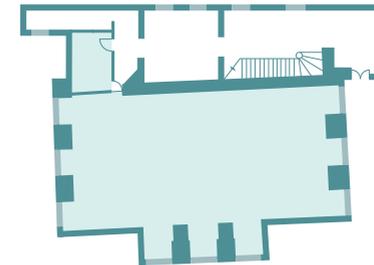
LANCASTER ROOM

Located in our New Wing, the [Lancaster Room](#) is unlike any other venue at Somerset House. The aesthetically raw finish of the room, with dramatic pillars, high ceilings and exposed floorboards set against the stunning views over the Thames takes the original features of Somerset House and adds a contemporary cutting edge.

With its own private entrance, this venue has a huge potential for dressing and is the ideal choice for creatives. It is particularly popular as a space for immersive and experiential events, product launches, fashion shows and photoshoots.



220 Reception
110 Dinner
150 Theatre Style
120 Catwalk



Available for daytime and evening events
 Available for 24-hour set ups
 Late night license available upon request

Lancaster Room 17.4m x 8.7m



‘Both the River Rooms and Lancaster Rooms are amazing spaces, providing a raw blank canvas to facilitate all manner of creative concepts. Helped only by the ever accommodating events team at Somerset House.’

– Studio Boum



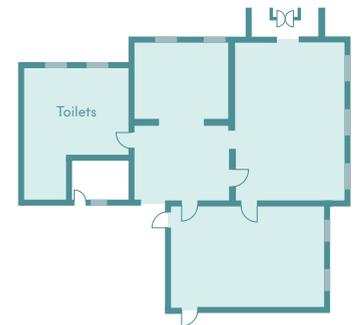
RIVER ROOMS

The River Rooms are a versatile suite of rooms situated in the New Wing, with a creative and raw aesthetic. These interlinking, open plan rooms retain faint touches from their former tenants which are highlighted by the

custom-built lighting tracks. The room is complete with dramatic original fireplaces and exposed brick archways, making the River Rooms perfectly suited for fashion events, exhibitions and product launches.

220

Reception



Available for daytime and evening hire
Available for 24-hour set ups
Late night license available upon request

River Rooms 162m²





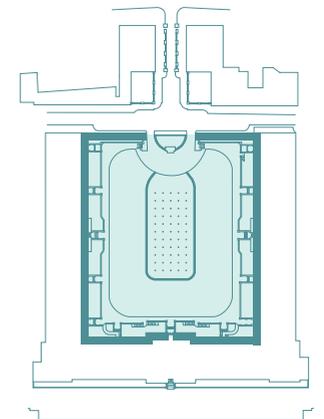
THE EDMOND J.SAFRA FOUNTAIN COURT

Located just a few short steps from the bustling activity of the Strand, in the heart of London, [The Edmond J. Safra Fountain Court](#) is centred around the iconic fountains and surrounded on all sides by glorious 18th century architecture. Popular with the public throughout the year, the courtyard hosts some of the city's best loved major events such as Summer Series, Film4 Summer Screen and Skate, our annual ice rink.

The Edmond J. Safra Fountain Court and Sir William Chambers' neoclassical backdrop is at the heart of Somerset House, offering a spectacular oasis for bespoke and unforgettable events, perfect for dinners, receptions and brand activations.

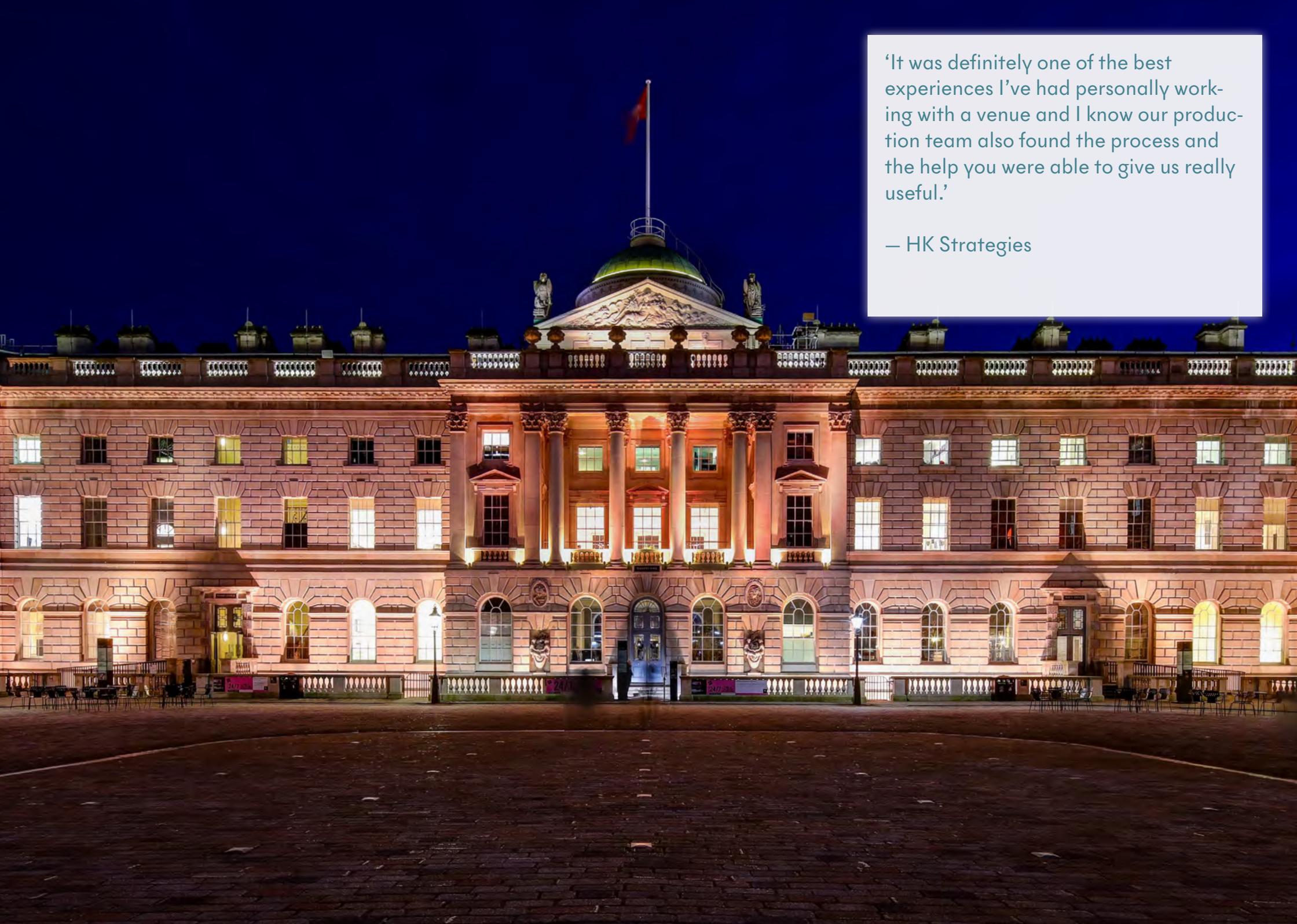


1,500 **600**
Reception Dinner



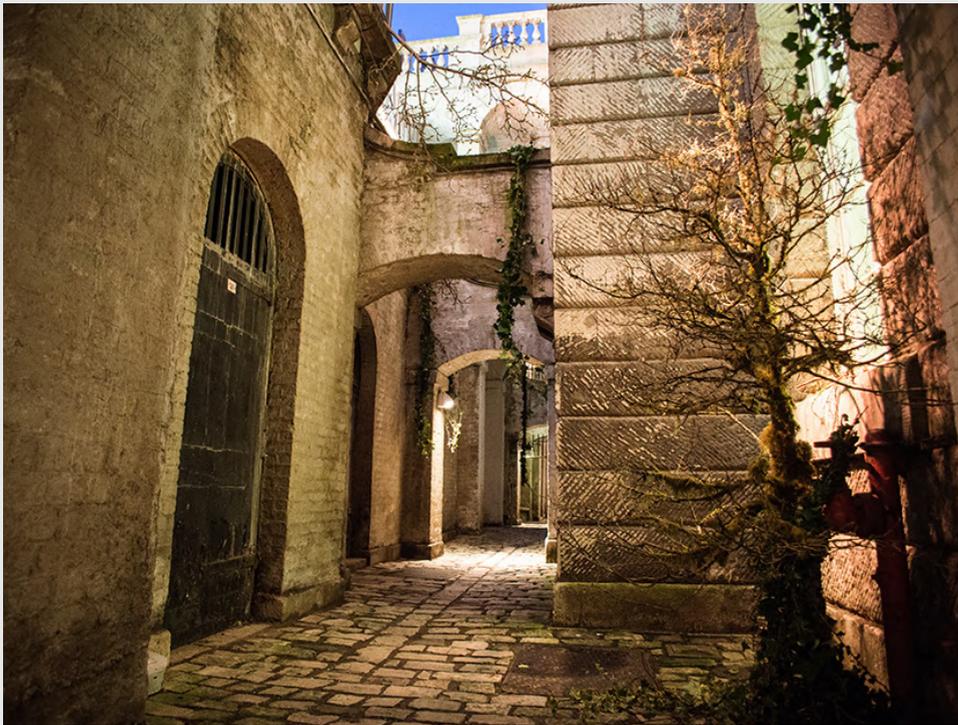
Exclusive hire from 18:00
Available for 24-hour set ups
Limited availability

The Edmond J. Safra Fountain Court 60.3m x 44.2m



‘It was definitely one of the best experiences I’ve had personally working with a venue and I know our production team also found the process and the help you were able to give us really useful.’

— HK Strategies



LIGHTWELLS AND DEADHOUSE

If you are looking to take your event beyond the ordinary and into the unknown, this unique subterranean space, rich in atmosphere and character, is the ideal location.

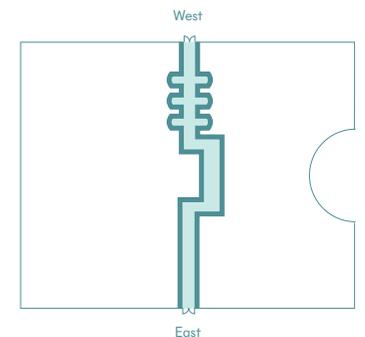
Our most atmospheric space lies hidden from the public gaze, one level below our famous fountains. Running along three sides of The Edmond J. Safra Fountain Court, the Lightwells are a long-time favourite of location managers for major film and television series. The Deadhouse, meanwhile,

runs directly beneath the Edmond J. Safra Fountain Court, and its eerie memorials set into the walls help lend this underground tunnel an ambience all its own.

Descending the stairs from the courtyard, you will discover the unique architecture and unexpected hidden depths of Somerset House. With an abundance of secret nooks and crannies, this fascinating space is perfect for creative and surprising events with an edge.

200

Reception



Exclusive hire daytime and evening events
 Available for 24-hour set ups
 Limited availability
 Late night license available on request

Lightwells and deadhouse 188m²

'I love Somerset House, it feels like home. The teams are always super friendly and go out of their way to help!'

— SABIRAH





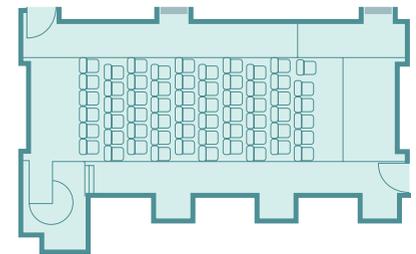
SCREENING ROOM

With fixed seating for 60 guests, and the possibility of adding 10 additional seats, the Screening Room offers an ideal space for presentations and lectures. With built in AV and a technician on hand, you can sit back and let your event run smoothly and

efficiently in this quiet, stylish space. Offering a blank canvas, clients can brand the Screening Room as they wish. For a breath of fresh air, you can step outside and enjoy the nearby Embankment Galleries which host some of our major exhibitions.

60

Theatre style*



Exclusive hire daytime and evening events
Late night license available on request
*Option to add 10 extra seats

Screening room 57.1m²

EVENT OFFERS

CHRISTMAS PARTY PACKAGES

Host your Christmas celebration at one of London's most spectacular festive settings. Set in the heart of London, our Christmas package combines the perfect location for your party with all of your food, drink and entertainment options taken care of, while our dedicated team will be on hand to ensure your guests enjoy a celebration like no other.

Get in touch with the team today for more information on this year's package options and download a copy [here](#).

'The venue was great, everybody said how they liked that it was in different rooms and not one big room and it was just the right size. The DJ was brilliant and played some great music so all in all everything was perfect. Thank you so much...I will be in touch next year to re-book...'

— Newton Investment Management

'Our event was a total success, it was amazing to host our guests at such an iconic venue! We have had extremely positive feedback and having the ice rink for an hour exclusively was really the icing on the cake. Everything ran so smoothly as well, your team were great.'

— GHD

SUMMER EVENTS

Set against the backdrop of Somerset House's iconic façade and with breath-taking views across the Thames, the River Terrace is one of our award-winning exclusive outdoor spaces - the perfect location to invite your guests to enjoy a private reception while the London landmarks light up your summer event.

Our River Terrace can host up to 500 people for a standing reception or, can be made to feel more intimate for smaller numbers.

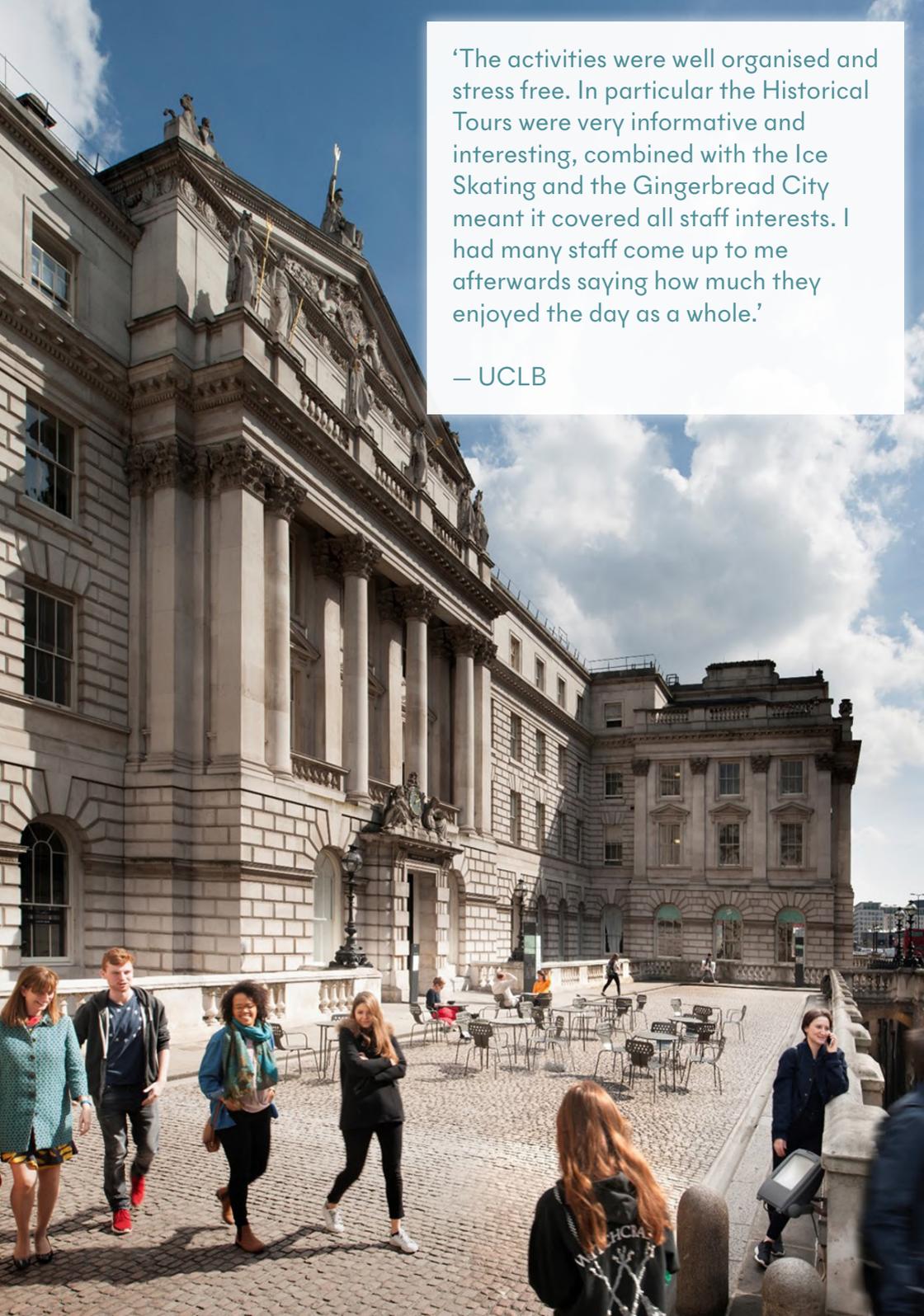
For larger numbers of up to 800, guests can also combine the River Terrace with Somerset House Terrace Bar with San Miguel.

More information on our current summer offers can be found [here](#).

'We just wanted to share how happy we were with the results of the event last night. We had great feedback so far! So thank you so much for working with us on delivering it. We thoroughly enjoyed working with you and the team in executing this project.'

— Gordon Brothers





‘The activities were well organised and stress free. In particular the Historical Tours were very informative and interesting, combined with the Ice Skating and the Gingerbread City meant it covered all staff interests. I had many staff come up to me afterwards saying how much they enjoyed the day as a whole.’

— UCLB

ENHANCE YOUR EVENT

“Our event at Somerset House was a great success. From the initial enquiry to the main event we were looked after by a highly professional team who were on hand to assist every step of the way. I would highly recommend the Historic Tours as this was greatly received and the tour guides were just amazing! So knowledgeable which rounded off a perfect event experience!”
EDF – Corporate Communications Manager

From season to season, our diverse cultural programme is ever changing, offering opportunities to enhance your event and provide guests with an unforgettable experience at Somerset House. To find out more on our current cultural programme contact the team.

PRIVATE VIEWS

Combine your event with exclusive access to one of our current exhibitions.

GUEST TICKETS

Surprise your guests with tickets to a live event or an exhibition alongside your event.

EXHIBITION TOURS & TALKS

Offer your guests a unique insight into one of our exhibitions with a private tour. Alternatively, give your guests a curated talk on the themes of the exhibition before exploring the show.

BEHIND THE SCENES TOURS

Take a walk through the varied and surprising history of the site, take a peek behind closed doors, step into our fascinating Deadhouse, explore an unrivalled architectural gem and learn more about the very special story of this building and amazing individuals who have lived and worked here across the centuries.

THE COURTAULD

Home to one of the greatest art collections in the UK and located in the historical setting of Somerset House, The Courtauld provides a unique opportunity to host your guests amongst iconic works by Manet, Degas, Monet, Van Gogh, Gauguin, and Cézanne, amongst other remarkable works from the middle ages to the present day.

Clients can elevate their event with exclusive access to one of The Courtauld’s special exhibitions, before sitting down for dinner in our stunning Portico Rooms.

As part of this exclusive offer, your guests will commence their special evening with drinks, canapés, and a private viewing of one of the greatest art collections in the UK, before walking across Somerset House’s iconic Edmond J Safra Fountain Court to the Portico Rooms for an exclusive dining experience. Whether you prefer to watch the sunset across the River Thames from the south facing balcony or marvel at our sensational fountains and The Courtauld from the north facing balcony, the Portico Rooms are a truly stunning venue. Find out more [here](#).

LOCATION FILMING & PHOTOGRAPHY

Somerset House has elegant rooms, sweeping staircases, atmospheric lightwells, picturesque terraces, a spectacular courtyard and all manner of interesting lesser known spaces.

From our commanding series of rooftops you'll find the perfect shot of the London skyline, with views across the city and River Thames, taking in the Southbank, the London Eye and Westminster to the east, and St. Paul's Cathedral to the West. They also make the perfect location for high level shots, stunts and chase scenes.

Somerset House has become a leading location for major film and television series, and an iconic backdrop for major

brands' photoshoots. Our flexibility and ability to find new spaces to utilise on-site, featuring both the historic and the contemporary, means that we are always likely to have something that will raise the bar for your brief.

Download our Film Location and Photography Pack [here](#).

'A gem of a place and your team were all great. Very professional, personable and understanding of us. Thank you so much for your hard work, enabling a successful shoot in a fantastic location.'

— Location Manager



SUPPORT US



Somerset House is London's working arts centre. We are an independent charity, receiving no regular public funding. Instead, we generate income through renting space, commercial event income and with the generous support of our patrons, charitable trusts and foundations and our visitors.

The funds we raise help to present our diverse cultural programme, sustain our community of resident artists and deliver our young people's programmes.

There are many ways you can support as either individual or through your business. Please get in touch with our Development Team to learn more at supportus@somerset-house.org.uk

INDIVIDUALS

- Individuals and couples are able to join our Supporters' Court, an initiative for patrons who share in our artistic vision and support for the next generation of creatives.

CORPORATE PARTNERS & SPONSORS

- Opportunities are available for brand partnerships ranging from headline sponsorship of specific exhibitions and events to pouring rights and year-round partnerships across the site.
- Businesses and organisations can join as Corporate Members with employee and client engagement benefits across our wide-ranging cultural programme

SUSTAINABILITY

At Somerset House we are actively responding to environmental issues, and aim to be cultural leaders in championing sustainability, both through the practical management of our Grade 1 listed historical site and thematically as part of our year round cultural programme. This includes an Edible Utopia programme, developed to utilise waste from on-site cafes and restaurants to create inspired new menus.

A combined cooling, heating and power plant generates over 50% of all electricity used

on-site. The heat generated by this process then goes to warm the building during winter and cool it in summer, dramatically reducing our CO2 emissions.

By working together with visitors and the 2500+ resident creative community, we are committed to collectively reducing our impact on the planet.

You can download our sustainability booklet, featuring top tips on how to host a sustainable event at Somerset House, [here](#).



Somerset House is proud to be an accredited Living Wage payer. We pay all of our staff and sub-contractors the London Living Wage.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION



Somerset House is more than a building, it is a global platform for creativity, dedicated to nurturing and empowering ideas, backing newness and championing openness. Somerset House draws on its diverse cultural programme and creative community to provide event organisers with a unique offering.

We are committed to building a diverse and inclusive community reflecting the diversity of our society. A community of staff, residents, and audience where everyone feels valued, where their contribution matters and where they can reach their full potential, irrespective of their background, identity or circumstances.

We aim to ensure the diversity of all our staff including volunteers and trustees reflects our society as fully as possible. Similarly, we aim to be home to a resident community of artists and enterprises from an equally diverse range of situations, backgrounds, and disciplines.

On 1 June 2020, Somerset House released a public statement, adding our voice in support of an end to systemic racism and inequality against Black people. Since then, Somerset House has been publicly releasing information on the actions it is taking to combat racism. We have committed to sharing our progress every six months, providing greater transparency to our work so that we can continue to be held to account and enact change. We recognise that this is a journey. We regularly discuss our areas of priority and develop our approaches in between the updates we share. We continue to work towards the end of systemic racism. We are committed to being actively anti-racist across all areas of our work and we are determined that all this work in progress will lead to long term culture change at Somerset House. We have divided our focus into 5 key areas: History, Community, Workforce & Recruitment, Language and Procedures & Policy. A comprehensive list of our current actions can be found [here](#).

Somerset House, Strand
London WC2R 1LA

OUR LOCATION



By London Underground
Nearest stations:

- Temple (Circle & District lines; 250 metres, 5 min walk)
- Covent Garden (Piccadilly line; 650m, 8min)
- Charing Cross (Bakerloo & Northern lines; 700m, 10min)
- Embankment (Circle & District lines; 700m, 10min)
- Waterloo (Bakerloo, Waterloo & City, Jubilee & Northern line; 800m, 11min)

By rail

- Nearest stations:
- Charing Cross (700m, 10min)
- Blackfriars (1km, 13min)
- Waterloo (1km, 13min)

By river

River Bus Services RB1, RB2 and RB6 all stop at Embankment Pier, roughly 600 metres from Somerset House.

By bicycle

There are bike stands on the Strand, Aldwych and Victoria Embankment, close to Somerset House. There are also several Santander Cycles docking stations near Somerset House.



Illustrations by lukecharles