HISTORY FACULTY, CAMBRIDGE

This building was the subject of a RIBA competition and, apart from
the change in siting noted below, it is
almost identical in the plan pro-
tect. The site, adjoining the Jews
Centre in Grange Avenue, origi-
nally included more land directly to
the west. After the competition it
was found that only half the land was
available, and at short notice the
building had to be readjusted or
less centrally and turned from being
east to north, away from the existing
site building. Until the campus is
further extended it then appears
conveniently located, but when future
development is completed the
History Faculty will be established
in a position of central importance
and the terrace at the front will
become a fully walk-over, providing
short cuts and routes for student
simulation.

In view of its eventual final position
it was necessary to provide multi-
directional approaches. There are
four entrances, two at ground level,
with separate entrance lobbies con-
cected by the corridors adjacent to
the corridors. At the front of the
building there is also an approach by
ramp to the service entrance, and at
first floor there are minor service
exits except at the main entrance
shaped/brick adjacent to the common
rooms. These can be used by students
and staff taking short cuts across the
building to the presence banches, also
to the adjoining car park.

The accommodation includes a read-
ing room for 30 (10,800 sq ft of shiel-
ding) which accounts for approxi-
mately half the floor area of the
building. Staff rooms, seminar rooms
and common rooms. The entrance
to the reading room opens into
the central hall of the campus area
where the desks are
hoised. The book shelves are
found in each of the four
levels and the clerks sit at
rallying on high lines from the
control desk, which is the main
superintendence of the reading room
and book stack. The control desk is
also a counter from which heating,
lit-
ing and ventilation are adjusted.
The extract machines at the top of
the glassed roof are also controlled
from this desk. The reading room meeting
space is the main subject of the
building. It is a sunken area
around the main space. Beyond the bookshop is a continuous bench top also
for students use.

The steel glass roof over the reading
rooms has a sun and glass layers
which accounts for the upper controllable adjustable louvers to ventilate
the space located on the roof frames
between the two layers of glass. The
space is simple in its technical aspects
and at various levels, there are clerks
providing access to the lighting
machinery. The under skin of glassing is
translucent, producing natural
light on the reading tables. The reading
mechanism that created the sloping glass ceiling ensures the air coming from the
floor to be drawn upwards and
passing through ventilation at the
base of the roof. In wet weather this
process is intensified by using three
separately operating extract machi-

These are the glass surfaces are cleaned by using long-arm vacuum cleaner from the outside.