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National Gallery, London

The National Gallery in London is a treasured monument of England which was founded in 1824. It is an exquisite 19th century building wherein over 2300 painting are housed.

After a lengthy discussion about the best location for the gallery, The Parliament finally agreed to Trafalgar Square in 1831 as it was considered to be the centre of the City of London.

The National Gallery as we know it today is used for leisurely and educational purposes. Many people come to look at the art that the building holds and to admire the architecture of the building itself. There is much history, not only to the art work within the building but the building itself. This makes it ideal for the enjoyment of the public of all ages no matter what their preference.

After much thought, I finally decided on an idea to recreate this space. I definitely wanted to maintain the architecture of the building. I wanted to retain as much of the building's splendour as possible purely for its history and its delicate aesthetics. I would like to use the National Gallery as a banqueting suite, with a bit of a twist to it. I know that the National Gallery is absolutely huge therefore I would like to use some of the existing rooms as the banqueting halls. Taking full advantage of the vast space the National Gallery holds will allow for greatest efficacy ensuring that there is as little waste as possible whilst allowing its natural beauty to be viewed by many.

Using historic buildings other than the conventional museum and gallery, I think would sound appealing to the public; even if it is more so to the younger generations. Youngsters being able to utilise and learn about the history of their country would be great as they could pass this information on to future generations.

Weddings these days are becoming more and more contemporary. By having an interior of the 19th Century will give people the sense of history and will add some variety to their weddings. It is obvious that white weddings will probably benefit the most from the interior as it fits in perfectly with their culture. However, what is there to say that we can't cater for the other cultures who would want to change up their venue a little? This is where the second part to my idea comes in.

As there are many floors to the building, including basements I would like to propose that each floor is utilised for something different. By this I mean that the wedding preparations for the specific culture are on a set floor. The space we have here is large enough to use for so many different things, therefore I have decided to take full advantage of this and use the space for as many things as I can.

I would like to use the Sainsbury wings on each floor as the banqueting halls; however, these banqueting halls/suites will be unique to one another. I understand that we live in a multicultural society and the cultures within our community are continually changing and growing. Hence, I would like for the National Gallery to cater for as many as these cultures as possible.

As there is so much room to play around with; on each of the floors of the main areas there would be a variety of shops available to purchase all things needed for weddings. A variety of shops ranging from clothes, jewellery and cake shops to wedding planning offices and caterers. These

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choices will be available for different cultures and religions. This demonstrates how people of different walks of life are able to communicate and work together to create the perfect day.

As there are 5 floors which can be used, I have decided to use them for the following types of weddings:

- White weddings – this includes from different countries, if it is going to be a predominantly white wedding then the same halls can be used, with some change up to the venue which would be suited for the particular type of white wedding.
- Asian weddings – this would mainly be Indian and Pakistani weddings. There are a few religions between these ethnicities/cultures, therefore we would provide for the different needs, but once again, the same halls can be used as there are many similarities in the ceremonies.
- Chinese/oriental weddings – I understand that there a number of things that take place on the wedding day before the main ceremony; therefore there will be a number of rooms provided for these rituals/ceremonies to take place.
- Arab/Eastern weddings – once again there are a number of ceremonies that take place, so either a variety of rooms or the same room could be used more than once.

I understand that the basement levels can't be fully accessed, but the parts that can be accessed I would like to use those spaces for food tasting areas, this would be situated partly on the -2 and -3 floors.

As I mentioned earlier that I would like to have the wedding and planning facilities available to clients; each cultures wedding facilities will be based on the separate floors according to where the wedding hall is situated. These facilities include: catering services, cake services, wedding planners, clothing shops, jewellery and accessory shops, shoe shops, venue decoration shops and invitation card designers. These services will be available to people who are generally wedding shopping regardless of whether they have booked a hall for their wedding to take place at the National Gallery. However, the priority would be of those who to have a hall booked at the National Gallery.

When people come to book a hall or for wedding preparations, a good idea would be to give people a guided walk of either the entire building or on just the area of facilities they require. This way people are not bombarded with more history than their brain can handle; but with little bits they can take in small doses which is presented slightly informally so questions can be asked.

I can imagine the National Gallery to be extremely busy especially as there is enough space for more than one wedding to take place at a time. But if certain days could be kept free to designate time for the public to view the building; learn of its history, admire its architecture and how the interior has been changed to cater for its purpose today, I think many people from all over the world would love to come and visit.

Although I am trying to keep the changes within the building to a minimum, so that its architecture and interior can be justified; on a whole I am hoping for this change to the national museum to be educational of some sort.

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We sometimes forget that we never stop learning, so, wouldn't it be a good idea to keep the adults learning as well as the kids? So many of us know very little about the history behind these significant buildings; therefore, by creating a place of occasion, we can retain history and teach people of different cultures about the country in which they live in.

I feel that this is nice way of showing the community that they are all welcome in society and understood. It could also help to educate people on different cultures and backgrounds, so the educational element is still there but just not in the conventional form one would think it would be in. It is a good way of getting people of different faiths and backgrounds together. Visitors from other countries would also be able to learn about Britain: where we started off and how we got to where we are today; and quite frankly we would not be here if it was not for the help of the many hands that have helped us become a multicultural society.

I believe that it is very important to preserve the history of a country; however, I also feel that nowadays history needs to appeal to people of all ages and cultures as there is such a mix of faiths and backgrounds in all countries. We live in a multicultural society; hence why I consider that it is our duty to ensure that everybody has access to a good understanding of the society and country in which they live in.