



John Lewis, Oxford Street, London

JOHN LEWIS STEPS UP ACTION ON £61.5M FLAGSHIP STORE



As part of the £61.5 million reconfiguration of John Lewis Oxford Street, 12 escalators, weighing a total of 168 tonnes, were lowered through the roof of the flagship store.

Traffic was prevented from driving along one side of the store as this precise manoeuvre –allowing only a 10mm margin for error – was managed by retail management contractor Styles & Wood. Architects and lead consultants for the project are Wilson Mason and Partners.

This is the second set of escalators to be positioned in store – the first 14 were lowered into place in September and were switched on earlier this month. Placed at the front of the shop, the glass sided escalators will travel through an opened-up well, doused in natural light from its doomed roof and will provide customers unobstructed views of Oxford Street's 50 departments spanning five floors.

Steve Cox, project partner at Wilson Mason, comments: "The escalators went in without any problems. Their new location provides a main axis vertically through the store and is a fantastic focal point of the refurbishment."

The store has also recently announced it will open its first ever food hall. As part of John Lewis' commitment to ensuring the West End remains the UK's premier shopping destination, a new food hall will open in time for Christmas next year.

This concept, developed in partnership with Waitrose, will be unique to the Oxford Street store and located in the basement of John Lewis. The new food hall will be accessible via two new escalators from a designated entrance in Cavendish Square as well as from the china and glass department in the basement.



Charlie Mayfield, Managing Director of John Lewis, comments: "This exciting development for John Lewis Oxford Street is a milestone in our refurbishment programme. It demonstrates both John Lewis' and Waitrose's commitment to bring innovation and quality products to shoppers in the West End."

As well as shopping for food, customers at John Lewis Oxford Street will also be able to savour it at the shop's two new eating destinations. As part of the refurbishment The Place To Eat has been moved from the third to the fifth floor with extended seating to provide a new restaurant experience. Window seats provide fantastic views of the West End and food cooked in view of customers will give the feel of eating at 'the chef's table.'

In its place on the third floor will be a contemporary Brasserie, offering shoppers a relaxed space for mid-shop refreshment.

John Lewis Oxford Street will also become more energy efficient as part of the £61.5 million investment. Working in partnership with the Carbon Trust the planned refurbishments will reduce the shop's carbon dioxide emissions by almost a quarter, a decrease of 1,300 tonnes.

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