

SMBL selects Mace for £1.1bn British Library development

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SMBL, a company partnered with the British Library and wholly owned by Mitsui Fudosan UK Ltd., has selected [Mace](#) as construction manager on the £1.1 billion new development of the Library's St Pancras site.

The selection of Mace marks the latest milestone in the project's timeline, following the announcement in March 2025 confirming Mitsui Fudosan's commitment to the development.

Mace will join the project under the direction of development manager Stanhope Plc and will contribute construction expertise for the procurement and delivery phase of the development.

The proposals include a 100,000 sq ft (9,290 sq m) extension to the British Library comprising new spaces to enhance the Library's public service offer, provide more than 600,000 sq ft (55,742 sq m) of commercial facilities and integrate Crossrail 2 infrastructure. The project includes exhibition galleries, events spaces and learning facilities. Located at the heart of London's Knowledge Quarter, the development will incorporate circulation areas to connect it with the existing Library building and provide easy access from all directions through the enhanced facility. It will also include provision to extend the Library's business offer, with maker spaces to create and pilot products. The Library is launching a major fundraising campaign to bring these areas to life.

Construction is due to start on site in 2026 once detailed design is complete and planning conditions met. The construction work is expected to take around six years to complete.

Jason Millett, Mace Group Chief Executive said: "We are delighted to be selected as Construction Manager for the British Library development proposals. This is a high-profile project with international significance

and Mace's long-established expertise and track record in delivering other major schemes make us well placed for this role."

Mace, the international consultancy and construction company, has played a key role in delivering major projects such as The Shard, London 2012 Olympics infrastructure and Heathrow Terminal 5.