



13a



13b



14

13 The reading room is treated as a treasure chest  
 a Externally, clad in timber separated by metal bands, it floats, supported by huge precast beams, over a stone base (*Andrew Southall/arcblue.com*)  
 b Internally, it is a very formal, well-lit space with the long

reading table running between its green panelled walls

14 The metal bands of the reading room are echoed in the framing of the transparent exhibition space

15 Construction is based on materials in common use on the island.

a Diagram showing identifying key elements, each of which utilizes a particular material: stone for the L-shaped wall facing the courtyard; white rendered blockwork for the repository and back of the public wing; red rendered block for the angled wall

below the porte cochère; and timber for the reading room "chest"  
 b Precast concrete stair units (*Andrew Southall/arcblue.com*)  
 c Jersey granite "vener" peeled back to expose the white load-bearing wall and windows to education room

16 Collaboration with artists began at an early stage of design  
 a Some of Richard Powell's copper reliefs of scattered documents set into the curved precast lip to the court lawn. See also 12b  
 b Etched glass panels by Elisabeth Taylor form part of the main stair balustrade

17 Landscape was an integral part of the design from the outset  
 a Diagram showing the three principal external spaces: the Archive place (left), the garden (top right) and the court (bottom)  
 b The alpha and omega herb pattern on the court lawn