

# REUSE AND REDESIGN OF SOMERSET HOUSE

## A NEW INTERPRETATION OF QUEEN ANNE STYLE



Figure 1 - Somerset House, 1840s  
 Figure 2 - Somerset House, 1900s  
 Figure 3 - Somerset House, 1990s  
 Figure 4 - Somerset House, 2000s

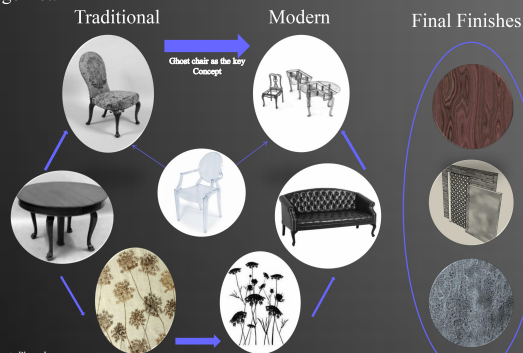
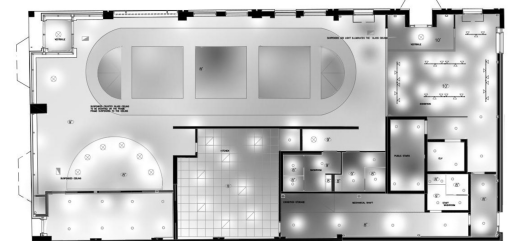
### Project Goals (Focus Topics)

The aim of this project is to investigate the reuse of the remains of Somerset House in order to turn its first floor into a restaurant and an exhibition. Somerset House is located at the corner of Somerset St. and Bank St. in the Centretown neighbourhood of Ottawa. Built in the 1890s, the property was a viable commercial structure until it became derelict in the 1990s and was closed to the public in 2004. What now remains is the façade of the building and three stories of empty space; this alone makes this project a complex one. I shall incorporate the façade into my design. Since the building is designated as a heritage site, the design will include sustainability and universal design elements based on the Heritage Act.

Since the outer shell of Somerset House cannot be altered the interior space could be designed in a different way, with a new interpretation of the Queen Anne style. The Queen Anne style of furniture that developed after the reign of Queen Anne (1706-1714) is also described as Late Baroque, and is characterized by common features such as cabriole legs, cushioned seats, wing-back chairs, pat feet and an emphasis on line and form. The furniture style was designed in a lighter weight in comparison with previous furniture designs. My intention is to take the concept of lighter furniture and compare it with modern furniture designs, such as the ghost chair that is transparent, and then apply this concept to the use of furniture and finishes in the interior design of Somerset House.



The concept of transparency in finishes such as glass walls or use of screens in combination with other materials in interior walls could create a link between the old and new style.



Senior Project- Phase I  
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Source:  
 Figure 1, 2 - <http://urbisite.blogspot.ca/2012/10/the-banned-hotel-somerset-cita.html>  
 Figure 3 - <http://urbisite.blogspot.ca/2012/10/the-banned-hotel-somerset-cita.html>  
 Figure 4 - <http://enrtable-bd.com/2012/10/09/style-of-glance-queen-anne>

