Fig. 5.1

pages 31 & 32

Fig. 5.1: The site.

Chapter 05

Conception

5.1 Introduction

After a thorough urban site analysis it is possible to depict the necessary conclusions to produce a framework for the conception of an intervention. The development of this framework will explore aspects from the proposed building perimeters to the outside space around it and the character of such spaces. Without cross-referencing the theoretical premise will become evident in this section dealing with the functions of the intervention beyond its programme.

Fig. 5.2 Site plan 1:2500

5.2 Positive Outdoor Space

5.2.1 Positive and negative space

The spaces on site has been identified and characterized according to a specific function. All subsidiary spaces promote the idea of the whole as an event space. This event space is known for social events taking place with the University buildings as backdrop. Spaces have been defined in such a way that there is no residual space or negative spaces. Characterization and detailing of these spaces are formulated considering circulation through the space, functions spilling out onto it and new function (programme). All spaces are robust in function and can be changed according to user or event requirements.

Spaces:

1 Stage 01:

This space is developed as a stage area with the Humanities building as backdrop to host a rock concert or a graduation ceremony. The surfaces are treated with materials suitable for standing crowds and temporary seating.

2 Crowd gathering space:

This green space is kept open to host a number of functions. The primary function is to provide a space for a crowd to gather and to host events like markets and raft building. During daytime this area will be used as a bicycle parking guarded to ensure safety.

3 Stage 02:

This stage in front of "Tukkiewerf" has a more private character and able to feature smaller shows and host interval shows. This stage is creating a foyer to "Tukkiewerf" mimicking the situation in the 1920's when the building had a garden approach from Roper Street.

4 Private residential space.

A private space, sunken to accommodate the natural slope with access control allowing only residences to use this space in conjunction with events or as external addition to the hostels.

5 Zoology green space.

With formalized clean-cut landscaping and rolled lawn, this space acts as a iconic garden space linkingg the landmark of the new student centre with the ever presence of the Zoology buildin

6 *Social classroom:*

Set between the two wings of the new development, this space allows users to linger, sit, eat, discuss, talk, look, be seen and meet others. Proposed functions that form the edge conditions can be seen in chapter 7. This space plays a very important part in the function of the building and become the conception of larger events occupying the bigger space.

7 *Stage 03:*

Apart from being a stage to the social classroom, the space doubles up as a quiet, treed space where students can sit and lie down under the trees. This space is elevated by approximately 1m to accommodate natural slope. This space (being a stage) has the new health centre as backdrop.

8 *Northern square.*

This square is optimizing the effects of microclimate and is served with coffee shops. A transitional platform between the campus and the intervention.

5.2.2 Building lines and set-backs

This subject forms a very important part of the framework due to its spatial implications. To retain the street character of Old Duxbury Road a build to line of 5500mm from the curb has been employed to insure a continuous street facade. Building lines is given for buildings on the eastern and western sides of the site where spatial usage has been taken into account in order to develop this data. Southern building lines respect the visual axis towards historical buildings and promote positive external spaces.

5.2.3 Edge animation

The proposed foot print (discussed in the next section) allows for interaction to all active edges. The edges have all been identified in relation to their existing energy and the potential of channelling vitality from them. The northern edge forms a filter edge with the advantage of ideal microclimatic conditions, it is therefore necessary to use filter openings supported by animated programmatic activities that spill out onto the sidewalk. The edge conditions of the central space must also be highly animated and bring vibrancy to the square. In cases where programme requires more enclosure prominent visual links must be established. The southern edge of the site acts as a feature for the intervention and it is proposed that edges are created within the building to promote a transitional function and programme that promote this transition. Edges along the main routes should be designed to pull users into the intervention.

5.2.4 Buildings

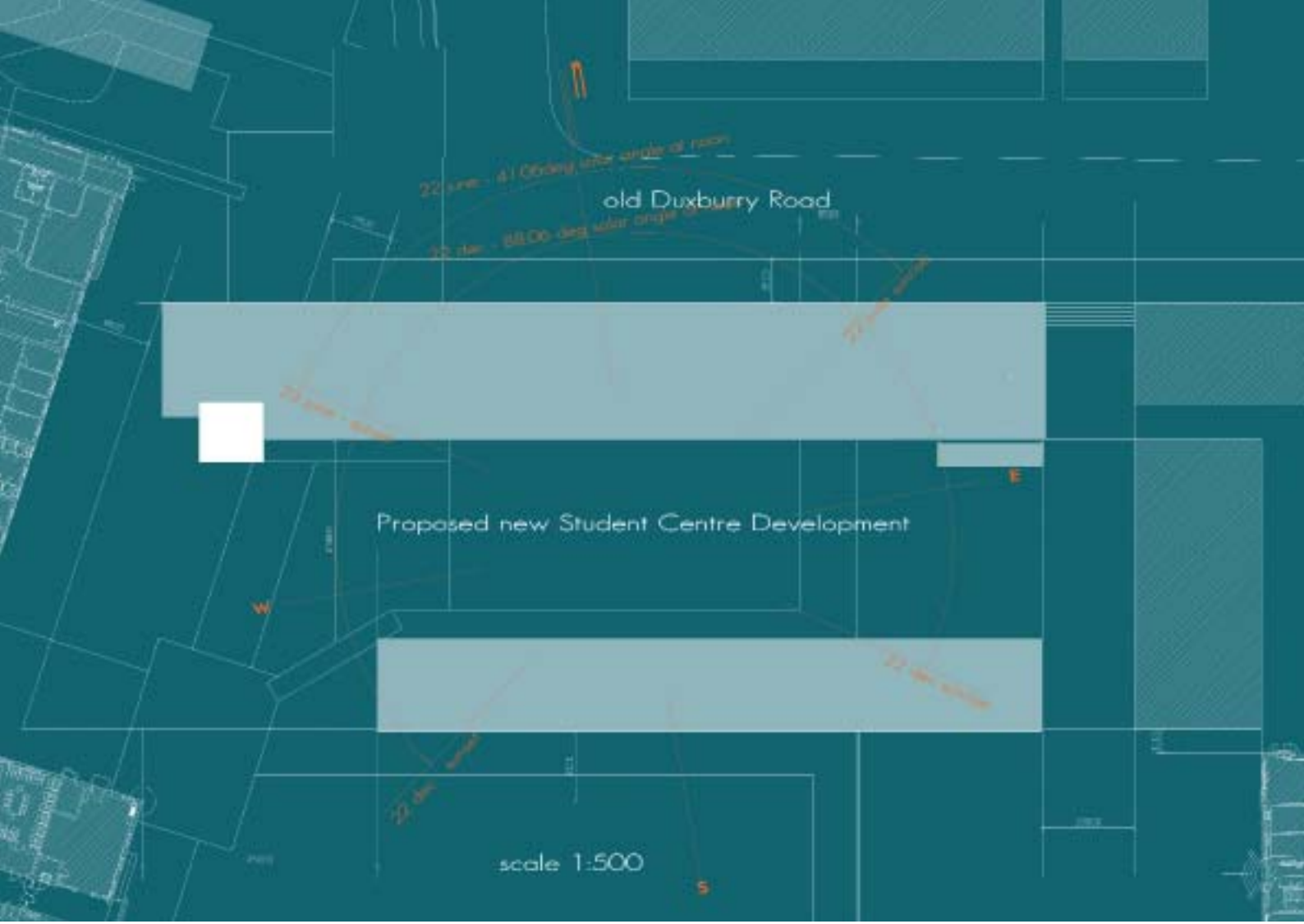
In order to define the site it is necessary to create a northern edge, this edge, in the form of a building will have to span most of the length of that boundary up to the proposed building lines. This building must feature as an edge in height as well and to achieve that be at least 12m high to relate to the base of the Humanities building. Building depth are fixed at a maximum of 14m to allow for an optimum ratio between programmable floor space, passive heating/cooling and natural light usage. This building must step down to accommodate the neighbouring buildings in height.

The building forming the southern edge is proposed to serve on ground level and optimize roof space by the possibility of a spectator pavilion. The building must be created in such a way that it place emphasis on the event it contains. The incomparable visibility of this building will encourage vitality.

The two wings of the intervention can be linked in two ways of which the first is an undercover eating area that is situated to the eastern side and the second, in character.

Fig. 5.3

Fig. 5.4



Building lines and setbacks

Fig. 5.3: (right) Existing hard surfaces.
Fig. 5.4: (below right) Existing soft surfaces.
Fig. 5.5: (top) Building lines and set-backs.


Fig. 5.6


Fig. 5.7


Fig. 5.8


Fig. 5.9


Fig. 5.10

5.3 A prosperous student realm


Fig. 5.11

Fig. 5.6-5.10: (above) The student realm.
Fig. 5.11: Exposed aggregate

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5.3.1 Focus activity areas

It is very important to maintain high visibility throughout the intervention. Wherever students meet, sit, walk, views must be emphasized and established across spaces to make the development clear from the outset. Open spaces must reveal their character at first glance in order to provide choice as to most appropriate space. Seating must be of high quality and clean at all times while it is provided under covered areas, open shaded areas and sunny areas at equal ratios. Spaces must not be cluttered with signage and other obstructions in order to keep maximum open space for games and events unaccounted for.

5.3.2 Versatility

Nowhere in this document mention is made of race or cultural differences although the approach to new spaces is one of versatility. Social spaces are used as places for interaction between all groups with the edges assisting it. Because spaces are used very differently by different cultures, the main space is divided into many different conditions while still regarded as one space.

5.3.3 Shortest routes

Movement through the site has been carefully documented and routes are proposed accordingly. The majority of users make use of the route on the western side and it is therefore proposed to be treated as the main axial route with a secondary route to the eastern side. The main space is organized with circulation all around and importance is given to the southern side due to its link with the main route past the development. The opportunity exists to cross the main space to be more energy efficient while this can provide more chance interaction.

5.3.4 Stimulation of the senses

Apart from microclimate textures is playing an important role in the social realm. (Davies, 2000:100) Textures will be applied to enhance anticipated actions. Ground surfaces, permeable or sloping towards permeable ground cover, vary from solid exposed aggregate to the smooth organic nature of grass. Textures are chosen in accordance with the change in character over time and the type of activity.

It is proposed that the main space be planted with fever trees to introduce a microcosm of bird life that will stimulate the sense of sound in symphony with the wind brushing over the trees.

Aromatic experiences of different kinds of foods can be allied with natural smells of jasmine or any other distinct organic smells.

5.3.5 Distinctiveness

Local identity

Floor coverings for the new development must all be compatible with the historical treatments. In this case it is planned to make use of the same colour schemes while changing the materials to more contemporary used materials. This means that concrete blocks with redbrick edgings will be replaced with exposed aggregate in combination with redbrick. This material has a monolithic character and directionality can be given by the use of redbrick.

The use of fever trees provides many advantages. The distinct colour and structure of the trees combined with its excellent shading qualities promote a certain distinctiveness to the intervention with a link in character to the rest of campus where they have been planted.

Changeable art

A celebrated position, on the western edge of the main space, has been chosen for a podium where a work of art can be displayed. This piece will be displayed for a one year period where after a competition amongst students of different departments will determine the display for the next year. ■