University of St Andrews

Digital Nexus
Materials, Sustainability, Landscape

Local material palette

The use of soft local sandstone is an attractive characteristic of the Hepburn Gardens Conservation Area. It is the principal building material in the town centre, varying in form from random or coursed rubble in the older buildings, polished ashlar for classical facades and dressed ashlar for 19th century buildings. Its colour varies from grey through to yellow and cream tones.

The North Haugh, located on the Western approach to St Andrews, is a major development started in the late 1960s to provide new science-focussed academic facilities and student residences for the University. The buildings across the campus are predominantly in masonry, concrete and cast stone and are typically flat roofed although Agnes Blackadder Hall has a pitched concrete tiled roof.

Some elements of interest and variation are introduced throughout the campus with the use of copper, coloured masonry and anodised aluminium. There is generally a horizontal emphasis to the buildings.

Andrew Melville Hall is grade A listed with an exterior facing generally in diagonal ribbed concrete panels and flat faced cast concrete. Windows are a light matt grey aluminium and are angular in nature.

The most recently completed and arguably most successful contemporary building is University of St Andrews Powell Hall. The chosen colour palette and material finishes are intended to reflect and enhance the visual amenity within the local North Haugh Campus area.

Sustainability

The University of St Andrews is targeting net zero carbon by 2035.

In line with this ambitious goal, this project will target the Net Zero Public Sector Buildings Standard.

This voluntary standard - developed collaboratively by the Scottish Government, Scottish Futures Trust, Zero Waste Scotland and the NHS - helps to define objectives for construction projects in pursuit of a credible path to net zero operational energy.

Beyond operational carbon, the standard also encourages a focus on embodied carbon, and broader environmental issues, such as air quality, biodiversity, water efficiency, waste reduction, and user health and wellbeing.

Landscape

The landscape proposals are integral to the overall design of the scheme, wrapping the building on all four sides and enhancing connectivity and universal access across the site.

The landscape design is inspired by notable local geology, site constraints, and a desire to complement the range of uses within the building with a broad variety of external spaces, large and small, that promote collaboration, health and wellbeing, and biodiversity.

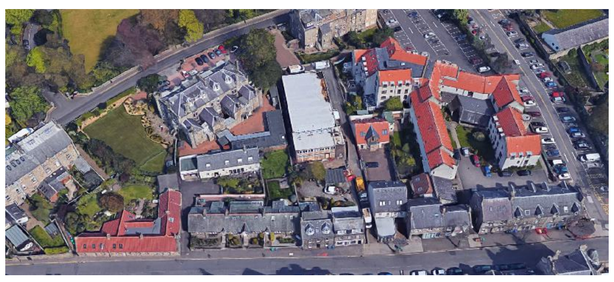
To the north, the new central plaza creates spaces for arrival, gathering, and celebration. The existing holm oak tree is preserved and acts as a familiar landmark at the northern end of the plaza.

To the south, a new plaza is created through infill over the existing embankment. This space allows for level access to the first floor of the building from a popular existing route. Sheltered seating spaces are created amongst the planting.

A new sloped and terraced landscape to the west of the building delivers convenient step free access, and potential outdoor teaching opportunities.

Throughout, extensive new soft landscaping - predominantly featuring native species - will meaningfully enhance biodiversity and bring health and wellbeing benefits for building users and the wider local community.

Context - St Andrews



Aerial view 01 - Argyle Street

Aerial view 02 - South Street / West Port Gate

Aerial view 03 - South Street / West Port Gate

Context - Kennedy Gardens

University Hall

Kennedy Gardens

Wardlaw Wing

Context - North Haugh

Andrew Melville Hall

Gateway Building

Biomolecular Sciences

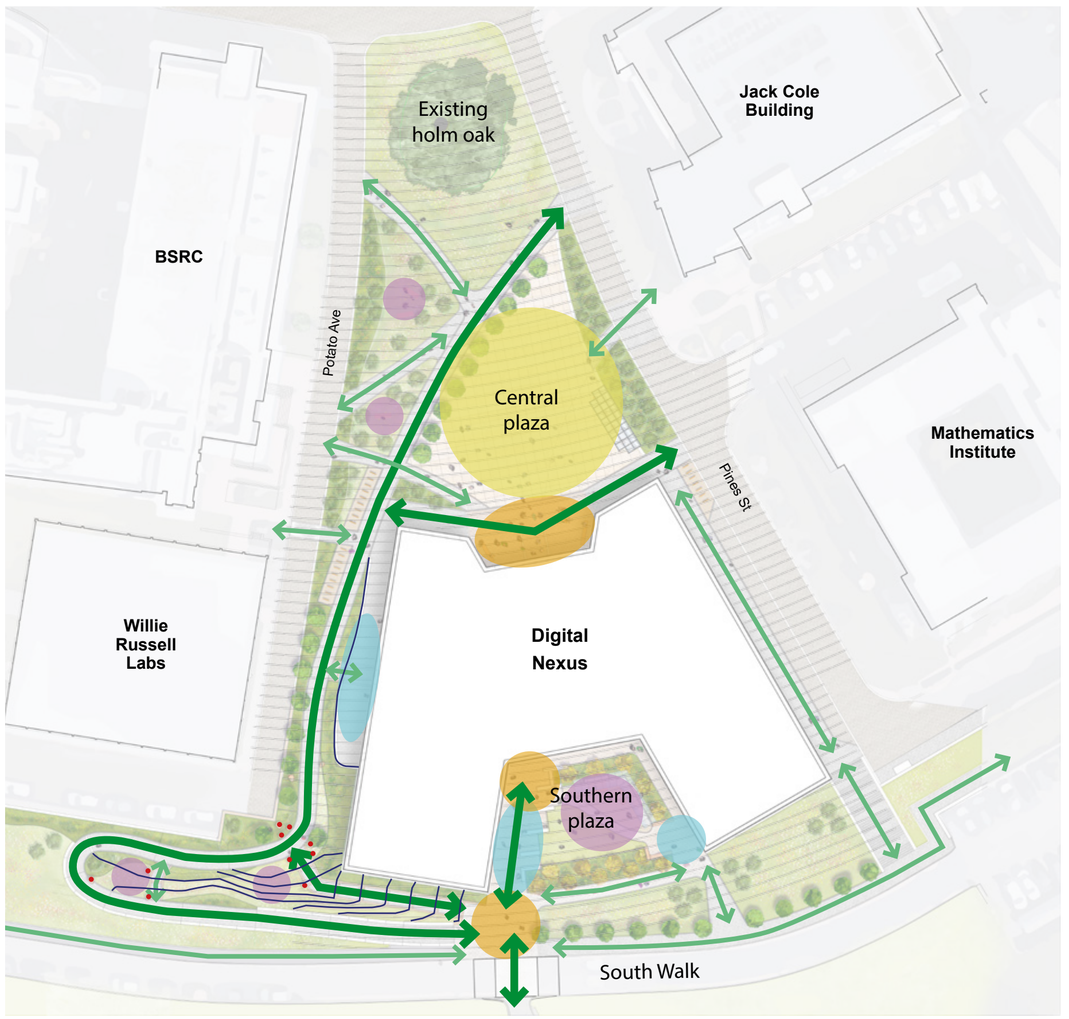
Powell Hall

Jack Cole Building

School of Medicine

Biological Sciences Research Complex

Mathematics Institute



Key

Creating a Variety of Spaces

- Celebration/ Event Space
- Arrival Space
- Spill Out Spaces
- Secure/ Sheltered Spaces
- Primary Pedestrian Connections
- Secondary Pedestrian Connections

Geological Inspiration

- Terraces
- Boulders
- Patterns in the Landscape

HLM Architects · Harley Haddow · LUC · Goodson Associates · gleeds · AtkinsRéalis · Montagu Evans

Board 6