

# Appendix 3

## Applicants' response to ODRP comments

### Landscape design

- Think beyond the redline boundary to minimise the impact of Headington Road and improve the relationship with Gipsy Lane. Set up an enclosure to protect the campus from road noise and define zones that are private and quiet versus active and animated public spaces. Use the trees or introduce a stronger gesture, for example a curved wall, to achieve this.

#### Response

*We have taken on board this feedback in the development of the Landscape plan, and in particular the zoning of space, with parking to act as a buffer, and soft landscaping to be located as close to the building.*

- Safeguard the 1960s quality of the place and strengthen the idea by designing spaces that are both contemporary and reflect the 150 year history of the university; perhaps the horizontality of the 1960s buildings can give cues for the landscape design.

#### Response

*We have used the formality of the existing 1960's buildings to create an open court, surrounded on three sides by buildings and facing east towards Gipsy Lane, with the parking area acting as buffers.*

- Investigate how to improve the spaces between the buildings and back-of-house areas by giving them their own sense of place to animate them, for example use of materials, detailing, texture, colour, plants, light and sunshine, or surviving parts of history embedded in the site.

#### Response

*Landscape proposals for the further spaces around the campus, outside of the current site proposals (demarcated by the red line), will be developed as part of the future campus redevelopment, when those spaces are considered alongside the adjacent buildings. We intend to celebrate the history of the site by retaining and celebrating most of the mature trees (refer to later section).*

- Explore how the material palette of the outdoor spaces, signage and graphics across the campus can complete the overall appearance of the university; use this potential for branding and creating a feeling of arrival.

## Response

*It is proposed that the materials and detailing for the hard landscaping will build upon the palette established in the landscaping of the first phase, in the plaza facing Headington Road and the inner courtyard. However it is noted that all materials should be carefully specified to ensure that they are easily trafficable and avoid creating barriers to impede mobility. It is proposed by OBU to use some of the spaces created between buildings for the location of public artworks to enrich the campus.*

- Commission a landscape architect to support the design development at the earliest stage

## Response

*The current design team have developed the design proposals for the landscape, including the hard landscaping and specification of materials. Landscape designers will be appointed to develop the proposals for the soft landscaping and any detail required.*

## Façades

- Explore how the refurbishment of the buildings can be used as a design generator to combine environmental improvements and a new, ambitious and bold appearance for the university while protecting the elegant 1960s horizontality of the existing façades; accentuate the horizontal feel of the Clerici building for example by addressing the plant facilities on the roof and work in a more aspirational way with the concrete frame of the buildings to retain the “1960s-ness”. Repeating the approach and branding of the recent refurbishment of the Abercrombie building and new main entrance would be unfortunate.

## Response

*The designs were developed to introduce a simpler aesthetic, articulating the horizontality of the original elevations with a stronger horizontal banding in the revised proposals for the Clerici. Layered upon this is a second order of substructure, with a regular banding of deep horizontal mullions, which also add some passive solar shading on the east and west elevations. These mullions also link together the different storeys and provide a sub-frame for the third layer of substructure. This third compositional layer is a horizontal band of external brise soleil, which help with reducing the solar gain to these elevations, which are more highly glazed to provide a greater sense of openness and transparency into the more public pooled teaching and social learning spaces.*

*The advice was quite clear that the new facades shouldn't try to copy the elevational style of the Abercrombie extension, because it was considered important that the history and the origins of the Technical College with its 1960's structures, should not be completely lost.*

- Investigate how to translate the aesthetic complexity of the existing façades into something new; avoid introducing new façade features that do not relate to the structure of the existing building, for example the proposed ground floor treatment with the upper storeys floating which does not appear to be functionally or aesthetically appropriate.

#### Response

*The Sinclair overcladding proposals have been developed to emphasise the regularity of the expressed structural grid of the existing façade of the Sinclair Building. We have celebrated this order in the new façade which has to co-ordinate with the retained façade beneath, eschewing the irregularity of the Abercrombie extension opposite.*

*We have sought to re-create the complex structural layering of the composition of the Clerici facades, articulating the strong horizontal linear form of the Clerici, whilst producing a regular rhythm with the projecting ribbed mullions, which connects the different storeys and emphasises the regularity of the grid. The treatment of solid and glazed elements is composed on each floor, in response to the new internal functions, with greater transparency required at ground level where there are more public and social functions.*

- Define which elements of the existing buildings are more important than others, the entrance and the old library block for example, and prioritise expenditure here.

#### Response

*We have developed elevations which match the complexity of the spaces they enclose, with a hierarchy of specification and detail, whereby those most visible from the public domain have a higher specification and detail.*

- Enhance the setting of the former library and work with its concrete elevations and solid, gritty character.

#### Response

*The design proposals for the former library, have been developed to seek to retain some of the materiality and form of the existing, with the aesthetic of the aggregate faced pre-cast concrete cladding, to be retained in the ground floor frame and parapet level detail. Between these two levels it is necessary to remove much of the structure to permit natural daylight and ventilation to be introduced deep into the plan, thereby opening up the existing structural form. We have therefore introduced a bold new glazed screen with vertical glazing, encapsulating the opened up facades, whilst also emulating the vertical mullions of the new Clerici cladding.*

## Building organisation

- Explore different ways to accentuate the entrances into the building from Gipsy Lane; the proposed orange frame is not fully successful.

### Response

*The design team agreed that a more subtle articulation of the entrance could be achieved, whilst also responding to the suggestion to emphasise and celebrate the original detail of the 1960's architecture. The design was developed to articulate the entrance, by creating a recessed set-back in the façade, which also reveals some of the original circular concrete structure of the original gateway, creating a more "classical" response, reminiscent of a portico.*

- Safeguard the 1960s quality of the interiors including their spatial generosity, for example the double height spaces and link connections.

### Response

*The new design opens up the Gateway into a larger more coherent space, celebrating the original volume of the spaces, whilst also linking them to the adjacent landscape spaces.*

- Reassess the lecture hall and explore how to retain its importance, for example by preserving the ceiling height and using a landscape solution to negotiate the level differences.

### Response

*The design of the Main Hall has been brought into the scheme, and has been developed with the creation of a foyer, which links the flexible hall space with the adjacent landscape space to the north. The landscape outside the foyer has been raised to allow the foyer space to open out, and tiered steps and ramps are proposed to resolve the level differences.*

- Continue to explore how to minimise noise across the buildings and create a calm acoustic environment.

### Response

*The design for the refurbishment of the spaces has been to considered, with the proposed introduction of acoustic baffles suspended from the exposed existing structural soffit. Further detail is provided in the supporting acoustic reports for the buildings, prepared by Arup Acoustics.*