Humanities Hub

Introduction:

The University of Bristol is bringing forward proposals to create new and improved facilities for the School of Humanities.

Humanities is located to the North of the main University precinct and occupies a series of linked villas on Woodland Road.

Following a pre-application submission to the Council, the University and its project team would like to share these emerging proposals with key stakeholders and near neighbours before finalising a scheme and submitting planning and Listed Building applications later in the year.

The brief:

The key aims of the project are to construct a new, world class facility for research and teaching which will assist the University’s ambition to attract the world’s best undergraduate and postgraduate students and staff in the field of Humanities, where Bristol is already a significant global player.

The project will also help to integrate the new Humanities Building with the Arts Complex on Woodland Road, connecting the School to the Multimedia Centre (School of Modern Languages), with wider links to the Arts and Social Science Library and Beacon House.

The proposals:

The current proposal is for a new two-storey building, to the rear of 36 Tyndalls Park Road, and 3 & 5 and 7 & 9 Woodland Road. This will require the demolition of two seminar rooms and link corridors in order to create new teaching facilities, which will comprise student study space, a lecture theatre, seminar rooms and staff offices.

A new accessible faculty entrance, between villas 5 and 7, is also proposed to give the Faculty an entrance with more presence than the existing arrangement as well as access to the new social learning zone.

Externally the proposed works involve combining the former courtyards, behind villas 3 & 5, as part of a hard and soft landscaping scheme. In addition, plans are developing for a new public realm space to the frontage of the villas which will include high quality landscaping enhancements to provide new pedestrian routes for staff students and the public.
The Faculty of Arts, located to the North of the main University precinct, occupies a series of villas on Woodland Road between Tyndalls Park Road and St. Michael’s Park.

Behind the villas are a series of courtyards formed by buildings designed by MacCormack Jamieson Pritchard, housing academic accommodation, common rooms, social/learning spaces and administrative offices.

A linking corridor joins all of the spaces together and provides access to a series of lecture theatres as well as direct links to the Villas.

Woodland Road lies within the Whiteladies Road Conservation Area and to the North of the faculty there are three Grade II listed sets of villas - 36 Tyndalls Park Road, 3 & 5 Woodland Road, and 7 & 9 Woodland Road.

Early analysis suggested that the logical location for a new facility would be to the rear of the listed villas.
Early feasibility studies identified key zones where development could take place.

This assessment informed the potential building footprint and form.

A new entrance gives the faculty more of a presence on Woodland Road.

The scale of the building should be read in relation to the existing villas.

Key facilities have been identified:
- exhibition space
- teaching space
- collaborative/social learning space
- lecture theatre
- staff accommodation
The principles established during the early feasibility studies have been developed with the overall concept guiding the design:

- The new building should be ‘subservient’ to the listed villas.
- The two storey elements to be separated from the listed buildings by single storey links.
- The creation of student study spaces should be prominent and easy to access.
- The lecture theatre is to accommodate 220-240 students.
- Building accessibility to be improved over the existing facilities.
- Demolished accommodation to be replaced with higher quality buildings.

Accommodation created at ground floor includes:
- New main entrance
- Exhibition space
- Flexible teaching space
- Study areas/hot desking
- Collaborative/social learning space
- Lecture theatre
- WCs
- Access to Faculty of Arts existing buildings
- Access to existing villas
- Access to existing lecture theatre (LT1)
- Landscaped courtyards

First floor provides space and opportunities for teaching accommodation and staff facilities.
- Teaching accommodation faces West facing the landscaped courtyard and roof terrace.
- Staff accommodation faces East with smaller scale windows, reducing issues with overlooking to neighbouring properties.
- Roof terrace replaces the existing ground floor courtyard.

Accommodation created at first floor:
- Seminar rooms
- Collaborative/social learning space
- Staff offices
- WCs
- Roof terrace
- Access to roof level escape routes (existing)

Humanities Hub
Draft Proposals - Proposed floor plans
Humanities Hub
Draft Proposals - Proposed 3D sections

Sectional perspective looking East from within two-storey area

Sectional perspective looking North from gallery space

Entrance sketch section looking North from Villa 7

min 3m gap to boundary
new 2 storey facility with basement plantroom
green corridor:
  • open courtyard
  • enclosed courtyard
  • roof garden
existing villa

People Inspired