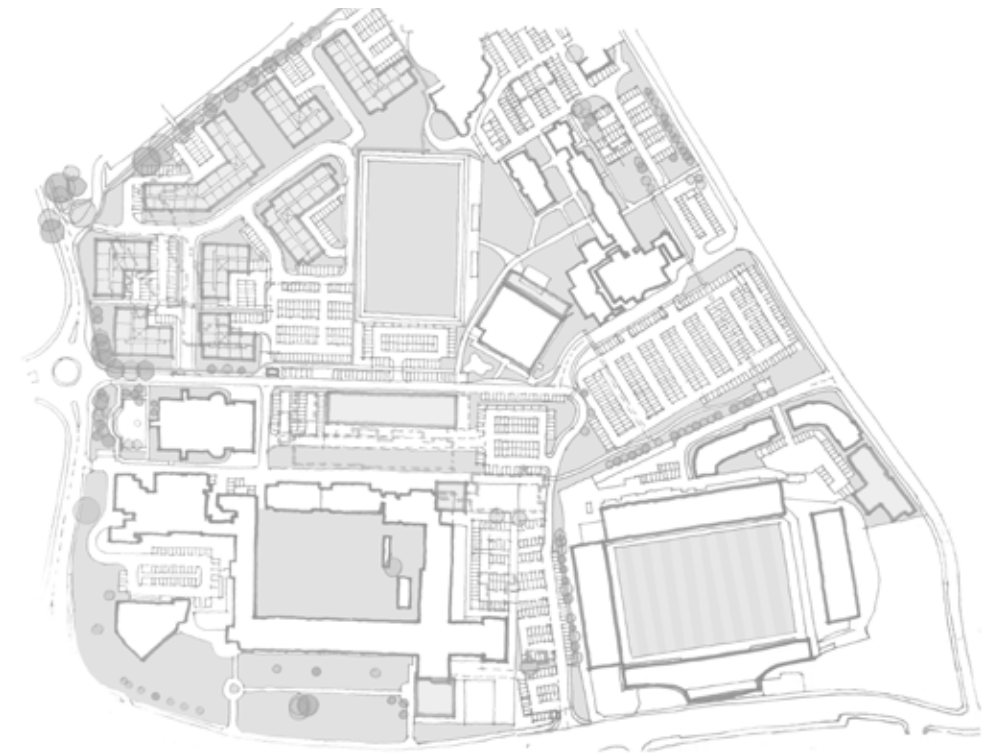




PLAS COCH CAMPUS | WREXHAM

LANDSCAPE DESIGN STATEMENT (3060 503A)

June 2018

Client: Wrexham Glyndwr University



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Materials

The predominant material is brick, in red and brown tones, with brick paved pathways and edges. There are large areas of tarmac car parking that sit within an open flat landscape.

Trees

The site has a green character, with simple tree planting, open lawns, linear hedges and block shrub planting. There is limited ornamental planting. Poplar trees in three linear bands are a prominent feature within the campus landscape.

Existing Wayfinding

The campus currently lacks a sense of arrival or navigability. The proposals for a new entrance pavilion on Mold road would clearly announce the entrance and help new users navigate the campus.

Campus focal landscapes

There are limited existing formal landscape areas where people could gather and meet, or work externally. The landscape does not reflect the creative nature of the courses or a modern attractive landscape.



Vehicle Movement and Destinations

There are three vehicle access points into the campus from the B5101 (west), Mold Road (south) and Crispin Lane (east). The existing and proposed car parking is located directly off the main vehicle route. Parking is also located near to the key destinations including the library, new building entrance pavilions and sports hall.

Located to the north west of the campus site vehicle access is proposed to the private residential development. This would be gated.

Existing access to the Wrexham Village student accommodation is off Crispin Lane. Existing and proposed parking is located within an internal courtyard space.

- Primary vehicle access to the campus
- Vehicle access to student and private accommodation
- Campus parking areas
- Parking for residents
- Key destinations



Pedestrian Movement and Destinations

For users of the campus the main arrival point is from the south, where bus stops are located along Mold Road and the train station is accessed in the south east.

A new plaza space central to Mold Road is proposed to offer a modern arrival space in conjunction with a new entrance pavilion. The key movement would be for users to travel northwards to a central plaza space and then onwards either north, west or east to their selected destination.

If people arrive by car and park within one of the campus car parks, they require direct pedestrian links to their destinations. These are typically along linear pathway routes.

- Primary pedestrian route
- Secondary pedestrian route
- Key landscape arrival space
- Key destination
- Bus stops (either side of Mold Road)



Existing and Proposed Green Infrastructure

The existing campus has large areas of open lawn, low maintenance shrub planting, linear hedgerows and mixed age trees across the campus. The most notable vegetation being the three linear bands of poplar trees in the east. The poplar trees provide a linear tall screen to the stadium.

The location of the existing sports pitch creates a wide open area fronting Crispin Lane, with the proposals for the pitches to become surface level car parking, tree planting to the site boundary would help screen the parking area.

Within the parking zones, tree planting should be considered to visually soften the large areas of hard landscaping to create attractive zones at the heart of the campus site.

Trees help to reduce storm water run off, provide oxygen and offer wildlife habitats.

An existing hedge fronting Mold Road provides a linear green edge to the campus and should be retained.

- Existing trees
- Existing hedge
- Proposed structure trees
- Existing greenspace
- Proposed landscape intervention areas
- Proposed hedge

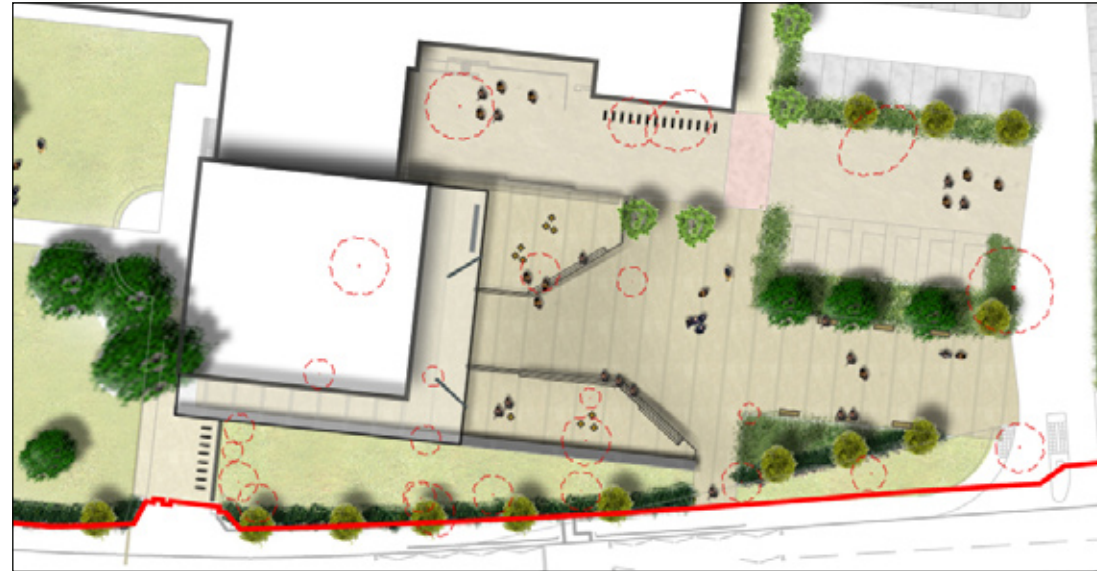




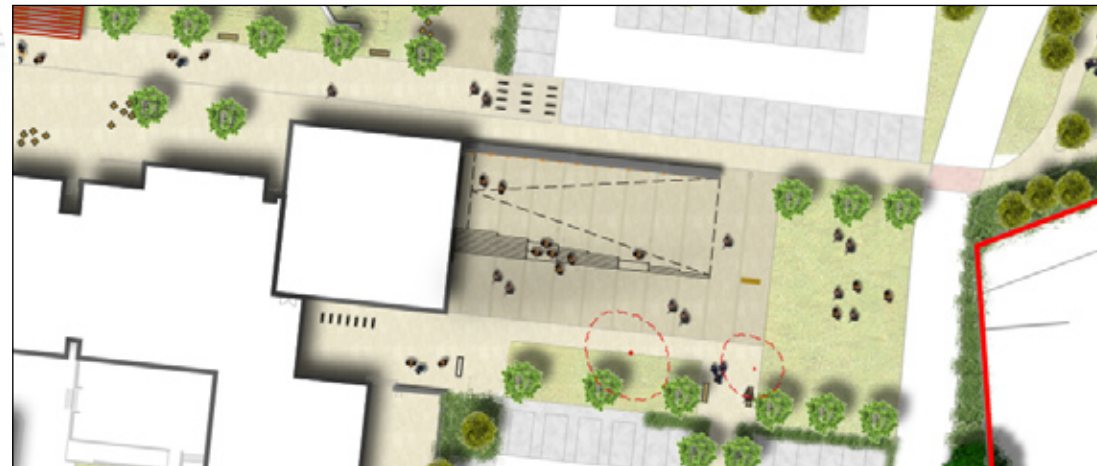
Arrival and Central Plaza

An arrival plaza is proposed to the south of the campus located adjacent to Mold Road. The plaza will frame the setting and arrival space to the new pavilion entrance building.

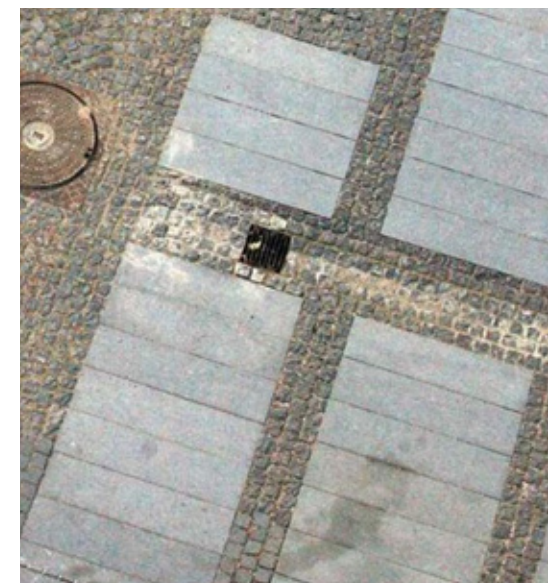
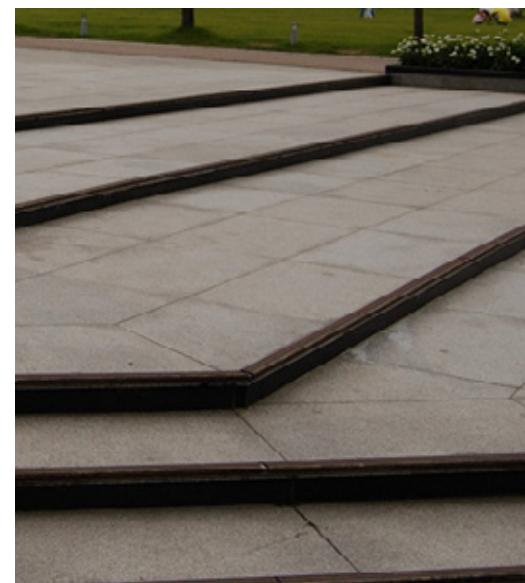
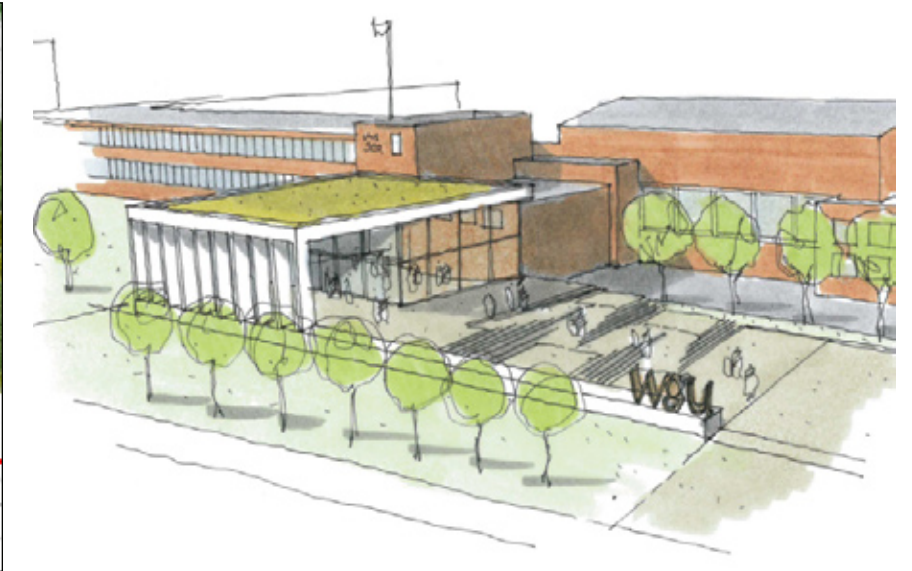
A linear boulevard will physically and visually link northwards to a central plaza space which will be designed in a similar narrative to the entrance plaza to create a coherent look and character. High quality materials are envisaged to create too formal landscapes. Linear landscape walls and seats will extend from the pavilion to create meeting spaces and visually cues between the two spaces.



Extract of Central Plaza



Extract of Arrival Plaza



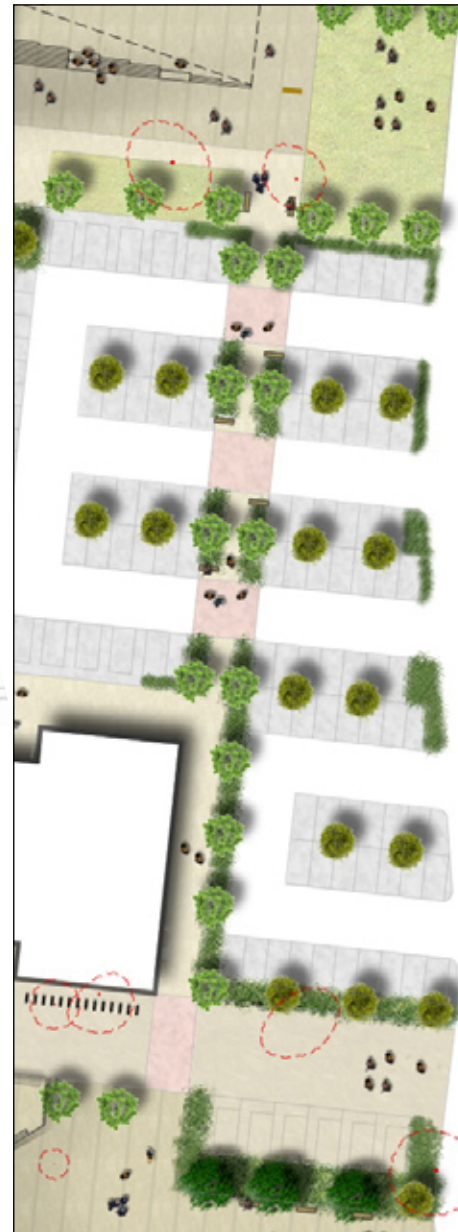


Rain Garden Boulevard

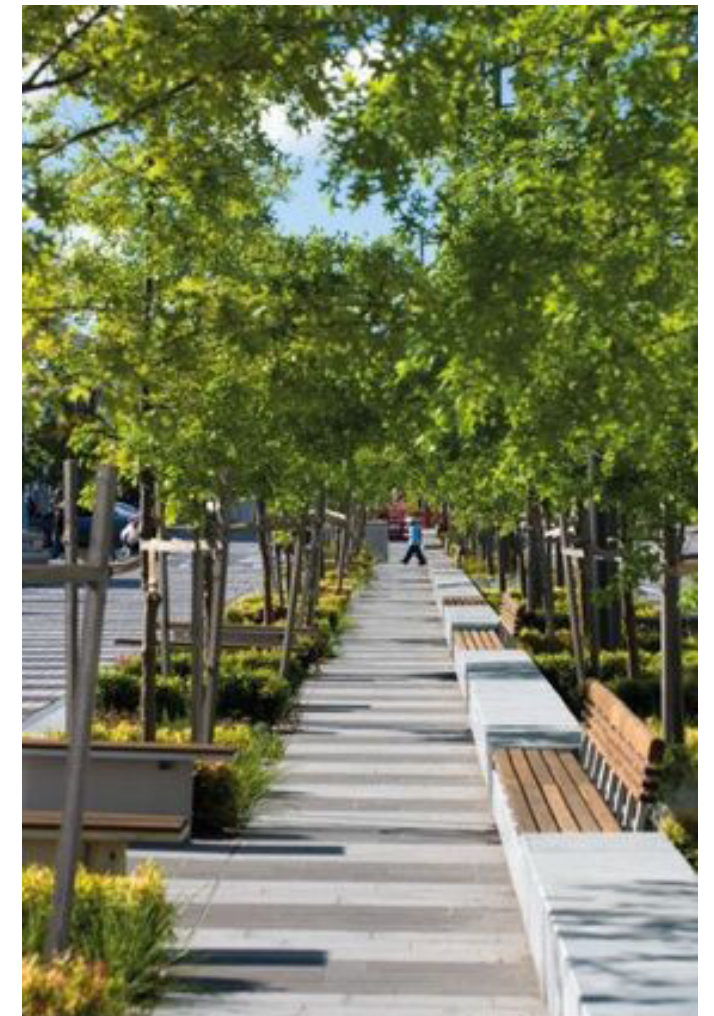
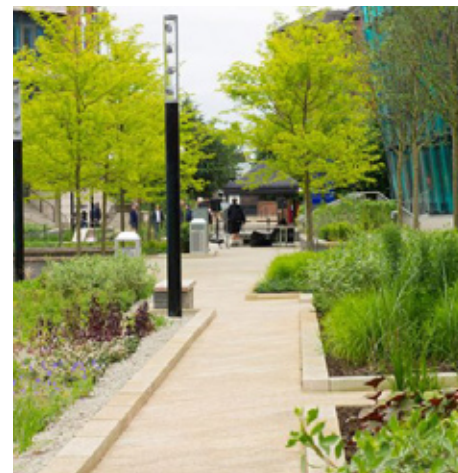
The linear connection between the two plaza spaces cuts through proposed parking areas. It is therefore the design intention that the route will have a green lush character as a contrast to the more open civic plaza spaces. There is the opportunity that surface water can be collected and directed into the planting zones to create rain gardens that help to slow surface water run off.

The linear nature of the walkway could be tree lined with seating positioned adjacent for resting spaces.

The plaza and linear boulevard benefit from a south facing sunny aspect.



Extract of Rain Garden Boulevard



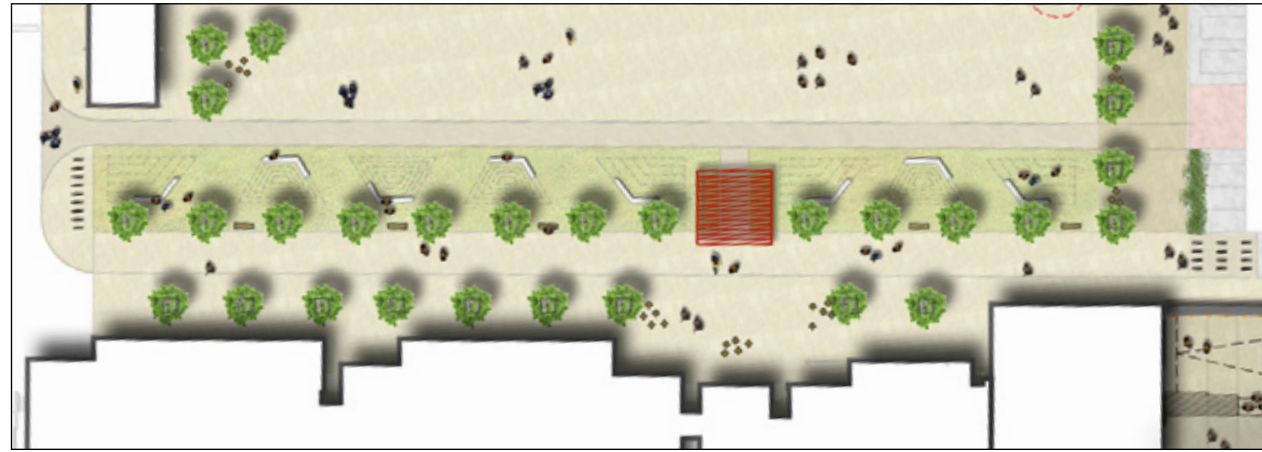


Formal 'Learning' Linear Park

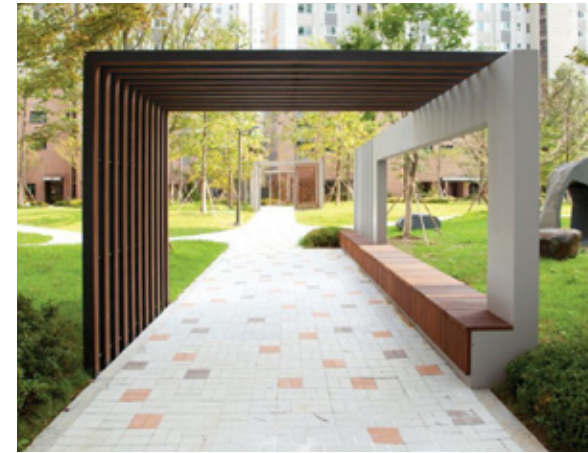
Connecting between the central plaza and the library along the new Engineering Building is a proposed formal 'learning' linear park. Outdoor learning zones and spaces that could be used for collaborative work should be designed into the landscape whilst retaining an open character to the space.

The integrated soft landscape would soften the landscape and provide a transition between the informal linear park in the east and the more civic central plaza.

SUDs solutions could also be explored within the linear space.



Extract of Formal Linear Park





Informal Linear Park

An informal linear park is proposed between the stadium and the surface level car parking connecting users of the car park and residents within Wrexham Village accommodation towards the campus.

The large mature poplar trees run parallel to the space along the southern boundary. Where space and tree roots allow the integrated of swales/ SUD's ponds could be explored to alleviate surface water run off.

A softer more naturalistic planting style could be adopted, with meadow planting, bulbs and swathes of ornamental shrubs.

To visually tie the linear park to the plaza spaces a landscape structure/ small pavilion could be integrated at the pathway junction of the car park pathway and pathway connecting to Wrexham Village accommodation. To improve connections to the current student accommodation a small arrival space and connection to the south is required. This may require the removal of a couple of the poplar trees (awaiting tree survey).



Extract of Informal Linear Park





Pedestrian Crossing Zones

Pedestrian priority zones should be designed in line with the pedestrian movement routes. Paved raised tables create a contrast to the highway surface that in turn slows vehicles down and highlights the pedestrian crossing locations.



Tree planting within car park locations

The new proposed car parking areas are located along the key vehicle routes. The size of the parking bays needs to be broken with vegetation in the form of tree planting. The car parks have been designed to maximise numbers within limited space for planting zones. Therefore it is proposed that trees should be planted with underground structural solutions to allow them to have uncompacted roots and sufficient soil volume to reach maturity.

Surface water run off could be designed to flow through the tree pit to slow surface water run off.





Residential Development

To the northwest corner a private residential development is proposed with a series of residential blocks. This will be a gated community with areas of car parking and courtyard spaces located between the buildings. The larger amenity spaces are to the north of the development and are aligned north-south and will therefore have a sunny aspect. Parking courts should be softened with block paving bays.

To the east of the campus a new student accommodation block is proposed adjacent to the existing Wrexham Village accommodation blocks. The courtyard space will be extended to incorporate further surface level parking.



Landscape Masterplan

The images and analysis diagrams illustrated in this report have helped shaped the Landscape Masterplan. The design approach looks to create a cohesive landscape infrastructure and creating a strong identity for the development.

Refer to drawing 3060-103C.





PLANTING STRATEGY 08



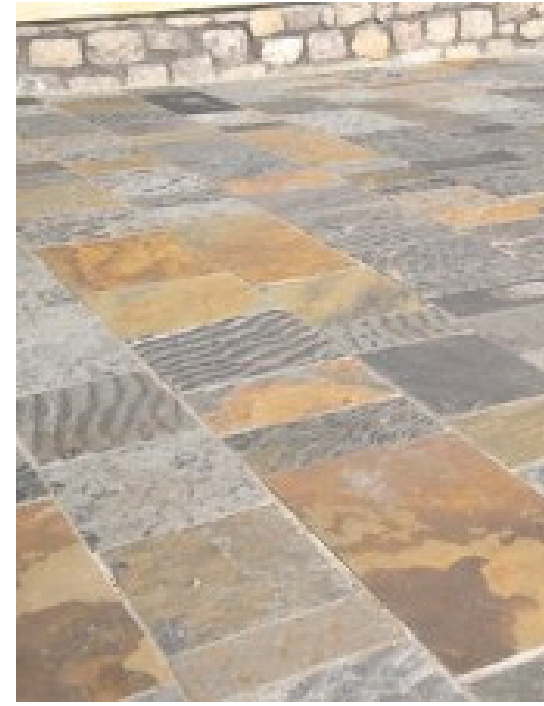
Planting Strategy

A simple planting palette will be incorporated to complement the contemporary style of the development whilst also being inkeeping with the locality on the site.

Planting will be used to visually connect areas creating character areas through foliage and colour. e.g. linear bands of evergreen hedges and ornamental grasses.

As there a dominant lines of Poplar trees noted on site, a similar approach can be used utilising different tree species to add to the visually connectivity.





Hard Landscape Palette

The prestigious development requires high quality paving at key locations to complement the contemporary pavilions at the entrance plaza and inner plaza.

A simple paving palette has been selected to create a unifying landscape where detailing and plan size of units creates interest and zones. Locally sourced materials are proposed in the plazas, with a complimentary material to link the spaces together and create connectivity between spaces.

The step units are designed to be monolithic and to subtly blend in with the plaza designs. Softer materials are proposed to the informal linear park to tie in with naturalistic approach to this character area.



STREET FURNITURE 10



Street Furniture

A simple collection of furniture is proposed throughout the development for consistency and to create uniformity.

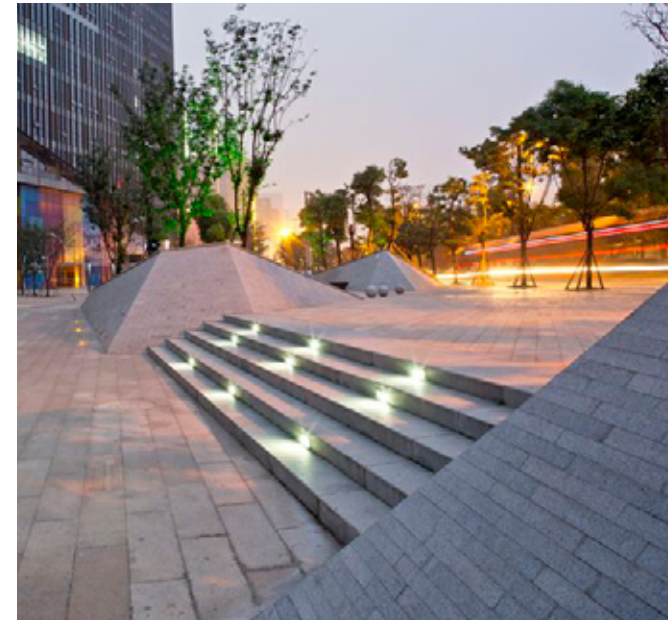
Linear benches and clusters of small seating elements are located at key gathering spaces/ resting points to allow for either individual or group seating.

Level changes offer the opportunity for integrated seating rather than stand alone benches.

Where trees can be planted in the ground recessed tree grills are proposed to create a seamless look and retain an open route around the tree. Where services require inspection hatches these will be recessed to take the paving to further add to a high quality design.

Cycle parking are also located throughout at key locations.





Lighting Concept

Lighting throughout the development will create a safe and welcoming environment for usage in the hours of darkness.

Varying lighting elements are proposed within each of the character areas to provide both functional and accent lighting.

Feature lighting columns could be integrated into the plaza spaces to provide verticality to the space and also incorporate art work/ detailing.

The large terrace steps offer the opportunity for lighting to be incorporated into the edge of the unit to provide accent lighting and also act as a visual cue for the level change.

