

THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY
F23 ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

Prepared on behalf of
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LANDSCAPE DESIGN REPORT
For Development Application

Revision E
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OCULUS

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SECTION A – DESIGN DESCRIPTION

1.0 Introduction

This report has been prepared as part of the Development Application documentation for the F23 Administration Building at the University of Sydney. It describes the public domain and landscape design associated with the new building and its surrounds.

The public domain and landscape design for the F23 Administration Building has been developed with reference to a number of key documents and design principles contained therein, including:

- The University of Sydney Landscape Master Plan (1993);
- Sydney University Concept Landscape Plan (2014);
- Campus Grounds Conservation Plan (2013) (GCP);
- University of Sydney Campus Improvement Plan (SSD 13_6123);
- University of Sydney Wingara Mura Strategy (2012);
- University of Sydney Lighting Master Plan; and
- CIS Landscape Standards (2013).

2.0 The Site

The site of the F23 Administration Building is bounded by the Madsen Building to the north, Eastern Avenue to the east, City Road to the south and Fisher Road to the west. There is a general fall of across the site from east to west and south to north with a high point at approximately RL 34.9 near the south-east corner of the Madsen Building adjacent to Eastern Avenue and a low point of 32.7 near the south-west corner of the Madsen Building at Fisher Road.

There a number of existing trees within or adjacent to the site as identified in the Arboricultural Impact Assessment Report prepared by TreeIQ. The most significant of these is the row of *Ficus macrocarpa* var. *Hillii* (Hills Weeping Fig) along the west side of Fisher Road which have been given a Very High Landscape Significance which will be retained. There are also a number of smaller trees along the southern facade of the Madsen Building including *Stenocarpus*, *Eucalyptus*, *Callistemon* and *Syzygium* spp which have been assessed as being of moderate to low landscape significance. These trees will require to be removed due to the impact adjacent construction works associated with the development. The existing car park also has a row of existing trees within it, mainly *Lophostemon confertus* (Brushbox) with single specimens of *Tristaniopsis* and *Jacaranda* which have been assessed as being of low landscape significance. These trees will be removed as part of this development as they lie within the footprint of the new building.

There are also a number of items of heritage significance as noted in the GCP, namely the metal palisade fence with sandstone base running along the edge of the existing car park to City Road, and two of the four cylindrical sandstone dome-topped piers which form the Fisher Road entry gates with the Gatekeepers Lodge on the western side.

3.0 Public Domain

The F23 Administration Building occupies a key site within the University of Sydney. Eastern Avenue forms a key north-south axis and circulation route through the Camperdown Campus, and the point where it meets City Road acts as a key entry and gateway into the University. The Sydney University Concept Landscape Plan (2014) identifies opportunities to upgrade this gateway and to provide more active frontages, outdoor classrooms, waiting/seating areas and conversation pods along Eastern Avenue. The F23 Administration Building, on the western side of Eastern Avenue fronting City Road, along with the proposed F07 LEES 1 building on the eastern side, will help define the southern end of Eastern Avenue and reinforce this as a key entry and gateway to the University.

The City Road frontage forms an important address to the University. The removal of the existing car park, access road and gatehouse provides the opportunity to provide a more generous and permeable public domain interface with City Road.

The northern edge of the site interfaces with the existing Madsen Building. The removal of the existing access road which currently connects City Road to Fisher Road will allow the creation of a more pedestrian friendly public domain treatment.

The western edge of the site adjoins Fisher Road which will be maintained as a vehicular access road for the F23 building and the campus to the north. The existing row of Fig trees along the western side of Fisher Road are a highly significant landscape feature and will be retained.

4.0 Access and Circulation

The development of the F23 Administration building and removal of the existing car park and access road will enable a number of key improvements in pedestrian access and circulation in this part of the campus. These include providing a more permeable interface between City Road and Eastern Avenue, establishing a more defined gateway at the south end of Eastern Avenue at City Road, and creating a new shared zone between the F23 and Madsen buildings from Fisher Road to Eastern Avenue.

Vehicular circulation will also be rationalised with Fisher Road acting as the main vehicle route to access the F23 building and the areas of the campus to the north, with the interfaces on the other sides of the building having a strong pedestrian focus.

5.0 Public Domain Spaces

5.1 Eastern Avenue

The new F23 Administration Building will create a much more defined interface to Eastern Avenue and along with the proposed F07 LEES 1 Building will help to reinforce it as a major gateway to the University. The simple building form with its overhanging roof supported on slender columns will provide a simple and elegant treatment to Eastern Avenue and the entry space off City Road. The proposed café and associated outdoor seating areas located at ground level in the north-east corner of the building will help to activate this end of Eastern Avenue. One of the main entries to the building is also located off Eastern Avenue and the design of the building with its large central lobby space will permit east-west views through the building. At-grade access to the building will be from the north-east corner with a plinth rising up towards City Road with a stepped edge interface to the public domain. The paving treatment of granite cobbles in the entry space off City Road will be extended up to the façade of the building with the removal of the existing vehicle access off City Road to the existing car park and Fisher Road.

5.2 City Road

The removal of the existing car park, access road and gatehouse will create a more generous and permeable public domain interface with City Road. A vehicular drop-off will be provided on this side of the building and this will be treated as a shared zone allowing pedestrian access along the south side of the building and particularly to the entry in the south-west corner. The existing heritage fence and hedge along the City Road frontage will be retained with minor modification at its eastern end where it currently meets the existing sandstone gate pillars. The area to the rear of this fence between the drop-off zone and City Road will be landscaped with low mass planting and a feature tree with hedge planting behind the fence. A low seating wall will be provided along the north side of this planted area facing the building. A public domain footpath will be reinstated where the existing vehicle access off City Road is removed.

5.3 Fisher Road

Fisher Road will be maintained as a vehicle access with the basement car park entry and a loading zone for the new building coming off this. A pedestrian footpath will be provided along the east side of Fisher Road with raised planting beds with seating wall between this and the building. This will help to partly screen the loading zone from the building and provide some amenity to both pedestrians and building users. The larger of the planters will incorporate a feature tree. A new pedestrian crossing across Fisher Road at the end of the sharedway between the F23 and Madsen buildings will be provided in the form of a raised threshold.

5.4 Madsen Building

A shared zone will be provided between the F23 and Madsen Buildings to provide a generous accessible pedestrian route running between Fisher Road and Eastern Avenue. The existing landscape zone along the façade of the Madsen Building will require to be reduced in width slightly to accommodate the new shared zone which will also require the removal of the existing trees. This landscape zone will have supplementary planting to re-establish a planted treatment to the Madsen Building adjoining the new shared zone.

5.5 Hardscape

The proposed hardscape treatments to public domain areas will follow the CIS Landscape Standards including:

- Granite Road Cobbles to shared and loading zones (paving type P3); and
- Granite Pedestrian Cobble Pavements to the Eastern Avenue entry space/forecourt (paving type P4).

The areas around the building will be paved in granite pedestrian cobbles (paving type P4) to provide a seamless link with the adjacent public domain paving treatments. The stepped edges to the plinth will also be granite.

5.6 Furniture

Opportunities for new furniture within the site around the building are limited by the need to provide clear circulation routes. Seating walls will be provided to the planting areas on the south and west sides of the building. The steps to the building plinth facing Eastern Avenue will also be able to be used for informal seating. Other furniture elements such as bollards, bins and bike racks will follow the CIS Landscape Standards and will be carefully located to integrate with the overall public domain design. A drinking fountain is proposed to be located adjacent to the shared-way north of the building.

5.7 Planting

Proposed new planting will be limited as much of the area around the building will require to be paved to provide access and usable space. Where provided, planting will follow the requirements noted in the CIS Landscape Standards. The main areas of new planting will be:

- To the south of the building/drop-off zone to City Road consisting of low mass planting, hedge planting behind the fence and a feature tree;
- To the west of the building consisting of low, shade-tolerant mass planting to provide a buffer between the loading zone and the building; and
- Reinstatement planting along the south side of the Madsen Building where existing vegetation is impacted by the creation of the new sharedway.

5.8 Lighting

Public domain lighting will be designed to comply with relevant Australian Standards and the University of Sydney Lighting Master Plan. Overall lighting will be provided to external areas for public safety along with select feature lighting to elements such as feature trees.

5.9 Response to Wingara Mura Strategy

The public domain and landscape design will incorporate Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Culture and Story into the design as part of The University of Sydney's Wingara Mura strategy. This reflects the University's vision for inclusion of Aboriginal values, art and culture in all developments.

At this stage what form the indigenous art and culture will take in is still under discussion - this could be in text or imagery in landscape surfaces or elements, sculpture, planting or a combination. Examples of approaches that could be used in the final landscape design include:

- Groundplane patterns, etching and interpretation;
- Custom furniture and element design;
- Planting design;
- Public art; and
- Lighting design.

Any artwork or text will need to be worked through with the University of Sydney and the local indigenous community to insure its sensitive placement, durability, cultural relevance and appropriateness to this project.

SECTION B - SCHEDULES

B1. Indicative Plant Schedule

PLANT SCHEDULE

TREES

Symbol	Species	Common Name	Pot Size	Height	Spread	Spacing
Fr	<i>Ficus rubiginosa</i>	Port Jackson Fig	2000L	6-7m	4-5m	As shown

HEDGE

Symbol	Species	Common Name	Pot Size	Height	Spread	Spacing
Fm	<i>Ficus microcarpa var hillii</i>	Hills weeping Fig	100L	2m	1-1.5m	1000mm

GROUNDCOVERS / PLANTER BOX PLANTING

	Species	Common Name	Pot Size	Height	Spread	Spacing
Aa	<i>Asplenium australasicum</i>	Bird's nest fern	300mm	500mm	600mm	500mm
Bn	<i>Blechnum nudum 'Silver Lady'</i>	Fishbone water fern	200mm	300mm	400mm	400mm
Dc	<i>Dianella caerulea</i>	Blue flax lily	200mm	600mm	400mm	300mm
Lm	<i>Liriope muscari 'Evergreen Giant'</i>	Lily Turf	150mm	300mm	300mm	300mm
Px	<i>Philodendron xanadu</i>	Xanadu Philodendron	200mm	400mm	500mm	400mm
Pm	<i>Pittosporum tobira 'Miss Muffet'</i>	Dwarf Pittosporum	200mm	400mm	300mm	300mm
Rc	<i>Raphiolepis 'cosmic white'</i>	Indian Hawthorn	200mm	400mm	300mm	300mm

B2. Indicative Materials Schedule

Element	Material
Paving to building plinth	Granite flags (P2)
Paving to pedestrian areas	Granite pedestrian cobble (P4)
Paving to shared zones	Granite road cobble (P3)
Steps to building plinth	Insitu concrete (S3)
Walls	Insitu concrete with light exposed aggregate finish
Litter Bin	Standard litter bin (L1)
Bollards	Standard bollard (B1)
Bike racks	Standard bike rack (C1)
Drinking fountain	Water refill station with drinking fountain

B3. Drawing Schedule:

Drawing Number	Drawing Title
DA-L000	Landscape Cover Sheet
DA-L100	Landscape Plan
DA-L101	Tree Protection/Removal Plan
DA-L102	Landscape Finishes Plan
DA-L200	Landscape Sections
DA-L201	Landscape Sections
DA-L400	Precedent, Planting and Material Images Sheet

SECTION C – APPENDICES

C1. Landscape DA Drawings