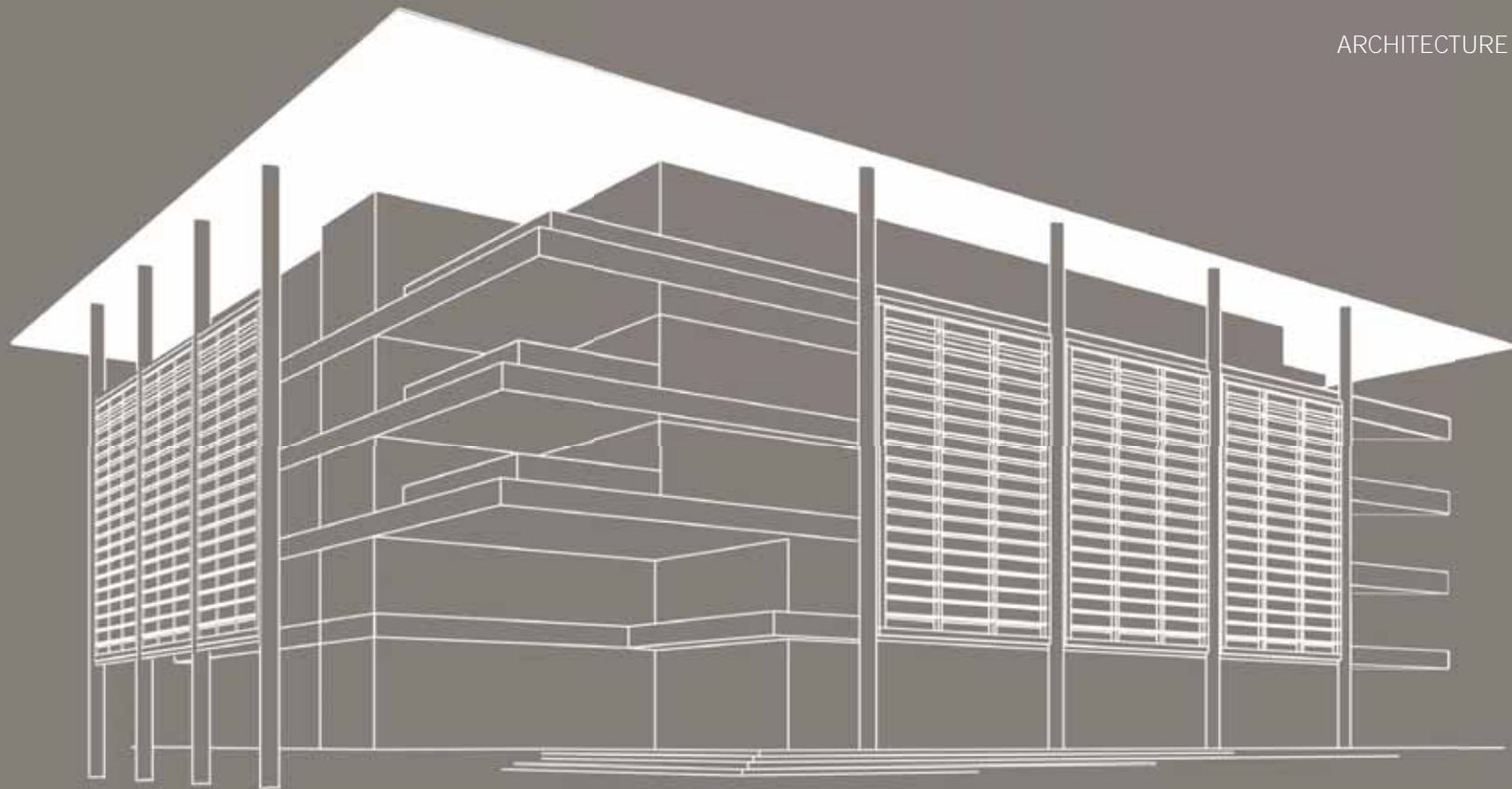


F23 ADMIN BUILDING

THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

ARCHITECTURE DESIGN STATEMENT
APRIL 2016



GRIMSHAW





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01 | Project Objectives

A New Campus Gateway
Project Aspirations: Visible Leadership
An Integrated Active Public Domain



Sydney University F23 Administration Building

1.1 A New Campus Gateway

The new proposed F23 Administration Building is located at the gateway of the Camperdown campus of the University of Sydney, occupying a prominent and important site at the entry to Eastern Avenue from City Road. The Building not only contributes to the establishment of a gateway to the campus but with the growing esteem and prestige of Australian universities, the new Administration Building will co-locate the University's Senior Executive teams and associated administration functions from across campus to become the University's new visible presence to the world.

In the last ten years Eastern Avenue has been refined as the primary gateway to the university. It contains some of the campuses oldest and most prestigious buildings stretching from the founding Quadrangle in 1854, the neo-gothic Anderson Stuart Building 1884 and the Madsen Building in 1940 which has helped to define the Eastern Avenue axis over the decades.

Given the importance of the building's function, the new F23 Administration Building must present an appropriate civic presence to the University whilst being sympathetic to its context. The siting of the F23 Administration Building is crucial and should be understood within the context of, and as a continuation of the principles established through many of the campus's early master plans.

The atrium typology and eroded corners of the building footprint are critical to the success of the public realm and reflect many of the surrounding institutional typologies. These moves further allow the building to integrate into its context and provide a considered presence required of a gateway building whilst ensuring the vistas into Eastern Avenue remain open from City Road.

Additionally, the new F23 Administration Building must form a dialogue with the new proposed LEES07 Building extension to the Carslaw building. Together these buildings form a new entry to the campus and address from City Road. Close development with the architects of the LEES07 scheme has ensured a common palette of materials and urban responses to the predominant conditions of Eastern Avenue's intersection with City Road.

1.2 Project Aspirations: Visible Leadership

The vision for the new F23 Administration Building has been constructed around a series of key objectives and aspirations of the project that have informed its design and development. The below sections address the key principles established by the University of Sydney and demonstrate how the design proposals have considered each objective and sought to embody it within the scheme.

Visible Leadership | Be Inspiring | Promote & Embody Leadership

The key aspiration for the F23 Administration Building requires a building that instills 'visible leadership' through its design. This overarching ambition became the central theme for the genesis of the proposal. The design presents a building that has a necessary degree of restraint and elegance that is emblematic of the University's fine heritage and worthy leadership and governance role the building serves for the University.

Connection | Accessibility | Visibility | Transparent

In addition to serving as the building's lobby, the design proposal's ground floor will contain public exhibition space, a symposium / event space and a café which are critical in establishing the building's primary public interface. The building has been configured with a high proportion of glazed façades creating a transparency and visibility into the interior that will not only promote awareness of the exhibitions and events, but also encourage a greater degree of connectivity as the F23 building situates itself at the nexus of Eastern Avenue, City Road, Fisher Road and the new pedestrian link between to the south of the Madsen building.

Sophistication | Elegance | Be Understated | Architecturally Beautiful

The courtyard typology establishes an elegant architectural framework that expresses the solidity of the cores and slab edges in contrast to the highly transparent office floor plates. The expression of the core, floors, roof, and columns presents the opportunity for a highly considered architectural composition of elements in proportion that are both understated yet diverse enough without necessitating complexity for complexity's sake.

Functional | Cohesive | Allow Collaboration

The building is both highly efficient and functional, whilst promoting collaboration and interaction around the atrium void in a cohesive workplace strategy. An efficient structural solution rationalised around the central organising atrium provides a best practice workplace environment that benefits from flexible, column free contiguous spaces at the building's perimeter. The central atrium also establishes a cohesive reading and understanding of the building's organisation that is immediate and clear.

1.3 An Integrated and Active Public Domain

The University of Sydney has selected Gehl Architects through an international design competition to advise on the public domain, pedestrian and place-making opportunities throughout the campus, but notably at the critical intersection of Eastern Avenue with City Road. The design response of the F23 Administration Building strongly supports the strategies and recommendations considered by Gehl including:

- Integration within the surrounding city
- Connection of the campus network to the city outside
- Inviting university life into outdoor spaces
- Anchoring points strategically placed with connection to the open spaces
- Flexible, courtyard building typology with active edges
- Multifunctional instead of mono-functional buildings
- Smaller spaces that are easier to populate
- New buildings respecting heritage.

Importantly and like many of the buildings on the University of Sydney campus, the F23 Administration Building must be considered in the 'round' to address its multiple frontages and the complex pedestrian flows across the site that inform its engagement with the various public realm conditions, both existing and anticipated. Extensive consideration has been given to the building's contribution to an active, public ground plane to ensure the complexities of the local and extended context are addressed.

02 | Urban Design Strategy

Context
Heritage
Ground Plane
Constraints

2.1 Context

City Context

The University of Sydney is located south-west of Sydney's CBD. The main campus is spread across the suburbs of Camperdown & Darlinghurst, and is located nearby to Broadway, Newtown & Redfern.

Running through the campus are two main connection routes between the Western suburbs of Sydney to the CBD. These are Parramatta Road, which eventually connects to George Street, and City Road which runs between the two sides of the University's main campus. Major bus routes operate along these streets, transporting a high amount of commuters between the west and city centre daily.

To the east of the University two main train stations are located; these being Redfern and Central. These stations provide an easy means of travel to the university for students across the Sydney metropolitan area.

Cleveland Street is located along the eastern side of the campus, this is a major thoroughfare between the west and east of Sydney, and is traffic heavy at peak hours.

Campus Context - Gateway

City Road bisects the University creating the Camperdown Campus to the south and the Darlinghurst Campus to the north.

City Road is the main connection thoroughfare between the city centre and the inner-western suburbs of Sydney. Despite being a traffic-heavy artery, the road is unique with its relatively picturesque streetscape; given it passes by Victoria Park and the street frontage of Sydney University.

The formal entry to the University is through Victoria Park leading up to the Quadrangle. Despite this, most students walk to the campus from Redfern Station or arrive by bus from City Road.

Running perpendicularly to City Road, the axis of Eastern and Butlin Avenues establish a crucial junction which is viewed as the primary gateway to the Darlinghurst Campus. This intersection presents one of the key urban interfaces to be considered and resolved within the F23 scheme.



2.2 Heritage

The University of Sydney is Australia's oldest tertiary education institution and is commonly referred to as the "Sandstone University."

Many of the University's dominant sandstone buildings are located along Eastern Avenue. These include Madsen Building, Anderson Stuart Building, Fisher Library and The Quadrangle which has helped form the characterisation of Sydney University as the "sandstone university".

1. The Quadrangle

The Quadrangle is one of the most prominent sandstone buildings at the university. It was built in 1858 and took over 100 years to complete. The architectural style is Victorian gothic revival, and the building is planned around a central rectangular courtyard. There are 2 towers to the east and west and a Great Hall.

2. The Anderson Stuart Building

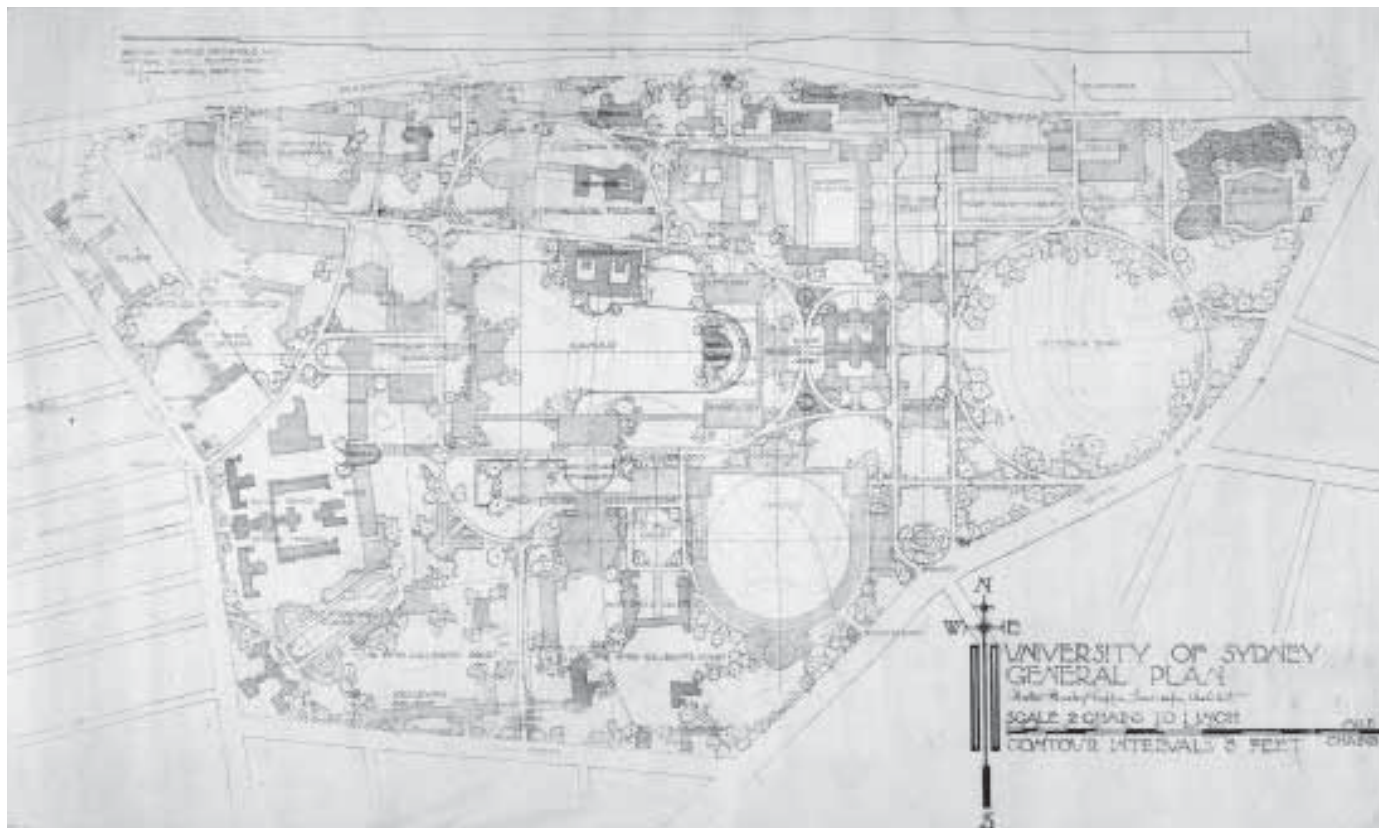
Formerly known as the "Old Medical School" the Anderson Stuart Building is a piece of neo-gothic architecture built in 1885. The building is carved out of Sydney sandstone and exhibits gargoyles, stained glass windows and carvings.

3. Fisher Library

The library was an important focal point of the new Eastern Avenue precinct which developed in the late 1950s-1960s. The development of this precinct, with its own entrance on City Road, together with the extension of the campus into Darlington changed both the focus and flow of University life for many students and staff away from its traditional heart in the main quadrangle and Science Road.

Designed by the late Ken Woolley, the first stage of the Fisher Library is an international modern style reinforced concrete framed three storey building with cantilevered floor and roof slabs. The design of the building clearly shows the influence of Mies Van de Rohe. Externally the frame and cantilever to the slabs is clad with copper/bronze. The building rests on a terrace that appears to float. At ground level the walls, which are set behind the frame, are clad with stone.

The second stage, the book stack is a multi-storey copper/bronze clad building with limited openings to prevent light from reaching the books. The large air conditioning plant is expressed as a separate element on the roof.



4. Madsen Building

Madsen Building is located directly adjacent and north of the proposed site. The building was built in 1940 and is located on the western side of Eastern Avenue pedestrian strip. The building was built in the neo-gothic style and has a prominent tower in the middle, acting as its main entry point.

The Madsen building is an important building on the Campus and its position and context should be respected. The proposal sits in harmony with the Madsen building and establishes key alignments in both plan and elevation.

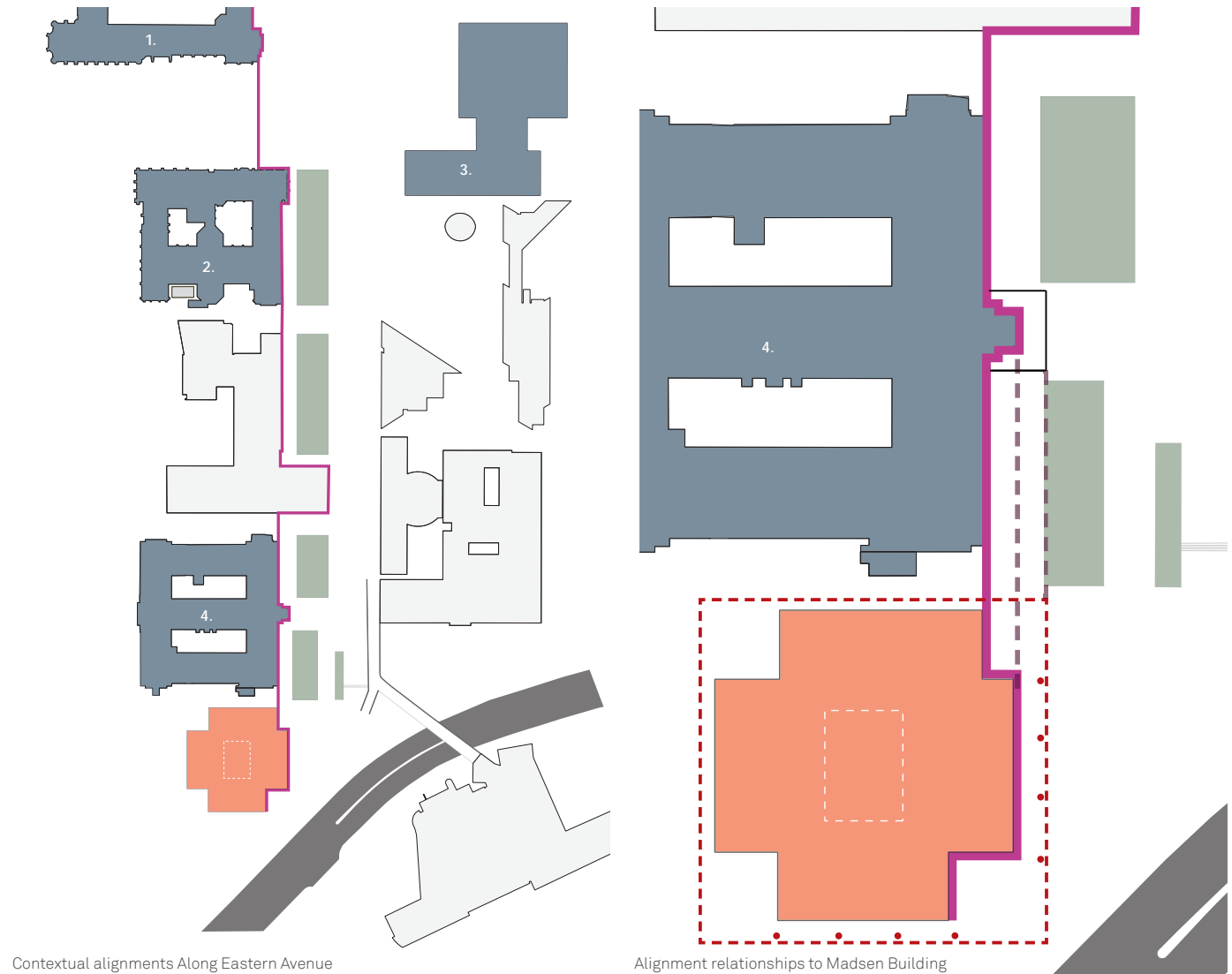
The plan alignments with the Madsen building illustrates the key alignments with both the protruding entry and dominant face of the Madsen building.

Additionally, the current roof of the proposal sits in line with the top of the tower element on the Madsen building helping to keep the bulk and scale of the new Administration building in a respectable circumstance.

The frontage to the proposal also picks up on key alignments as shown in the diagram opposite. The Glazing line to the North East cafe area sits 500mm behind the line of the Madsen building, creating appreciation of the existing facade line.

The upper levels glazing line and articulated slab edge are in alignment with the central tower to Madsen which helps to define a layered appreciation of the existing.

The Colonnade line adds a filigree layer to Eastern Avenue and a key part of the scheme, both environmentally and as an approach to the urban context. The alignment sits prominent of the Madsen Building, creating an vista views between the structure and the building and an interesting layering to the street scape.



Vertical Relation to Madsen Building

The concept development of the F23 Administration Building has considered its contextual relationship to the adjacent Madsen Building to the north both in plan as previously described as well as in elevation. Previously iterations and proposals for the site considered a 6 storey building which began to impact negatively its northern neighbour. The current scheme has resolved a building in height that is well situated in its context and allows the building to be one storey less. This helps provide the relationships illustrated in the adjacent diagram which show height of the proposed F23 building aligned generally to the top of the central tower of the Madsen Building. Secondary alignments are also established with ridge line and parapet levels of the Madsen Building that further support the response and contextual relationships between the two buildings.



2.3 Ground Plane

Building in the Round - Active Ground Plane

The F23 Administration Building has been conceived as a building in the round, with strong consideration given to each elevation and its relationship to the adjacent context.

The eastern edge of the building presents the most prominent face to Eastern Avenue and to views from the CBD along City Road. Critical to the success of the building at the ground plane is its degree of engagement with the busy pedestrian movements along Eastern Avenue and surrounds. The building's colonnade establishes a civic presence and gravitas to the building that is appropriate given its prominent location and function for the University.

The south-eastern and north-eastern corners of the building have been eroded to soften their presence and to create an engaging gesture along Eastern Avenue. An integrated café with outdoor seating has been placed at the northeast corner to help provide activation at the ground plane for not only the building's occupants, but anyone wishing to visit. The solid wall along the southern extent of the outdoor seating area provides a degree of enclosure and helps to address the corner relationship it establishes with the Madsen Building.

The building's façade is highly transparent inviting views through the building to the row of mature figs along the western edge of Fisher Road. This transparency allows the public functions of the Symposium and Exhibition spaces of the ground floor to be highly visible from the external public domain, thus supporting the building's activation at ground.

The situating of the building into its context and landscape also represents an important contextual response. The intent for the landscape proposals seeks to develop a response that emanates from the building grid and geometry helping to integrate the building footprint into the surrounding four frontages.

To the north, a pedestrian shared way will be created to connect into Fisher Road leading to the northern extents of the Camperdown campus. Along the west, a pedestrian route will be provided under the canopies of the mature fig trees running north along Fisher Road and will be supplemented by the landscape and planting provided extending out from the building's western façade. The area to the south of the building will remain enclosed by the existing heritage fence and similarly to the western extents, the landscaping will aim to integrate the building with its surrounding context encouraging both pedestrian movement and the opportunity to sit within the landscape.



Active Ground Plane



2.3 Constraints

Site Constraints

The building design responds to the numerous site constraints identified below;

North: Madsen

The F23 building mass took into consideration Madsen buildings overall size and height and established key alignments to define a harmonious relationship to the context. The materiality of the north core creates a dialogue between the two buildings whilst reducing the amount of solar gain from the north.

The building is setback 10m from Madsen creating a pedestrian connection to Fisher Road and also eliminates the need to re-divert existing in-ground services.

East: Eastern Avenue

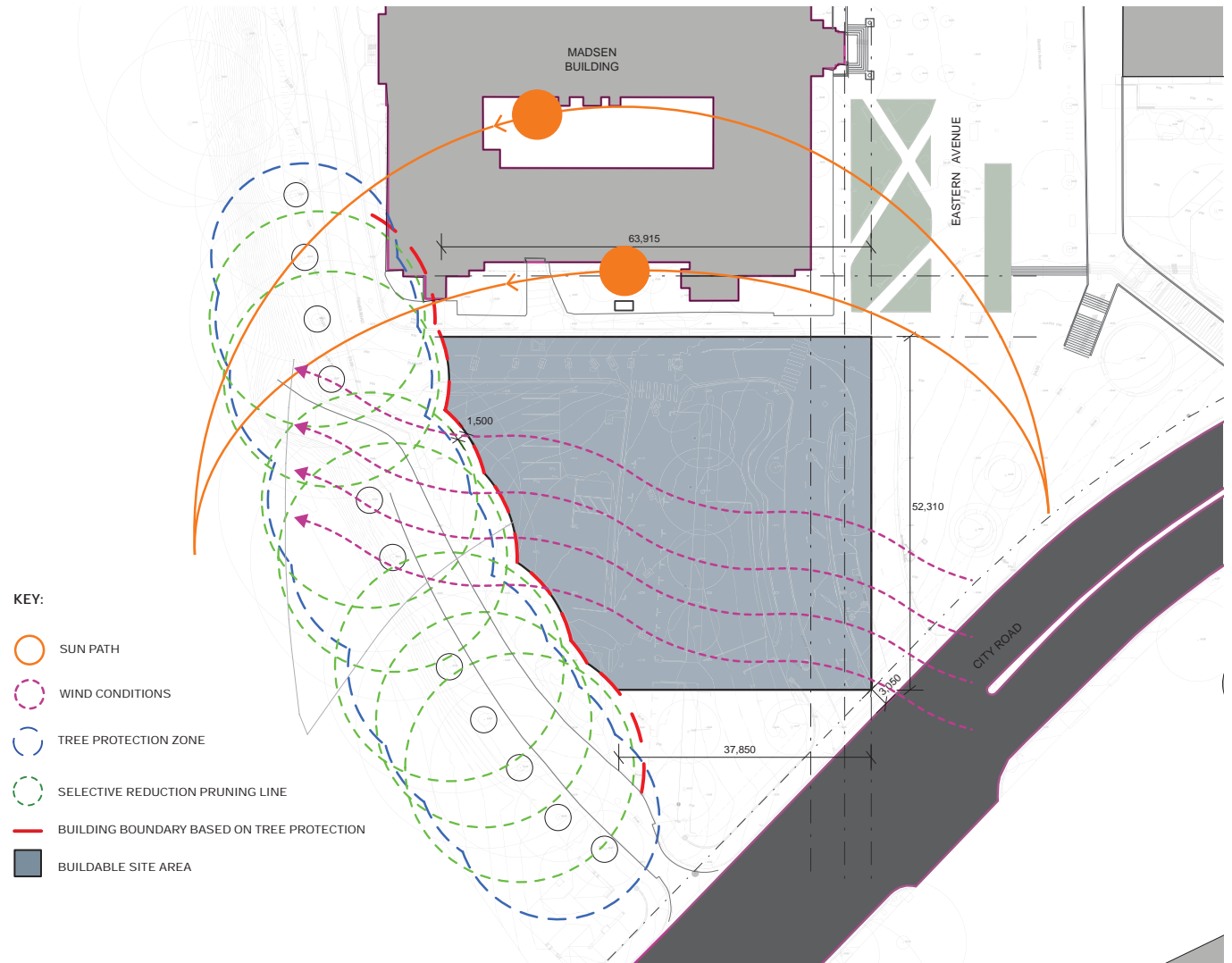
Key to the design is the colonnade which provides an address to Eastern Avenue pedestrian Boulevard and is used to negate the various level changes along the elevation. The louvres protect the eastern elevation from morning sunlight.

South: City Road

In a similar way to the Eastern Elevation the colonnade is used to address City Road and the South Western Building entry. The louvre screen provides a visual and acoustic buffer to City Road whilst providing a unified address to the campus.

West: Fisher Road and Fig Trees

The building has been designed to respect the Heritage Fig Trees which run parallel to Fisher Road. This is especially evident in the south western corner where the building footprint has been eroded away. The large scale roof proudly cantilevers over the trees and this creates a dialogue with the colonnade. The trees act as a filter protecting the building from the afternoon western sun.



View Analysis

The F23 Building is located on a very prominent site at the gateway to the campus. Careful consideration has been given to the many view corridors especially to the entry of the campus.

For this reason the building has been considered in the round and responds to the local context to ensure the vista into the campus down Eastern Avenue is maintained and celebrated.

The building terminates Eastern Avenue by wrapping the colonnade around the southern corner and helps address the buildings scale towards City Road.



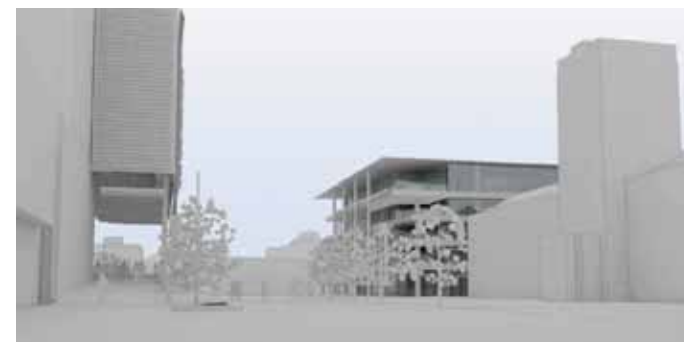
Butlin Avenue Approach



Footbridge Approach



North Eastern Avenue Approach



03 | Building and Workplace Strategy

- Materiality and Expression
- Blocking and Stacking
 - Public Levels
 - Work Place Levels
- Plant and Roof Levels
 - Car Park Levels

3.1 Materiality and Expression

The University of Sydney is Australia's oldest tertiary education institution and is commonly referred to as the "Sandstone University." Many of the University's dominant sandstone buildings are located on Eastern Avenue. The proposed Administration Building should acknowledge the significance of its context and reflect this within its architecture.

The building needs to be an inspiring, transparent, visible and elegant piece of architecture promoting and embodying the leadership of the University. It must reflect the heritage, elegance and craftsmanship expected for a University building of its kind.

The building expression will reflect the typology of the historic Madsen, Stuart Anderson and Quadrangle Buildings that will portray a gravitas and permanence. Whilst history and tradition are of great significance, it is an ambition of the University to also be forward thinking and evolutionary in the selection of a material palette for the building. Therefore the proposals are considering how best to reconcile the desire to recognise the University's strong heritage and its future ambitions as a modern institution.

Ultimately the building needs to be beautiful, both in its conceptual narrative and as a higher considered and detailed building - reflecting the language and character of the University. The key ambition is to use a material that creates a dialogue with other buildings along Eastern Avenue. Multiple layered glazing also provides a depth to the facade whilst forming a contemporary and timeless facade.

The roof creates a powerful statement that not only encompasses the building but reaches out to engage with the public via the colonnade on Eastern Avenue and City Road. This civic gesture welcomes people not only to the building but also importantly to the campus.

The material palette for the solid rain screen elements is proposed to utilise GRC. The material offers a high quality finish, depth and variation that would be suitable for the building and would offer the modern / contemporary feel the University is seeking.



Workshop feedback from the University has focused on the materiality of the building both in appearance and quality. The University has also identified the City Road Gateway Buildings as being the transition between the “Old” and “New”. The palette of material chosen for F23 reads as contemporary and “light” whilst using the materials that acknowledge its context.

The materials on the previous page explore the variation in materiality between the two prominent cladding materials - the solid rain screen cladding system and the metallic finishes of the roof, columns and louvres.

Having reviewed the matrix of possibilities, Grimshaw believe the best outcomes are provided by the light or cream coloured rain screen cladding in combination with the darker metallic elements of the building composition. The lighter ranges of the solid cladding offer a more modern and contemporary presence to the building which is accented and complimented by the contrasting darkening tones of the metallic finishes.



3.2 Blocking and Stacking

Blocking and Stacking

The building is simply and clearly arranged vertically with an open and publicly accessible ground floor lobby at its base. Typical office floors occupy Levels 1 through 3 with the executive level arranged at the top of the building on Level 4.

The adjacent diagram illustrates the current proposed arrangement of the briefed 622 staff located across the building's floor plates. The highly flexible building configuration will easily allow for the refinement and modification of these areas with further consultation with the University.

Through the efficient planning of the building, the scheme has been able to accommodate the full briefed area over only 4 office floor plates, offering efficiencies in the building cost, planning and construction.

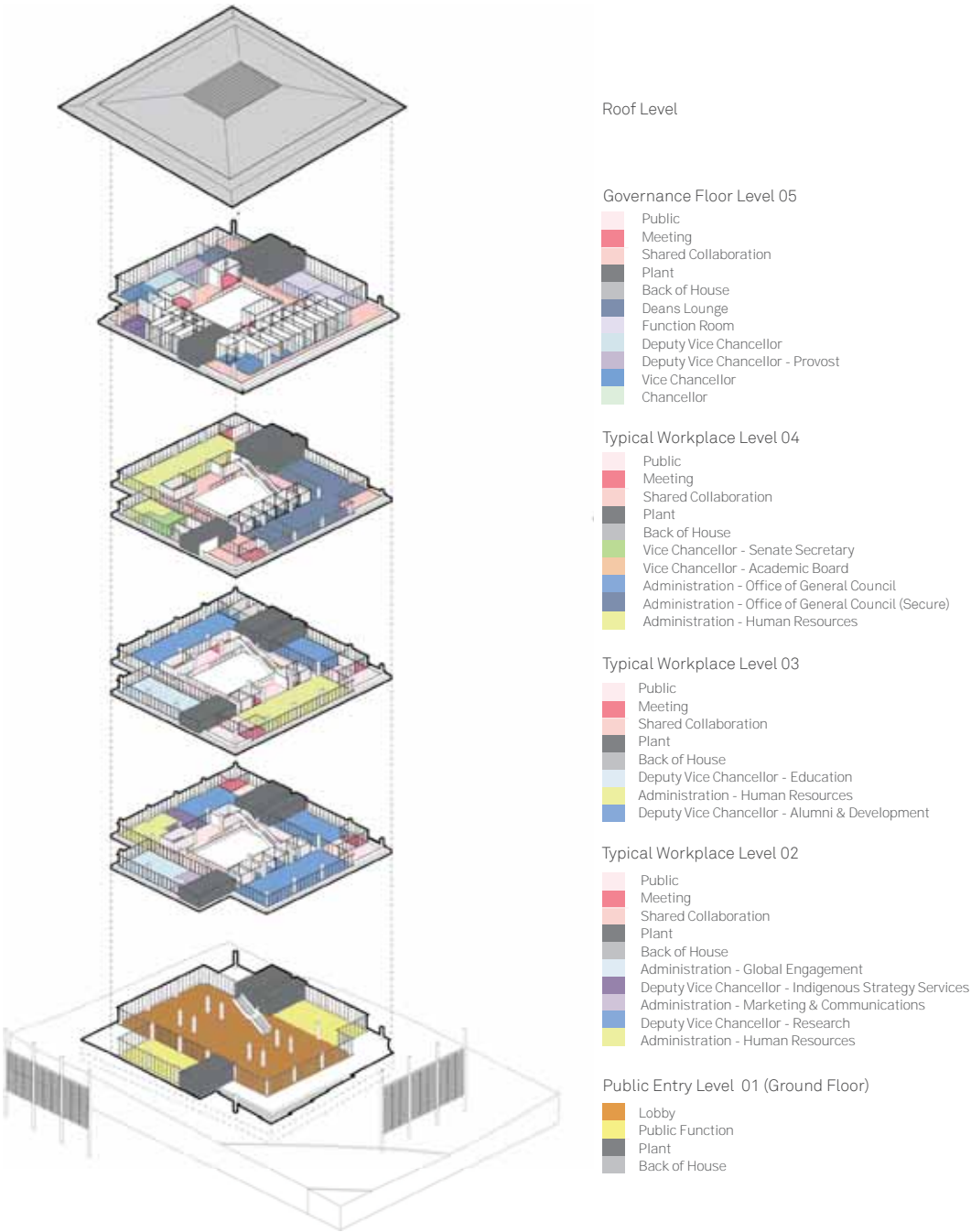
Areas and Efficiencies

The building's workplace principles have been conceived through an integrated design approach that has considered the efficiency of the concrete frame, the flexibility and efficiency of the typical open office areas and how these two components work optimally with the car park grid below. Through this integration of the various components, the design has settled into a very well organised and composed plan that is extremely efficient and offers a building footprint that is as compact as it can be.

The outcome is a building that is easily able to accommodate the briefed number of staff within a more efficient building, whilst still allowing for future flexibility.

GFA Area Table

Level	Description	Area / m ²
Basement 02	Carpark	9
Basement 01	Carpark	99
Level 01 (Ground Floor)	Foyer / Atrium Space	1,734
Level 02	Admin Level	1,673
Level 03	Admin Level	1,720
Level 04	Admin Level	1,720
Level 05	Governance Level	1,677
GFA		8,632





3.3 Public Levels

Planning Principles

Lobby

The ground floor lobby is conceived as an open, highly transparent volume that promotes a sense of openness to the building both visually and physically. The generous floor to ceiling heights are inviting and the secure atrium stair continues down ground level encouraging staff and visitors to circulate through the stairways. Open, scenic lifts are also located with the atrium providing movement and activation as occupants move throughout the building.

Cores and Support

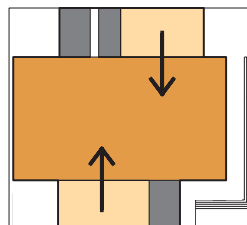
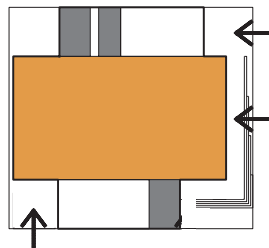
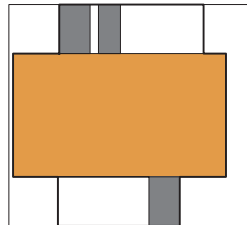
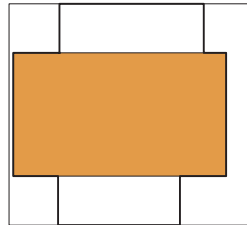
The solution to split the cores diagonally across the floor plate was a key decision in the concept development. Whilst providing the necessary means of egress, the split core arrangement also better serves the plant strategy and architecturally gives the building a suitable sense of anchoring the building's floor plates which area by contrast very light and open.

Access and Entry

The building sits in-the-round within the site, allowing all four sides to be visible and accessible. As such the building has been designed to consider the different points of access allowing the primary public entry to be located within the central portion of the eastern façade. Level access is provided from the northeast corner of the site onto the portico leading to the central entry.

Engagement with Community

The public areas of the ground floor lobby will be activated through the programmed spaces allocated at this level including a café, symposium and a space for exhibitions. These functions support the initiative to create and open and transparent base to the building welcoming everyone, not just those working within. This will help create a strong feeling of engagement with all who pass frequently.



Pedestrian Lane

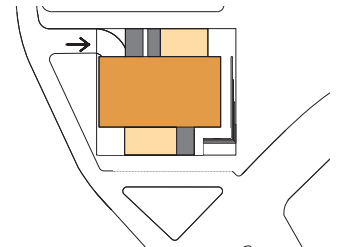
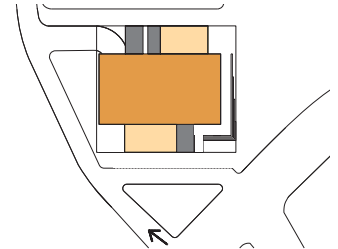
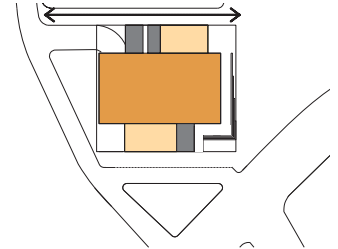
The scheme has responded to the University's desire to create a strong pedestrian flow between the F23 Administration building and the existing Madsen Building. Car park access has been located to the western edge of the building reducing the amount of potential conflict between pedestrians and vehicles in the portion of shared way.

Vehicle Access

Vehicular access is provided to city bound traffic along City road turning left into Fisher Road. There will no longer be access for vehicles crossing City Road from Butlin Avenue. Exceptions will be made for emergency vehicles, campus security and VIP only.

Car park Access

Car park access has been located along the western edge of the building to facilitate an improved future pedestrian connection along the northern side of the building.





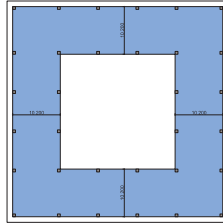
3.4 Work Place Levels

Planning Principles

Open Work Plate

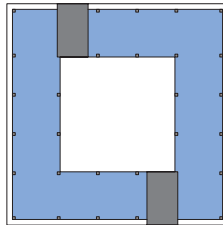
The design development of the scheme prioritised the configuration of the work plate to provide an open, connected and highly contiguous workplace. The basis of this configuration considered the building's structural grid to achieve a column free open working zone allowing the maximum degree of flexibility with the open office areas.

The structural grid also provides a rational and efficient, simple structural system that also works optimally with the car parking in the basement levels below.



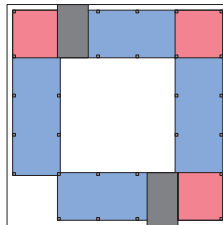
Cores

The split core strategy creates a desirable level of separation that facilitates the natural divisions between departments.



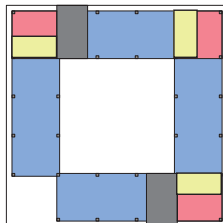
Terraces

The building's terraces form a key and distinctive character of the building, both viewed externally and how they benefit the interior workplace environment. Externally, the cantilevered terraces present a strong reading against the solidity of the cores. On open corners such as the north-eastern corner, the cantilevered terraces erode the building's corner, offering a more dynamic reading of the building's primary form. The greatest benefit of the terraces lie within the benefits they bring to the staff who will enjoy the amenity of the external spaces access immediately from within the open office areas.



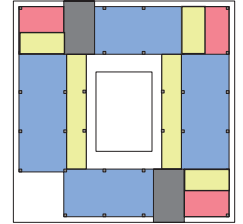
Collaboration/Meeting collocated with work space

The allocation of collaboration spaces within a typical floor positions them to be adjacent to a corner terrace. Conceived as an informal break-out / collaboration area, these spaces have a natural fit with the adjacent external terraces creating a great synergy between these key office spaces.



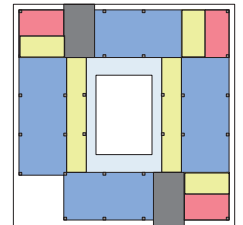
Central Collaboration/Meeting

The atrium also provides a natural location for both informal meeting space and dedicated meeting rooms as occupants cross the floor plate and circulate both horizontally and vertically through the building. These spaces are seen as a key asset to the design by promoting the opportunity for unplanned meetings and conversations as staff circulate around the atrium. These spaces also help to activate this space socially as the atrium rises through the building.



Circulation around Atrium

The building has essentially been conceived as a series of concentric zones, with the innermost ring being the circulation zones adjacent to the atrium edge. Circulation around the atrium edge will help activate this key central space and facilitate impromptu interactions amongst staff and visitors. The diagrammatic principles of this scheme provide a clear organisation to the building's order allowing visitors and staff to easily feel oriented with the building.



Executive Floor Terraces

The executive floor is structured on the same principles as the typical office plates below with the primary difference being the necessity or larger, private offices along much of the perimeter floor plate. Additionally, a large terrace has been provided running along the entire length of the eastern edge of the building. This terrace could accommodate larger groups of people attending a function within the Function Room located at the north-eastern corner. The Function Room has the ability to open directly out onto the terrace. Security screens are provided along the terraces length to prevent people passing by private offices during normal operation.

