

4.5 Campus Interface & Public Amenity

The new building ground floor level has been established at RL29.70 which corresponds to the ground floor of the existing Material and Science Building and provides a flat transition between the 2 buildings. The building is lifted above the ground plane by at least two steps, with a smooth ramp transition to College Walk. The proposed interface attempts to create a contiguous ground plane where possible to allow multiple entry points to the lobby and the teaching spaces. The natural fall of the site from RL 29.15 to RL 27.80 is absorbed by the stair case on the western end of the colonnade.

Activation along the future Alumni Park edge will be enhanced through the provision of publicly active spaces, namely the centrally Allocated Teaching Spaces (CATS) and the main entry to the teachings spaces which is located within a generous colonnade. The colonnade as well as the covered walkway along Race helps to increase valuable public amenity and allows visual links into the building.

Vertical patterns of usage are generally to locate research areas on the upper floors and teaching or university wide functions on lower floors. The proposed Science and Engineering building reflects the principle of active uses on the ground floor. The CAT spaces allow students and lectures easy access and maximum visibility on teaching activities from public spaces.

A large number of undergraduate students will exit and enter the class rooms on the Lower Ground Floor and on Level 01 at peak change-over times. Providing a separate entrance via a staircase in the colonnade encourages them to directly access the lower level teaching spaces while the main access point for researchers is the entrance lobby.

