

University of Canberra Bruce Campus Master Plan 2020-2040

Executive summary



UNIVERSITY OF
CANBERRA



We acknowledge the Ngunnawal people, traditional custodians of the lands where the Bruce Campus is situated. We wish to acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of Canberra and the region. We also acknowledge all other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities on whose lands we gather.

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Master Plan
Executive Summary

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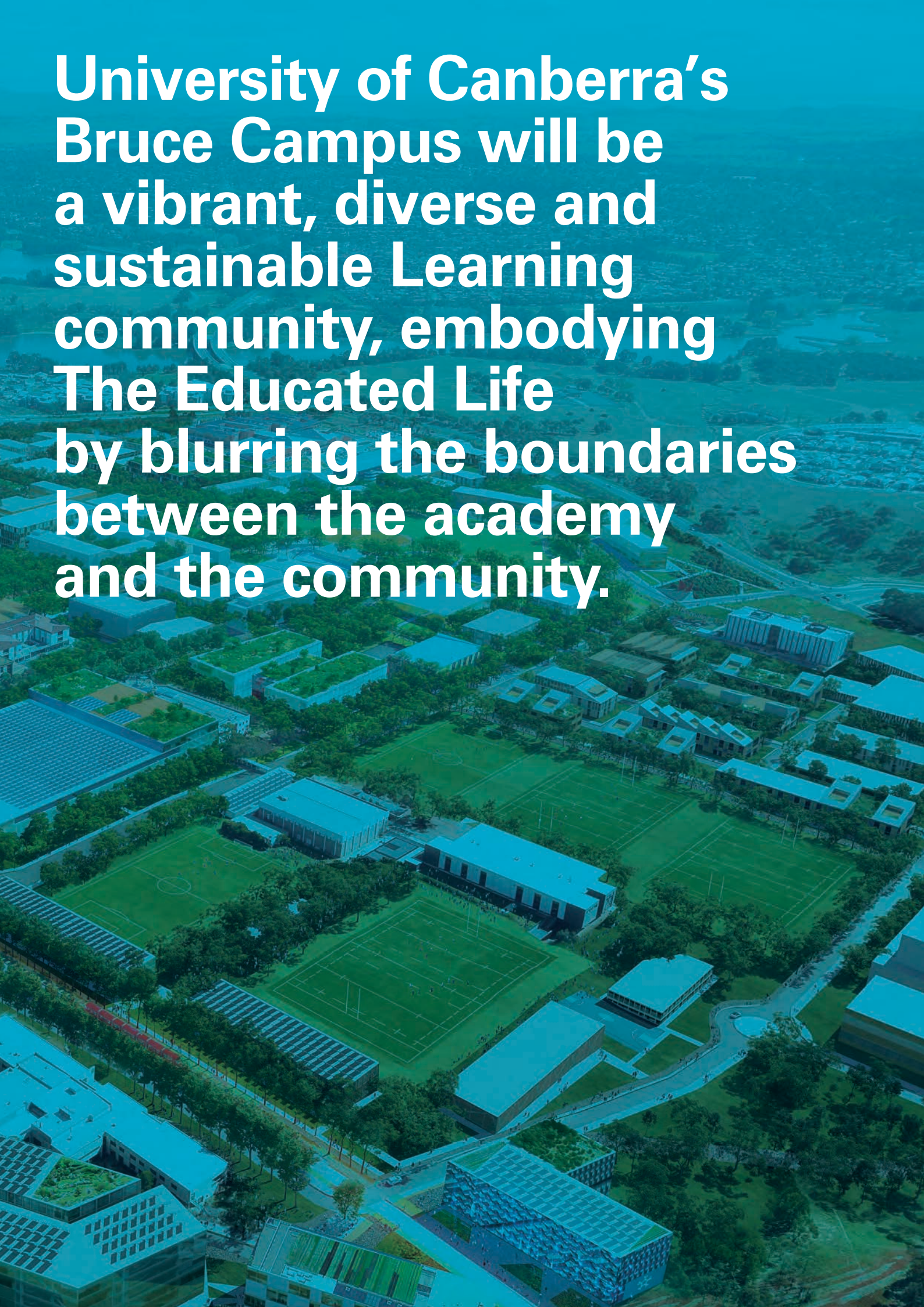
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Sub-consultants

New Learning Environments
Turf Design Studio
Canberra Town Planning
WSP
Vector Consulting
Waters Consultancy
Elton Consulting
(Stage One only)

Artist impression of aerial view looking northwest

**University of Canberra's
Bruce Campus will be
a vibrant, diverse and
sustainable Learning
community, embodying
The Educated Life
by blurring the boundaries
between the academy
and the community.**

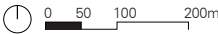


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Built form illustrative plan



- Proposed building
- Existing building
- Other proposed building
- Car parking
- Walks and boulevards
- Pedestrian Network
- Ecology Walk
- Running/walking trail
- Paved space
- Road network
- Shared/slow street
- Light rail alignment
- Existing sports field
- Proposed sports field
- Informal sports
- Water body
- Post-2040 development

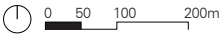


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Landscape illustrative plan



- Proposed and existing buildings
- Proposed sports fields
- Existing sports fields
- Irrigated lawns
- Grassed areas
- High landscape value
- Water body
- Sports courts
- Deciduous trees
- Avenue street trees
- Eucalypt groves
- New endemic planting
- Existing trees
- Ecology Walk (3km)
- Pedestrian path
- Pedestrian plaza



Executive summary

Why a new Master Plan?

The 2020 University of Canberra (UC) Master Plan is a flexible built environment strategy that will provide guidance to decision makers on the development of the Campus over the next 20 years. Six key drivers underpin the Master Plan, supporting the goals of The Educated Life philosophy and the Master Plan vision, themes and initiatives.

The ambition of the Master Plan is to ensure appropriate and cohesive development across UC's significant Bruce landholdings. It proposes the gradual delivery of built form and public spaces that will balance the varying needs of the UC community, connecting the Campus to its context while supporting UC's pedagogical ambitions. Most importantly, it will seek to enable UC's The Educated Life philosophy through Campus development.

The Master Plan:

- Aligns with UC's Strategic Plan
- Embodies The Educated Life philosophy
- Envisages a Civic University locally anchored with a global outreach
- Reinforces UC's identity - in/of/for/from Canberra and surrounding regions
- Creates a physical point of difference
- Supports UC's teaching, learning and research agenda
- Enables new partnerships which benefit UC
- Supports reconciliation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- Encourages diversity
- Provides a lively student and community experience
- Reuses viable built form and infrastructure
- Ensures infrastructure and built form is future-ready
- Harnesses the bush character of the Campus
- Sets environmental sustainability targets
- Includes digital and smart city initiatives
- Allows for growth within means over a 20 year period
- Supports the development of Investment and Partnership strategies

Campus history

Since UC's establishment as the Canberra College of Advanced Education in 1967, its Bruce Campus (the Campus) has undergone continued development. The original 1968 Master Plan by Hassell McConnell and Partners, like many of the time, envisaged an academic Campus core in the landscape, and access was reliant on the private vehicle. The Master Plan was focussed around the Concourse, the ceremonial heartland of the Campus, with sporting facilities to the east and residences to the north west and south west.

While a series of high-quality plans has been completed since this time, with the clear ambition to increase connectivity and activity, the Campus is still largely disconnected from its context. This Master Plan ties together work completed over the past decade, including the 2012 Master Plan, the 2012 Character Plan and the 2015 Urban Plan, to create a new strategy which can be implemented as envisaged.

Like these previous plans, this Master Plan preserves and enhances the existing core as the vibrant heart of the Campus. The core will be complemented by learning neighbourhoods, each one driven by UC's pedagogical ambitions. While the neighbourhoods will be distinctive, they will be knitted together by a network of light, safe and accessible pedestrian-prioritised learning walks that will offer opportunities for learning and engagement.

Master Plan context

The Master Plan aligns UC's strategic goals with the changing nature of tertiary education (including the increased reliance on digital technology) and the changes occurring in the ACT and Belconnen context.

Stakeholder engagement was an important and ongoing part of the Master Plan process, ensuring the document represents the multitude of voices within the UC community.

The unforeseen emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic continues to change the tertiary education landscape in Australia and internationally. The long-term impact on the sector is yet to be understood, and changes will be significant and likely permanent. While UC has pivoted to online teaching, learning and working, anecdotal evidence suggests that in-person collaboration will be crucial, and that a sticky, lively campus environment will be as important as ever.

Campus development history



Master Plan drivers



Canberra's University

The Master Plan reinforces UC's identity as Canberra's University: in, of, for and from Canberra and its surrounding regions, with global outreach. UC will benefit from improved connectivity to Canberra and its regions, and its significant landholdings can be leveraged for development which benefits both UC and the Canberra community.



Bush Campus setting

The Master Plan reinforces UC's distinctive bush character, linking key spaces to the region's significant landscapes, supporting existing ecology and biodiversity. Even as the Campus increases in density, this character will be preserved, offering a recognisable point of difference.



Experiential learning

With its focus on high-quality teaching, learning and research for students and the community, enabling experiential learning is a Master Plan priority. The Master Plan supports enhanced work integrated learning (WIL) in both industry settings and in the Campus landscape.



Indigenous UC

UC has a clear commitment to the advancement of reconciliation, and to the building of just, prosperous and sustainable communities which are respectful of its local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage. The Master Plan aims to provide an environment that fosters respect, unity, inclusion, understanding, truth telling and celebration.



Sustainable UC

UC has a strong commitment to sustainability and protecting the environment. The Master Plan envisages a high-achieving Campus, in all aspects of sustainability including climate change, and will be supported by resilient infrastructure, able to address UC's growing needs.



A vibrant UC community

UC is known for its vibrant Campus core, which attracts students, staff, and the broader community throughout the day and year. The Master Plan envisages a series of satellite hubs of health, wellness, sports, housing and enterprise connected to the core by safe and generous pedestrian paths, ensuring the whole Campus is punctuated by visible activity.

Campus vision

UC's Bruce Campus will reflect its role as Canberra's University, celebrating The Educated Life in its unique location at the intersection of Capital and Country. It will be smart and sustainable, connected by unique Australian landscape links to the community, and by digital technology to the world.

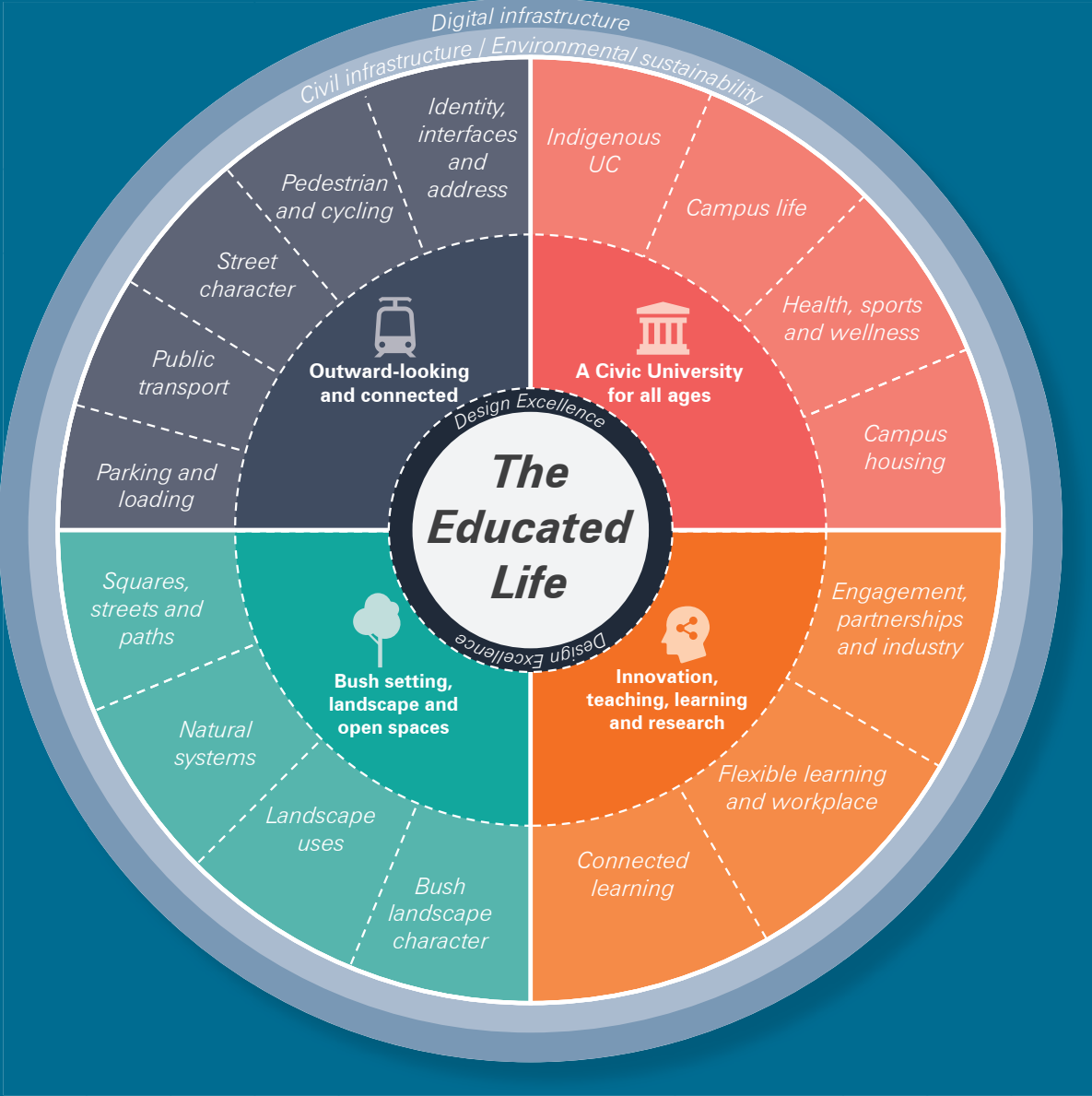
The Campus will be diverse, accessible and welcoming to people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds, while celebrating the area's continuing rich Indigenous culture.

UC will be a connected Learning community serviced by high quality public transport, with its perimeter, landscapes and streets reconfigured to seamlessly link to Belconnen and neighbours.

Teaching, learning and research hubs will be showcased and act as resources for students, partners and the broader community.

Master Plan framework

Given the themes are not mutually exclusive, and there is no hierarchy, the framework has been represented as a wheel, rather than a typical structural diagram. This wheel represents the structure of the Master Plan process, thinking and document.

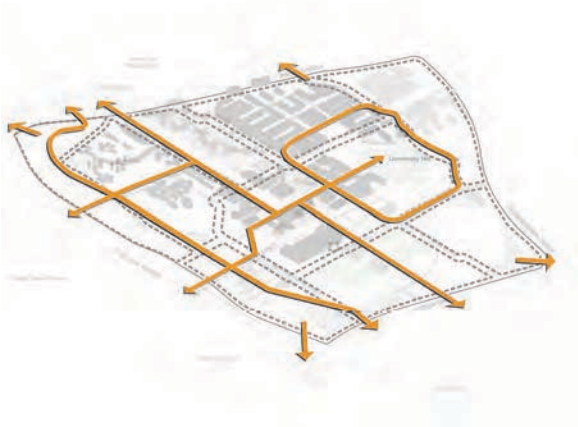


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Master Plan themes

The Master Plan's recommendations are organized into four themes that align the design of the Campus with The Educated Life. Each theme is supported by a series of initiatives, which are driven by directions for implementation.

Innovation, learning, teaching and research

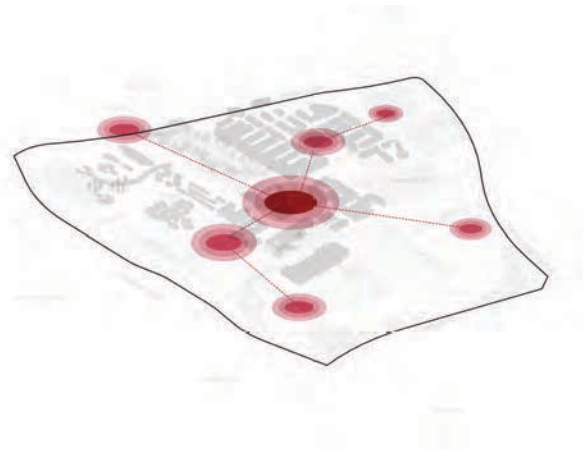


With its focus on high-quality teaching, learning and research for students and the broader community, the Campus will be integrated into neighbouring districts. The community will be invited into the Campus to enjoy the rich learning environment, as well as the services that it offers.

Lively learning neighbourhoods and walks will form the urban structure of the Campus, supporting The Educated Life philosophy. The Campus core will remain at the heart of the model, linked to satellite partnership hubs of health, wellness, sports, housing and enterprise.

Its configuration will ensure the students learning and research spaces are celebrated and showcase what UC does well.

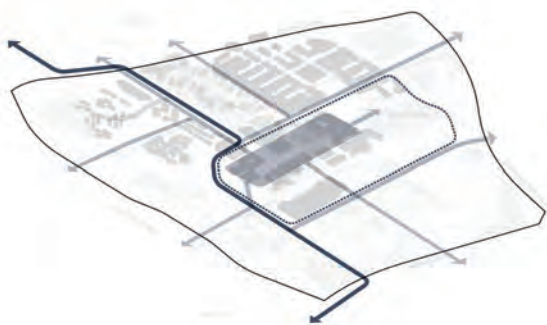
Civic University for all ages



The Campus will be an open and welcoming place which is in, of, for and from Canberra and surrounding regions, with global outreach. It will be a beacon of learning, culture, health and wellness, sport, retail and hospitality for students, staff and surrounding communities.

People of different ages, abilities and cultures will be welcomed into the Campus, to experience its integrated offerings and special events. The area's rich and continuing Indigenous culture will be recognised as a key driver in all projects within all major Campus core projects, the broader urban realm and at key gateways. A variety of accommodation options will be provided on the Campus, supporting people of all ages and backgrounds, from students, to families, to the elderly and people with specific needs.

Outward looking and connected



The Campus will be clearly identifiable at its edges, with clear gateways and arrival points, easily accessible by active and public transport.

Movement through the Campus will support people of all abilities via well-lit, safe and generous cycling and pedestrian paths, augmented by shuttle transport, such as an electric shuttle bus.

Bush setting, landscape and open spaces



The unique bush character of the Campus will be nurtured, linking to the region's significant landscapes. Indigenous narrative will be woven through the landscape.

Ecology and biodiversity will be enhanced and conserved across the Campus, alongside a network of public open spaces used by students, staff and members of the broader Canberra community.

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Campus structure

Neighbourhoods and walks

The Campus will be shaped as a group of independent but connected neighbourhoods, creating a network of knowledge nodes within the Campus. The neighbourhoods will provide a full range of services, with learning at the core of all development. Learning neighbourhoods will be linked by high quality, safe and engaging learning walks and corridors: pedestrian-prioritised zones that provide and showcase opportunities for learning and engagement, with supporting social, natural and retail spaces.

Learning neighbourhoods

Campus core neighbourhood

UC's well-known core will remain the beating heart of the Campus, reinvigorated to support additional research and partner facilities embedded within academic buildings and appropriate faculty zones. The Concourse will be covered by a new pavilion-like structure, creating a new continuous learning hub which connects Buildings 1 and 8. A new Central Resources Hub will mark the main arrival point at the southern end of the Concourse.

Health neighbourhoods

The existing Health neighbourhood will be expanded to encompass a series of intensive centres of excellence in tertiary health care, aged care, key worker housing, early childhood development and research. It will also include a variety of learning and teaching spaces that support UC's faculties, supported by associated enterprise development.

Sports neighbourhood

The Sports neighbourhood will continue to support elite sport and associated research (for example, the Research Institute for Sport and Exercise). It will encourage staff and students in being active and well in line with UC's mission, and will continue to attract community sports organisations. The neighbourhood will promote WIL within new developments and ensure appropriate development of surrounding areas to integrate with the Sporting Commons.

Local centre and enterprise neighbourhood

A new local centre will be anchored by a Light Rail station to the south of the Campus, and will attract a series of bespoke commercial, retail and hospitality focused partners with embedded learning opportunities that support the distinctiveness of the UC identity. These partners, including a new primary school and new enterprise offerings, will offer opportunities for collaborative research and WIL in a real-world urban setting.

Residential neighbourhoods

A series of residential neighbourhoods, such as Campus Community North, will provide opportunities for partnerships to deliver a diverse housing mix, ranging from higher density market housing to specialist housing and affordable housing for students, staff, visitors and key workers.

Learning walks

Academic Walk

Academic Walk will extend on the north-south orientation of the Concourse, linking the Campus from College Street and connecting directly north towards University Hill. The generous civic walk will connect pedestrians from a proposed multi-deck car park, through the retail and hospitality heart and directly into the Concourse.

Sports Walk

Sports Walk will build upon the existing east-west link present, and formalise it through celebrating UC sporting staff, students and alumni along its length. The walk will provide a clear weather-protected pedestrian link between the Campus core and sports neighbourhood, offering places to sit, relax and engage with UC's sporting facilities and partners.

Health Loop

Health Loop will better integrate the core University to the UC Hospital, northern health neighbourhoods and the Campus Community. The walk will consist of a strong landscape character, passing through the Campus Community and sharing an active interface with its ground floor tenancies.

Belconnen Boulevard

The Belconnen Boulevard will formalise the existing link to the Belconnen Town Centre, transforming it into a well-lit, generous civic walk with an urban character. The boulevard will consist of high quality finishes, lined with informal recreation and opportunities to pause, direct visual connections to University Park.

Campus West Walk

A shared meandering vehicle, pedestrian and cycle walk with clear vantage and outlook provided from key topographical moments to Lake Ginninderra and the ridges beyond.

College Walk

College Walk will directly connect the University's student accommodation to the core of the Campus, while also providing a secondary route towards Gossan Nature Reserve. The walk will be set within a landscaped buffer which provides ecological and biodiversity amenity. The walk will also be supported by informal sporting and recreational facilities, able to be used by students living on Campus.

Enterprise Walk

A shared east-west urban walk set within the well-landscaped Enterprise and local centre neighbourhood. The walk will employ best practice WSUD measures, and will consist of a mix of paved and permeable surfaces.

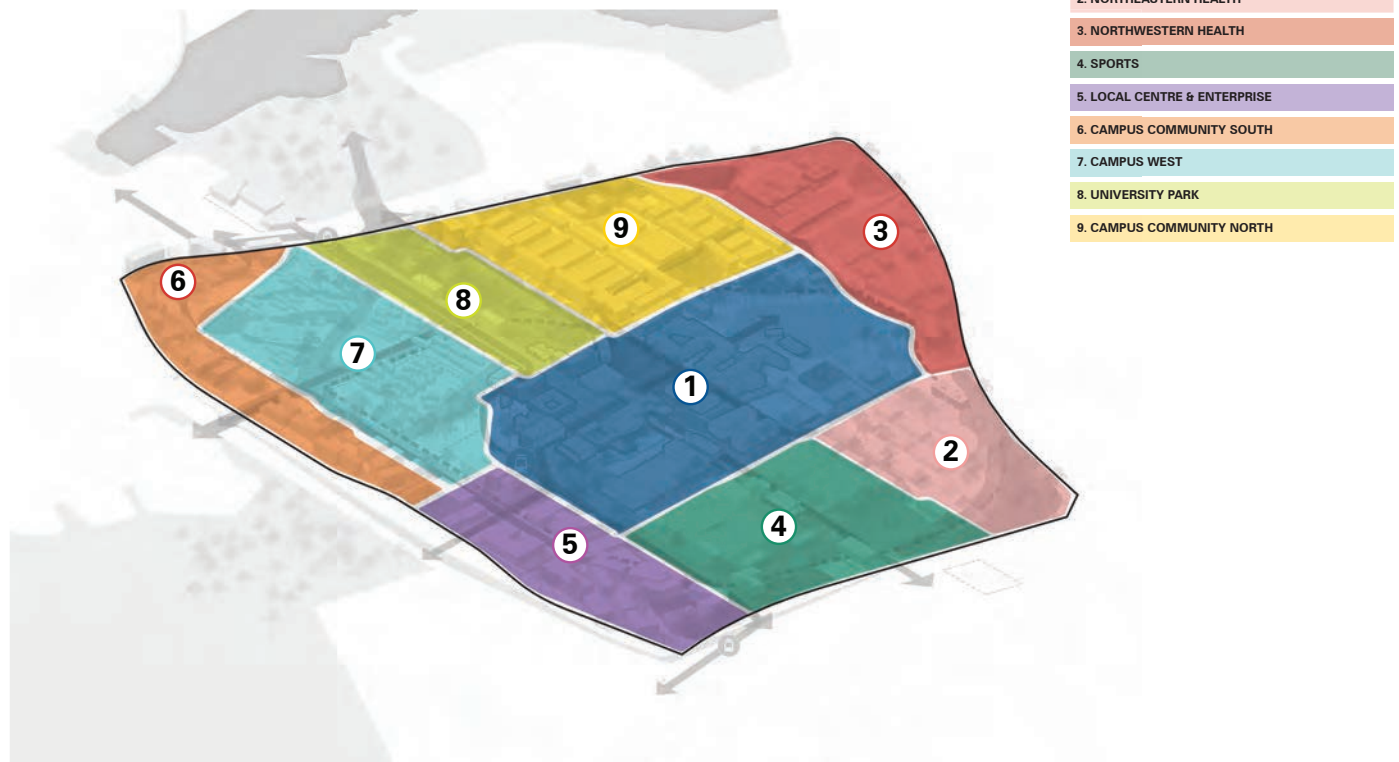
Ecology Walk

A loop trail set within established vegetation that passes through the majority of learning neighbourhoods. The walk will have a strong landscape focus, providing insight into the local ecology and biodiversity present on the Campus.

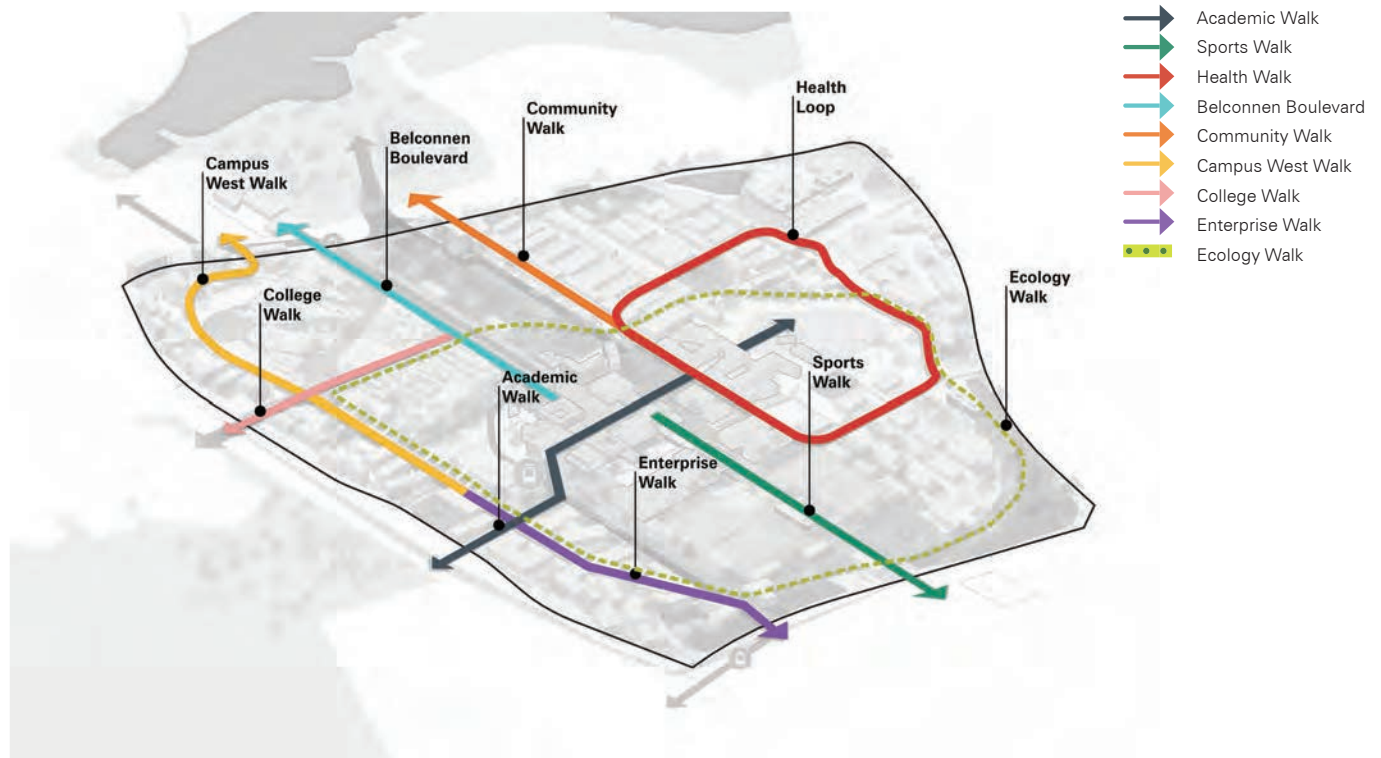
Community Walk

Community Walk will provide an active frontage, consisting of recreational facilities, to the southern end of the Campus Community North neighbourhood. The walk will provide spaces for pop-up events, markets and informal exercise, offering students, staff and visitors opportunity to engage with local residents.

Learning neighbourhoods



Learning walks



Artist impression looking down Belconnen Boulevard





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Campus neighbourhoods and places



The drawing below provides an overview of key Campus development projects within each Campus neighbourhood, highlighted within the Master Plan.



Executive summary

Campus core neighbourhood

The Campus core will continue to act as the ceremonial and cultural heart of UC, consisting of a series of upgraded and new academic buildings which share a direct interface to the Concourse. A series of refurbishments and interventions will better activate and connect Building 8, transforming the Hub into an undercover atrium which links to Building 1 and Kirinari Street. An iconic Central Resources Hub and Arrival Plaza located opposite the future Light Rail station and local centre, will showcase UC to the public and help create a welcoming arrival experience.

A

Central Resources Hub and Chancellory

As the role of libraries are being radically transformed with a progressive move to their re-imagination as resource hubs, a Central Resources Hub will provide a faculty wide common multidisciplinary hub for the Bruce Campus. This hub will be pivotal in showcasing UC to the public and creating a welcoming gateway.



Jeffrey Smart Building, University of South Australia by John Wardle Architects provides an iconic building with transparent facade that showcases learning and teaching uses.
Source: John Wardle Architects

B

Indoor Sports Centre

In partnership with the ACT Government, UC will potentially deliver a new high level training and competitions multi court sports centre. This world class sporting facility will also be used for other University events, such as graduation ceremonies and concerts.



The Coomera Indoor Sports Centre features 8 mixed-use sports courts and a gymnastics arena.
Source: BDA Architecture with Peddle Thorp Architects,
Image: Scott Burrows

C

Refurbished Building 8, 5 and 1

The lower levels of existing buildings within the Concourse will be opened up to showcase teaching, learning and research, and create sheltered outdoor spaces, including a weatherproof connection between Building 8 and Building 1 and a new deck to the east of Building 1.



La Trobe University Library converted a brutalist building into a contemporary learning hub.
Source: La Trobe University

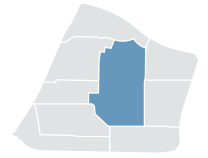
D

University Hill Gateway

A reconfigured Building 6 will allow for a direct connection to University Hill through a portal which links directly to the northern Concourse.



Maitland Riverlink by CHROFI Architects is a 'sculptural gateway' that frames views to and from the Hunter River and attracts people to pass through.
Source: CHROFI and McGregor Coxall

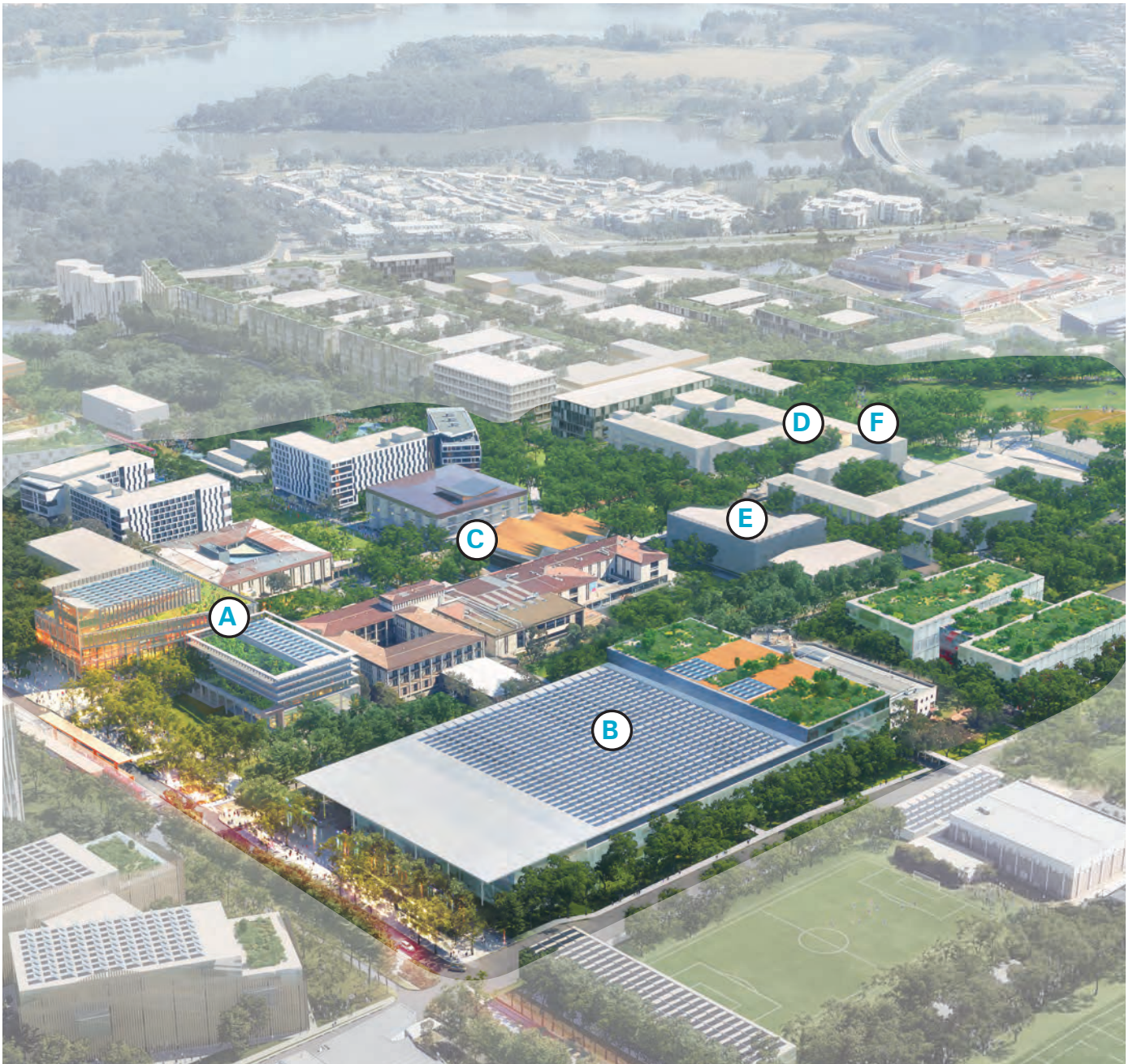


Ecology and Applied Sciences building

A flagship Ecology and Applied Sciences building integrated into the natural landscape, optimising views and connections to the bush landscape setting.

University Hill pavilion

A sacred space which pays its respect to traditional custodians of the land and provides an introspective, sheltered space which can be used for informal study and learning, with uninterrupted views to the ridges beyond.

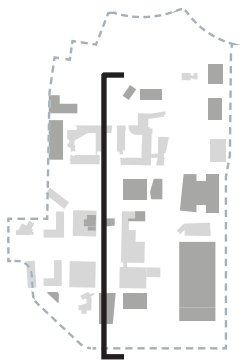


**Artist impression of the new Arrival Plaza
and Central Resources Hub**





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Campus core neighbourhood

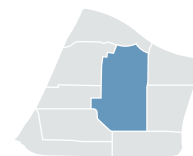


Retain the existing tree coverage in the central Concourse, supported by a collection of informal learning and teaching facilities

Demarcate the Belconnen Boulevard axis within the Concourse to ensure continuity of pedestrian movement through

Retain existing Concourse seating and landscape interventions





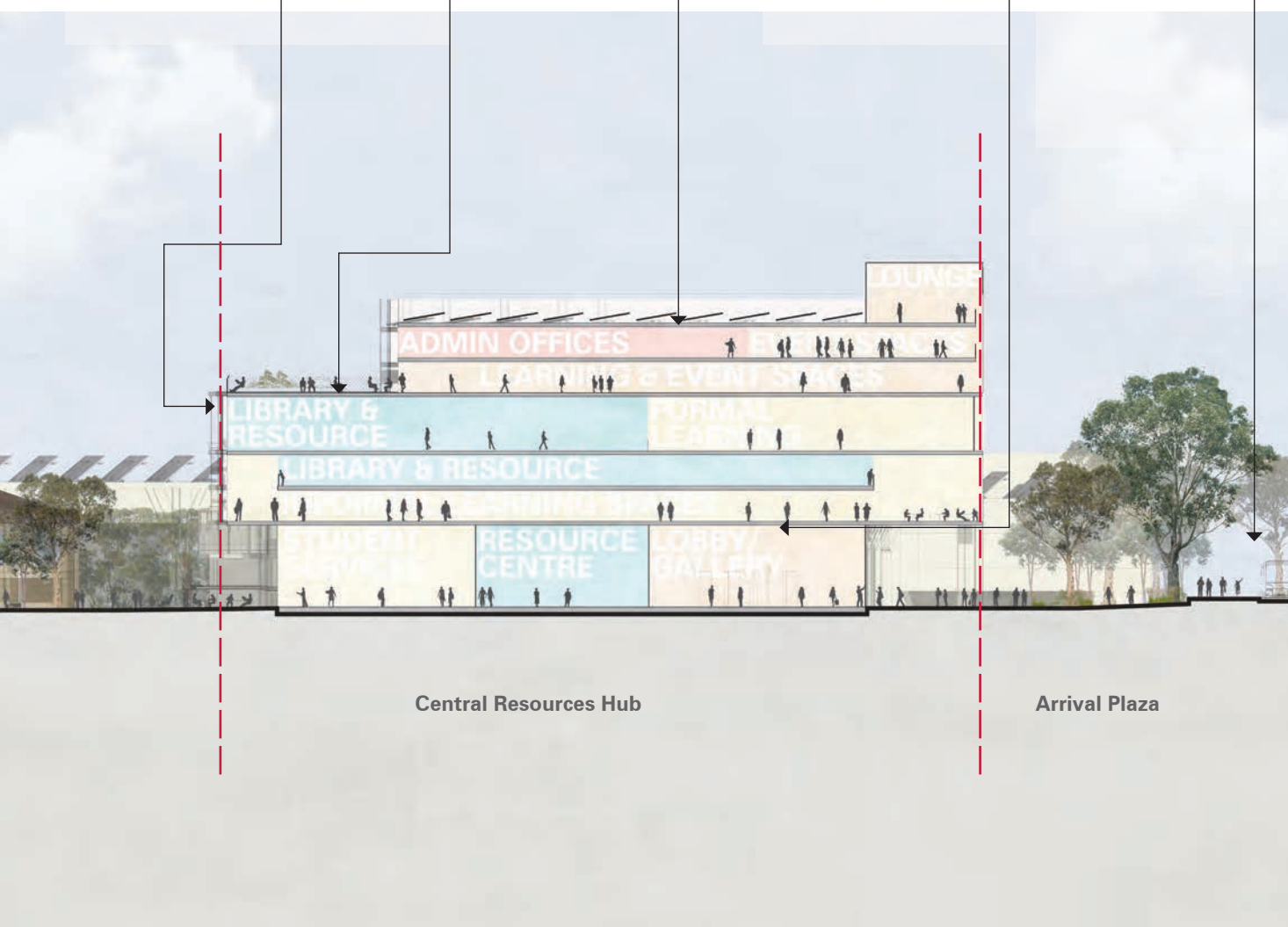
Create an architecturally unique facade that complements the existing 1960's palette of the Concourse while introducing a contemporary aesthetic

Create an accessible north facing roofscape with views over the Concourse and towards key landscapes

Utilise roofscape to showcase sustainability initiatives of UC, including PV and green roofs

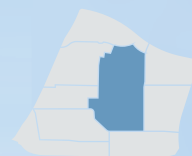
Provide a visually transparent, weather protected ground floor that welcomes visitors into a gallery/exhibition/public lecture space. Opportunity for UC to showcase research initiatives within a public shop-front opposite major public transport arrival point

Create a welcoming public entry plaza that will stitch the Concourse to the local centre, helping to blur the boundary between City and University. Create a ceremonial arrival square that welcomes visitors through a portal before entering the Concourse



**Artist impression of covered Hub between
Building 1 and Building 8**





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Campus West, Campus Community South and University Park neighbourhoods

Connected by green landscape links from University Park, the southern topographical ridge will be celebrated and upgraded into a Hilltop Park. A residential village will bring together UC's existing student accommodation providers in Campus West, while encouraging a diversity of housing options for key workers, academics and students, supported by informal sporting, hospitality and recreational facilities. UC's University Green will be transformed into University Park— an urban parkland with a strong civic presence, supported by a range of recreational facilities able to be used by students, staff and visitors throughout the day and year.

A

College Street gateway

A multideck car park, sleeved in a series of incubator spaces that showcase innovation at the College Street entry, supported by a standalone UC gateway building.



Based in central Paris, Station F gathers a whole entrepreneurial ecosystem under one roof. Photography: Patrick Tournéboeuf

B

Belconnen Boulevard

An active axis towards Belconnen, activated by a series of recreational facilities such outdoor basketball courts, seating and outdoor galleries.



Stanford Discovery Walk provides an active student axis activated by a series of recreational facilities. Source: Norbert von der Groeben

C

University Park

A 10 hectare urban parkland that consists of an urban forest with formal open spaces for gathering and recreation.



Royal Botanical Gardens, Melbourne. Source: Adrian Vitto

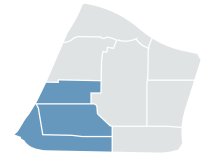
D

Landscape links and Hilltop Park

A valuable open space asset for local residents which incorporates outdoor learning opportunities and ensures views to sites of Indigenous importance are highlighted.



Governors Island, west-8 creates 30 acres of new park and public space throughout the island and adds key visitor amenities to the historic North Island. Source: west-8



Wildlife crossing

A wildlife crossing (either land-bridge or tunnel) that links Cooinda Street over College Street to the Gossan Nature Reserve.

Bimbimbie

A programmable cultural pavilion for use as a gallery and event space by UC, re-imagined within a forest setting for use by local residents, UC students and staff.



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Sports, local centre and enterprise neighbourhoods

Opposite the new Arrival Plaza, an active local centre will be supported by a diverse range of services, accommodation, businesses, hospitality and retail offerings. Towards the south-east, an Enterprise neighbourhood focussed upon collaboration, enterprise and University related research, will become a regional destination for conference and exhibition, within a unique landscape setting. UC's existing sporting facilities will be conglomerated into a first-class sports neighbourhood for staff and students, residents and the wider community, with iconic built form which connects to its recreational and open space context.

A

Research and development park

A diverse range of enterprise partnerships in research and development with an embedded UC presence.



GovHub, Ballarat.
Source: John Wardle Architects

B

Vertical primary school

In consultation with the ACT Government, establish a world-class vertical primary school that encourages integration with nearby local communities and create opportunities for Work Integrated Learning and collaboration with the Faculty of Education.



Adelaide Botanic High School, Adelaide.
Source: DesignInc

C

Local centre and light rail arrival

A mixed use local centre which contains a collection of short stay accommodation, community library, retail and hospitality uses and employment space.



Google Chrome headquarters, South Lake Union Campus, Seattle.
Source: Renderings courtesy of Graphite Design Group.

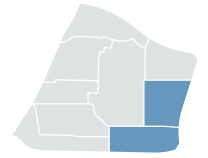
D

Community sport facilities

A series of community based sporting facilities, with opportunities for embedded UC research and faculty-based zones. Ground level spaces will be permeable and showcase activities to passers-by.



Balwyn Park Community Hub and Tennis Club MGS Architects, Melbourne.
Source: MGS Architects



Sports Walk

Extension and upgrade of the existing Sports Walk, affirming its role as an important link in connecting the Campus. The walk will be lined with weather protected informal learning nodes, activities such as outdoor exercise equipment and include signage commemorating the many sporting greats which count among UC's alumni.

Haydon Drive gateway

A new landmark building with a blended UC/partnership use that defines the major public transport gateway from the City, showcasing both UC and its enterprise partners.



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Campus Community North, North Eastern and North Western Health neighbourhoods

Community-based Health neighbourhoods will combine external partners with University health researchers complementing facilities such as Canberra Specialist Medical Centre and the Health Hub, and be anchored by the UC Hospital. Campus Community North will be a high density urban infill neighbourhood with the vision to be a modern, progressive and sustainable community that demonstrates innovative planning and design in architecture, landscape and streetscape.

A

Health Loop

Reinforce the Health Loop as an integral stitching element between Campus Community North and UC. Cluster retail and hospitality based uses along its length to create an active spine which promotes health and wellness.



The Goods Line
Source: CHROFI and Aspect Studios.

B

Research partnership facilities

Further Health-related development, ranging from specialist partners to associated Health, SciTech and Ecology-based uses.



Princess Alexandra Hospital Campus, Brisbane.
Source: Wilson Architects

C

Medium density residential village

A residential village for use by key workers, post-graduate students, international students and visiting academics.



Accordia Brooklands Neighbourhood.
Source: Alison Brooks Architects, Cambridge

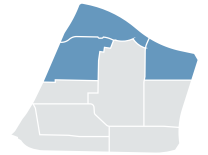
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Infrastructure hub

An Infrastructure Hub (with capacity for grounds and waste management recycling hub and mail centre) located away from sensitive land uses and higher intensity areas.



11,000 square-foot chiller plant at the University of Massachusetts
Source: Leers Weinzapfel Associates



Health partners

Health partnership facilities anchored by the Health Hub, particularly within the fields of allied health. Partnership facilities must integrate learning and teaching capacities to enable Work Integrated Learning and offer research opportunities.

UC Hospital Arrival Plaza

A dedicated Arrival Plaza to UC Hospital via the Health Loop, supported by spaces to informally meet, teach and interact.



