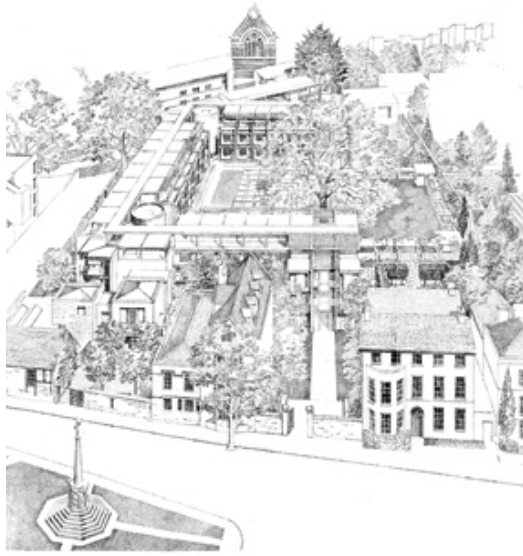


Press Release: New Quadrangle for St. John's College, Oxford.



MacCormac Jamieson Prichard has been commissioned by St. John's College, Oxford to design a new quadrangle to the north of the existing College.

The scheme is centred on a garden, continuing the sequence of gardens which runs from the original parts of the College behind St. Giles up to the new site. Within the garden it proposes a new formal quadrangle similar in size and proportion to the famous Canterbury Quadrangle of 1636. Clustering round this central space are a series of smaller courtyards and gardens which offer a number of routes around the scheme and a variety of environments for discovery.

The new building consists mainly of student accommodation, together with a small library or archive, communal spaces and a number of new teaching rooms

Generally the materials of the garden parts of the building are timber and glass on concrete cross walls, but nearer to St. Giles more stone is introduced.

Currently completion is programmed for late 2009.

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Notes to Editors:

Previous MJP schemes for St Johns College.

Senior Common Room

This recently completed sensitive project extends the existing senior common room building, which is Grade 1 listed and dates from 1676.

Our design provides new sitting rooms, a roof terrace and an extended lunch room on the first-floor. The first floor dining area cantilevers into the garden and is wrapped in a two-storey, free-standing glass box. Weathered oak louvres sit outside the box on a flitched steel and oak frame and are set against a backdrop of nearby tree canopies.

The extension is more a garden pavilion than a building extension, allowing the natural surroundings of the garden to reach into the building, rather than the building encroaching upon it. From inside, the dialogue with the gardens has a contemplative quality.

Within the existing building, rooms are remodelled and disabled access improved to bring it in line with the latest legislation.

Garden Quadrangle

In a poll conducted by the 'Oxford Times' in 2003, our new quadrangle for St. John's College was voted by the public to be the best building constructed in Oxford within the previous 75 years.

It lies behind a 17th century stone wall that forms the northern boundary of the College garden. By penetrating beyond the garden, the development extends the College into previously unknown territory. In anticipation of this, the building was designed to sustain a sense of the secret and unexpected.

Public rooms including an auditorium and dining room form a lower ground level, a top-lit underworld. Above these, a landscaped terrace forms an upper world for 41 undergraduate rooms arranged in towers. Smaller buildings (fellows' sets and a belvedere) stand in the foreground and contribute to the complexity of the silhouette.

The construction articulates the contrast between the upper and lower worlds. Below terrace level, the structure consists of precast white concrete, the largest elements weighing about eight tons. Piers are rusticated and the shallow pendentive domes are cantilevered off clusters of highly polished columns. Hollow keystones illuminate deeply coloured perimeter walls.

Above terrace level, the load-bearing brick and blockwork construction develops vertically into slender, precast frames supporting glass and metal screens to create a series of lantern-like prospect towers.

The public rooms can be opened into one another for major functions, such as concerts and lectures. Access to student rooms is entirely separate and these rooms are arranged conventionally around spiral staircases.

The existing listed building fronting Parks Road has been refurbished and partly rebuilt for student accommodation and teaching rooms. Between this building and the Garden Quadrangle is a group of music rooms in a two storey pavilion.

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