A tale of two spaces - front lawn and village square

We propose enhancing the significant one of these spaces, retaining the front lawn. A new building replaces the library house and hedge, providing a low-impact, fast-effective, and effectively respectful from the lawn.

The new flat roof, pore and building definitions a new village square. In this extension a new entrance would enliven one of the village's most significant outdoor spaces, with access to St Deiniol's church, the church hall and the Stephen Gladstone Hall.

The east face of the proposed building defines a new village square. Its new entrances efficiently and effectively separates cars from the lawn.

A tale of two spaces - front lawn and village square

Before

After

The Front Garden, adding space and enhancing the Library building with the new wing to increase

Gladstone’s church, the church hall and the Stephen Gladstone Hall.

A productive place

Gladstone’s Library is a haven for anyone looking for a place to read, write, relax and reflect. It provides a space for study, recreation, musicians to help understand us, creatively and people with disabilities to share your thoughts. The new building will provide new places for visitors to study, finding and sharing.

The Forum is a generous meeting hall at the south end of the new building. A square room with barrel ceiling, it naturally flows a continuous circle. A mature, double-height room for the next provides more capacity and an additional stage. Glazed bays and doors console the space to the terrace, with high-level views having views to the garden, surrounding landscape, library buildings and the Octagon Library. The building's flexible layout provides a variety of ways and provides an adaptable meeting place that works for all ages.

The new building uses materials that continue and complement the palette of the original buildings and resonate with the Library’s rich history. To accommodate the changing needs of the library we propose to build a new wing to the country house, a contemporary public building to complement the historic buildings and enhance the library’s rich history.

Familiar materials, 20th century craft

The new building uses materials that continue and complement the palette of the original buildings. The materials used have natural characteristics to reflect the contemporary, providing a harmonious surface relief by the local variety of the oak timber block. To match the formal variety and elaboration of the original, these meandering edges of the key spaces have CNC-milled panels of random sequence in the original’s Tabernacle and are the interior meaning that reflects to the natural world, and the seamless pattern of St Deiniol’s church space.

Simple and sustainable

To ensure its environmental, social and economic sustainability the building needs to be able to adapt to the evolving needs of Gladstone’s Library and the wider community for which the library has a public, regenerative environmental design for extensive internal space use. Its simple robust structure with internal load-bearing walls allows easy of adaptation, future proofing the changing needs. The range of distinct and different spaces, with unique spatial delight, gives an exterior environment that is both flexible and visually delightful now and for the next century of the library’s life.

A welcoming country house

In 1869 Gladstone’s built a converted iron library, now named the ‘Tin Tabernacle’ to house his collection of 30,000 books. This was replaced by the residential library buildings that we see today in 1902. Built as ‘a country house for the purposes of study and recreation’, its aim was to bring together readers who had no books and books who had no readers’. To accommodate the changing needs of the library we propose to build a new wing to the country house, a contemporary public building to complement the historic buildings and enhance the library’s rich history.

Gladstone’s Living Heritage

Gladstone’s Library, Hawarden, Flintshire

Approaching Gladstone’s Library from Church Lane there is a new village square with a surfaced space with setts and a circular lawn. New trees continue the shape and defined line of St Deiniol’s church ground.

Gatehouse and exhibition hall

A gatehouse provides a new entrance, a generous reception, gliding to allow views through to the garden and historic buildings. The gatehouse provides a connection between the existing residential wing and the new wing. Above the reception is the Tabernacle library, an octagonal space formed with sandstone and etched from Gladstone’s personal collection and open to the public.

Next to the reception is the exhibition hall, a significant new room to house an exhibition about Gladstone and his legacy. It focuses on three subjects: the evolution of democracy, religious tolerance and human rights and genocide, as well as displaying other treasures from the library. The exhibition space is a characterful room, naturally lit from above with views out to the gardens. It seamlessly recuperates some of the art, sculpture and lighting and is able to show touring exhibitions of work from national collections.

The east face of the proposed building defines a new village square. Its new entrances efficiently and effectively separates cars from the lawn.

Insight and refreshment

At the heart of the new building is a new cafe and bistro, serving honest, family prepared homestyles and local street. A generous space that has a pitched ceiling is glazed along the length of its long side, allowing the space to spill out into the garden. Facing event south west it is a great setting for lunch and makes the most of the evening light. Along its east side it is a kitchen and easy access door for house facilities and a discrete loading bay adjacent to the car park. The main cafe space can hold 60 people with adjacent meeting rooms opening up to a gross total of 108 seats.

The east face of the proposed building defines a new village square. Its new entrances efficiently and effectively separates cars from the lawn.

Gardens for reflection and contemplation

The front façade of the library will now be less hazy and subsequently be more used, a new cafe and the Tabernacle providing a historic backings. To the north of the library, the Residential Lawn provides a quiet space. This leads to the woodland Walk, a new path through the existing woodland to create a new contemplation space for events, and the public. The woodland will be kept very wild allowing close connection with the natural elements, with benches providing a place to rest or read in a quiet place.

New Cafe Bistro with the Exhibition hall beyond

The new Village Square, looking towards the Gatehouse and reception foyer

The new Forum with meeting rooms and the cafe bistro beyond

The three wings of Gladstone’s Library

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