



The Front Garden looking towards Gladstone's statue and the historic Library building, with the new wing to the east



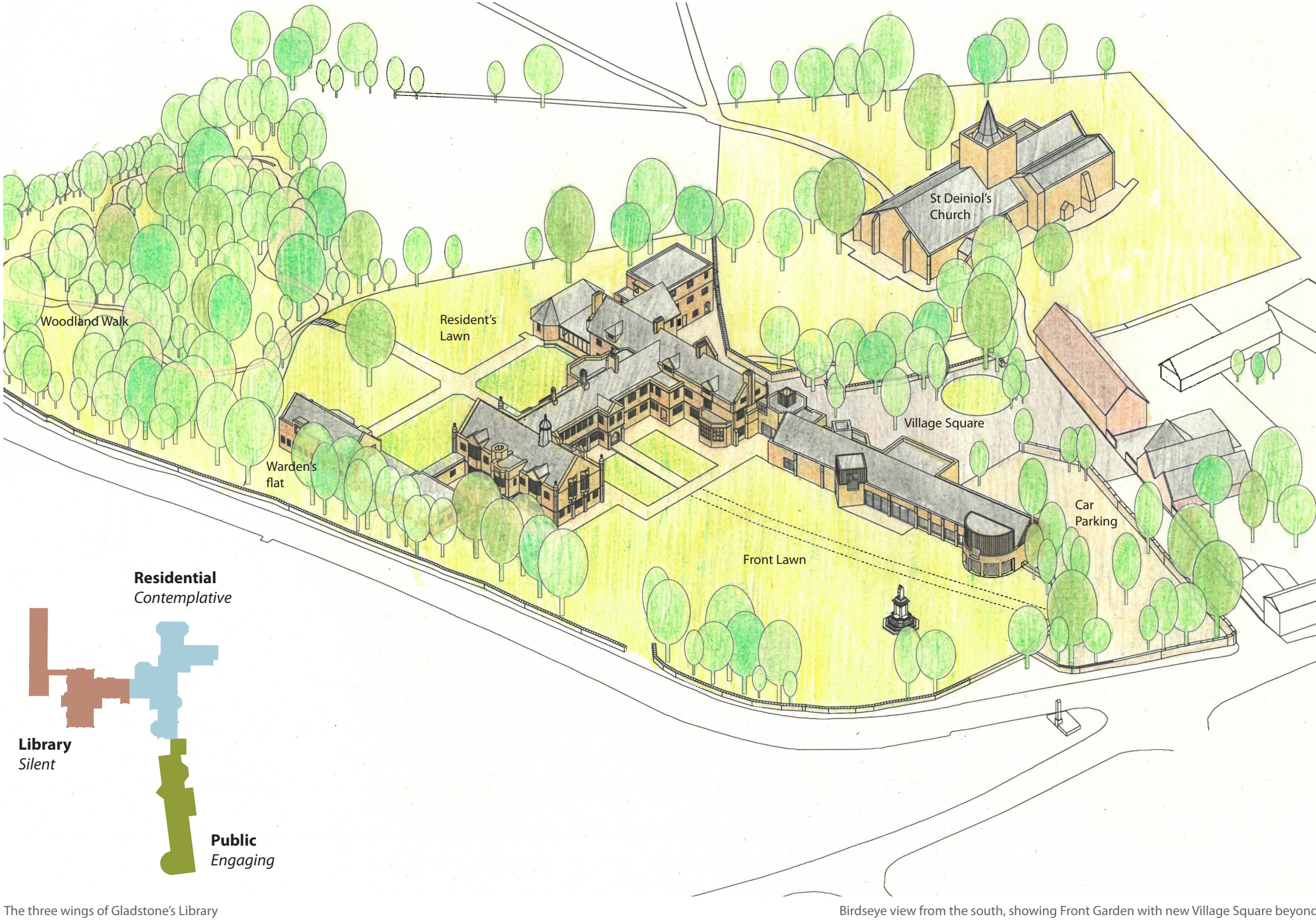
1899, view from south west by architect John Douglas' 1902, view from south west 1910s, view from south west

A tale of two spaces - front lawn and village square
We propose enhancing the significant view of the house by reinstating the front lawn. A new building replaces the Warden's house and hedge, providing an inhabited barrier that efficiently and effectively separates cars from the lawn. The east face of the proposed building defines a new village square. Its new entrances help 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.



2018, view from south west

Proposed view from south west



The three wings of Gladstone's Library

Birdseye view from the south, showing Front Garden with new Village Square beyond



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

Gatehouse and exhibition hall

Approaching Gladstone's Library from Church Lane there is a new village square with a surface of stone setts and a circular lawn. New trees continue the shade and dappled light of St Deiniol's church grounds.

A gatehouse provides a new entrance with a generous reception, glazed 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 Octagon Library, an eight sided room lined with books and letters 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 incorporates state-of-the-art conditioning and lighting and is able to host touring exhibitions of work from national collections.



New Cafe Bistro with the Exhibition hall beyond

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 silent study, resources to help visitors think creatively and people with whom to share your thoughts. The new building will provide new places for visitors to study, thinking and share.

The Forum is a generous meeting hall at the south end of the new building. A square room with domed ceiling, it is naturally lit from a central oculus. A semi-circular, double height recess to the west provides more capacity and an informal stage. Glazed bays and doors connect the space to the lawn beyond, with a high level window framing views of Gladstone's statue. The room is both spacious and intimate, can be arranged in a variety of ways and provides an ideal meeting place that works for 8 people and 80. Two connected meeting rooms ensure it provides a perfect place for conferences, courses and events. In addition to the Forum the new building has a range of one-off study places, including window seats, alcoves and niches providing public quiet spaces for personal contemplation and reflection.

FOUND FORM: the stone mouldings of the Library building, combining pointed and curved profiles



CONTEMPORARY TECHNOLOGY: CNC router machines bespoke red concrete moulds from foam

MYTH: the corrugated iron of Gladstone's original 'Tin Tabernacle', also known as the 'Iron Library'



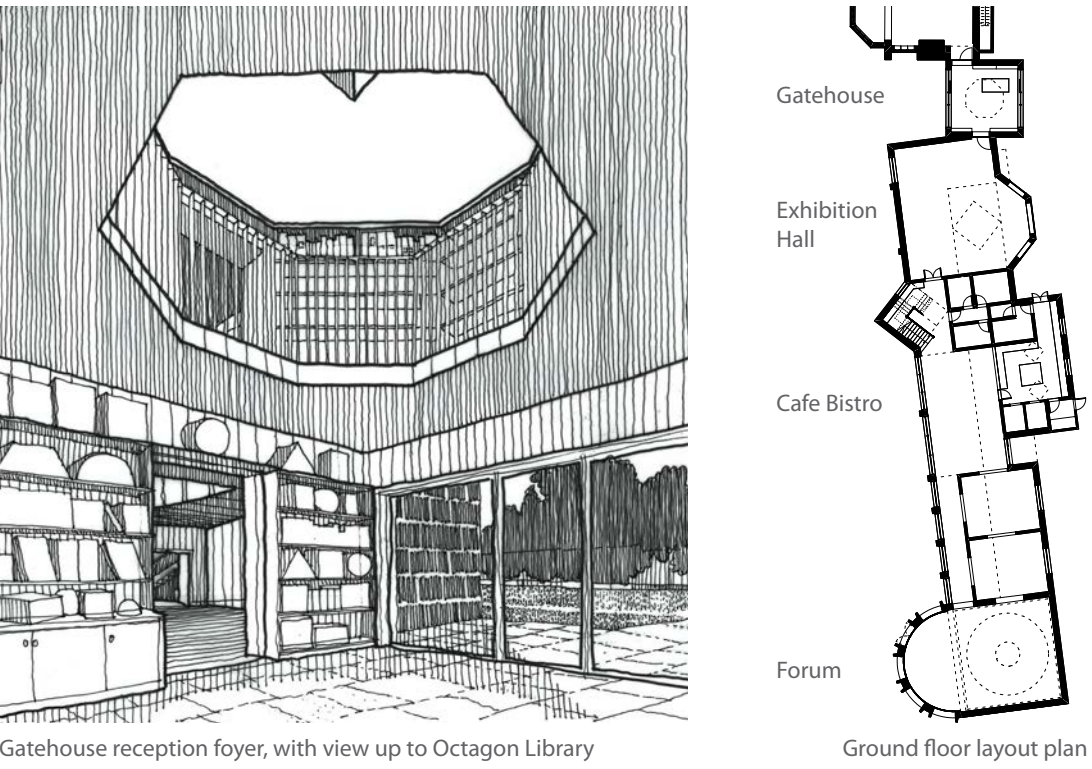
FOUND MATERIALS: new zinc roof with seams to match St Deiniol's church's lead spire

A Gladstone's Living Heritage

Gladstone's Library, Hawarden, Flintshire

A welcoming country house

In 1889 Gladstone built a corrugated iron library, nick named the 'Tin Tabernacle', to house his collection of 32,000 books. This was replaced by the residential library buildings that we see on the site today. Built as a 'a country home for the purposes of study and research' it aims '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 this country house, a contemporary public building to complement the historic buildings and resonate with the Library's rich history.



Gatehouse reception foyer, with view up to Octagon Library

Ground floor layout plan

Insight and refreshment

At the heart of the new building is a new cafe and bistro, serving honest, freshly prepared homemade and local food. A generous barn-like room with a pitched ceiling it is glazed along the length of its long side, allowing the space to spill out into the garden. Facing west south west it is a great setting for lunch and makes the most of the evening light. Along its east side is a new kitchen, easy to access back of 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 give a total of 100 seats.

Gardens for reflection and contemplation

The Front Garden of the Library will now be car-free and subsequently be more secluded, a lush lawn with the 1902 Library building providing a historic backdrop. To the north of the Library, the Resident's Lawn provides a quieter space. This leads to the Woodland Walk, a new path through the existing woodland to create a new contemplative space for residents 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.



The new Forum with meeting rooms and the cafe bistro beyond

Familiar materials, 21st century craft

The new building uses materials that continue and complement the palette of the original buildings. The ground floor uses red sandstone, similar to the existing, to provide a harmonious surface, enriched by the tonal variety of the individual blocks. To match the formal variety and decoration of the existing first floor, the new upper elements of the key spaces have CNC moulded profiles in red concrete inspired by the original 'Tin Tabernacle' and the stone mouldings found on the existing building. The new roof is zinc that weathers well and matches the seam pattern of St Deiniol's church spire.

Simple and sustainable

To ensure its environmental, social, and economical sustainability the building needs to be able to adapt to the evolving needs of Gladstone's Library and the wider community. Our proposal has a passive, responsive environmental design to minimise its energy use. Its simple robust structure with minimal internal load-bearing walls allows ease of adaptation, future-proofing for changing needs. The range of distinct and different spaces, with unique natural daylight, views and ventilation ensures that it is both flexible and spatially delightful, now and for the next century of the Library's life.