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1793 Painting of Charlemont House by James Malton,

Commencing our study for this area, we examined both the public and non-public components of the former Rutland Square, now with the appellation of Parnell Square. It's genesis as the first of Dublin's Georgian squares and the subsequent centuries of arguably no less important layering and adaptation, led us to firstly examine a contextual envelope beyond the subject area for this application. We see in this project, the potential of the Parnell Square Cultural Quarter to revitalize an entire district around a renewed setting for the proposed cultural and civic activity in an area bounded by Dorset Street, Granby Row, Parnell Square and Cavendish Row.

It is important to prepare a public realm scheme that integrates the many strands of interdisciplinary city functioning with the objective of delivering an exemplary first component of a greater ensemble. This application includes the public realm mainly between the Garden of Remembrance and Palace Row as this generator of renewal. Much of this space benefits from a south facing warmer orientation, backed as it is by Palace Row and Charlemont House to the north. Whether it's the effect of the enclosure, the warm brick hues, or an actual microclimatic change, on a sunny day, it actually feels distinctly warmer than its hinterland. In designing this place, we are conscious that it should read as the entrance to the library, instinctually felt as welcoming, where access for bus and car is present but laid out to

be deferential to the pedestrian. A place where it is as easy to navigate if blind, in a wheelchair or pushing a buggy as it is for everyone else to get about. The theme of being protected, as afforded by the space being not dominated by vehicular lanes, controlled by raised tables and tight turn ins, with proportionally generous pedestrian only space is assisted by a quiet paved treatment, where the emphasis is on providing quality without showiness. The balance of retained historic paving, kerbs, newly cut setts, street furniture, lighting and even embedded cellar covers are managed towards this end.

The multi-factorial nature of such an endeavour means that all elements will have to be described in sufficient detail through the submitted drawings and report for all connected parties to be clear on the matters that are affective to them. In reality this means that while consultation reveal that certain parties will look on the project as evidence of civic action to improve the area, yet others will be preoccupied with the position of a loading bay, parking or the capacity to have outdoor tables in summer. On a technical level, there are issues in relation to treatment of vehicular carriageways, the management of such vehicles, the wayfinding for the partially sighted or blind, the retention of historic public realm fabric, the positive attenuation effects of structural soils for tree plantings or the specification of tree types. Yet others will be concerned with radii for turning, the

nature of dropped kerbs, matters affecting line of vision for drivers, the embedded guidance for partially or non-sighted, as well as the nature of transitions between new and old fabric.

With the benefit of a full design team, a client group focussed on the common good and the inputs of consultees, we propose to address all these concerns in a set of well-considered solutions that do not lose sight of the design objectives for the overall quality of the public realm. What we need to communicate is that we have comprehensively looked at all the factors that might come to bear and that clear priorities and values are applied when weighing up incompatible demands on the space.

The exterior ground plane is defined by two contiguous materials; historic granites maintained in situ and proposed European granite units that blend in tonally but are differentiated in their dimension and technical performance for load bearing and trafficability. The historic slabs with their worn and softened surfaces are intrinsically linked to the heritage of the site and make up a large proportion of the proposed scheme, especially the existing pavements. The new granite paving materials will be flexible enough for use on both for traffic and pedestrian areas, will possess the requisite petrographic qualities, and are very suitable for absorbing the irregular interfaces such as tricky

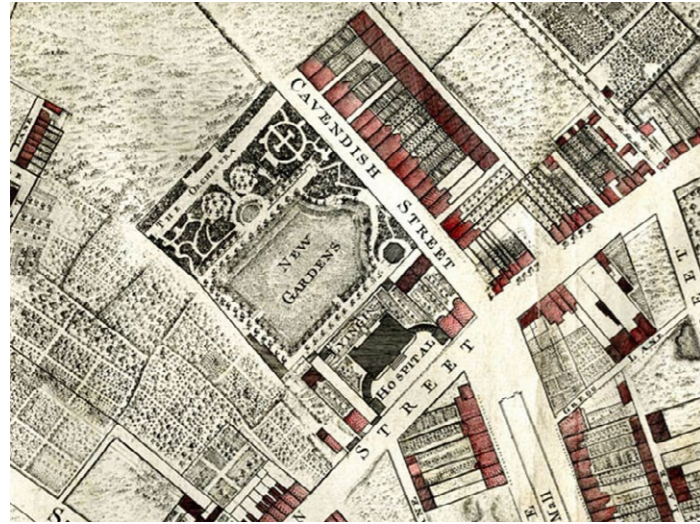
edges, slopes and skewed alignments. A significantly larger unit extrudes from the main entrance at no 27, itself a modified Georgian entrance that is already much modified and provides level access to the heart of the library. This gesture is read as the "welcome mat" located at the threshold between "true outside" and what can be called "protected outside", a punctuation in the sequence of permeability that is characteristic of the scheme at all levels and orientations. It is a directional device to beckon visitors through towards the main circulation space within.

New trees are proposed in an arrangement that could be continued around Parnell Square at a later date. Although tree planting may seem like a routine civic undertaking, it is interesting how a sustainable approach to preparation with good planting pit sizes and drainage systems will increase the opportunities for what can be termed "Heritage Tree Planting". This allows the long term prospect of large trees to thrive in the city, with the greater canopy size allowing much better Green Infrastructure potential through filtering of particulates and management of rainwater.

These issues are expounded in greater detail in the report chapters following.

2. Context

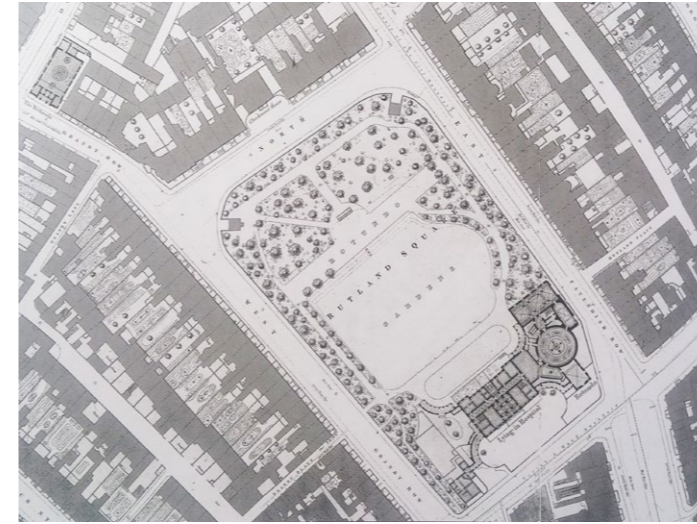
2.1 Historic Context



1756 Map of Dublin by John Rocque



1795 'Rotunda & New Rooms' by James Malton



1847 Map of Dublin by the Ordnance Survey



1854 'Dublin from the Spire of St. George's Church', J. Mahony

Foundation

In the early 1740s Dr Bartholomew Mosse returned to Ireland from studying midwifery practices in Paris and across Europe. Appalled at the lack of facilities available to poor expectant mothers, he determined to raise the money for a new 'Lying-in' hospital in Dublin. Through subscriptions and the patronage of some of Dublin's prominent citizens he succeeded in financing a small hospital at an old theatre in George's Lane in 1745, thought to be the first of its kind in Europe. Demand quickly outgrew the capacity of this hospital so focus turned to plans for a larger, purpose-built facility. In 1748 Mosse took a lease on a four acre site north of Luke Gardiner's Sackville Mall (now O'Connell Street), and set about his plan to create extensive 'pleasure gardens' and charge admission in order to finance the building of the adjacent new hospital. The gardens opened in 1749 and from the money generated, construction of a new building designed by Richard Cassels (architect of Leinster House) began in 1751 and opened in 1757. Mosse also commissioned the houses forming Cavendish Row on the north-eastern edge of the gardens, which were built in 1756. The buildings and gardens can be seen on Rocque's 1756 map of Dublin, largely surrounded by countryside.

By 1766 both Granby Row and Palace Row were laid out and constructed, completing the Georgian square. Entitled Rutland Square it contained the most

sophisticated and elaborate of all Dublin residences, all of which survive to the present day. The Earl of Charlemont commissioned a mansion on Palace Row on the high ground overlooking the pleasure gardens and with curved sweep walls mirroring the north facade of the hospital opposite. Completed in 1763 Charlemont House is now the Hugh Lane Gallery.

Bartholomew Mosse spent much of his personal fortune on this philanthropic venture, eventually falling into debt, and imprisoned for his indebtedness. He managed to escape to Wales, though worn out from his efforts to fight his charges he eventually died in February 1759 in Dublin aged 47. The next master of the hospital, Sir Fielding Ould, carried out Mosse's wishes in providing a large auditorium beside the hospital, to provide for year-round, fundraising entertainments which included concerts, organ recitals, and what became famous as the 'Sunday Promenades'. This circular addition completed in 1764 which gave the current Rotunda its name can be seen in Malton's 1795 painting above. This also shows the extension to the right designed by James Gandon (architect of the Four Courts & the Custom House) completed in 1786.

The Pleasure Gardens were improved by various reinventions such as a bowling green, and remained Dublin's 'vortex of fashion' for the rest of the 18th century.

However the passing of the Acts of Union 1800, led to its gradual decline, as the Irish parliament was dissolved and merged with the House of Commons in London. Many of the parliamentarians and their social circles were the wealthy target market for the Gardens and with them leaving a large part of the entrance money needed to sustain it left with them.

The Struggle for Independence

Charles Stewart Parnell held his first public meeting and gave his last public speech at the Rotunda Ballroom in Rutland Square. During the 1916 Rising he was also forced to surrender to the British Army on the southern edge of the square. Various buildings around the square were also used for meetings by the rebels.

Due to this strong connection, several landmarks have been established and street names in the immediate area changed since then. The square itself became Parnell Square; part of the pleasure gardens became the Gardens of Remembrance, commemorating those who gave their lives for Irish independence; Great Britain Street became Parnell Street, where a statue of Charles Stewart Parnell stands; and Sackville Street became O'Connell Street, after Daniel O'Connell.

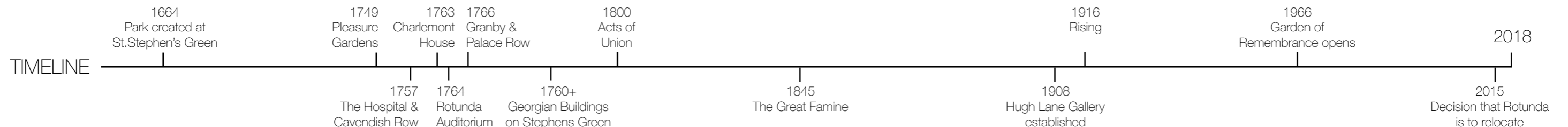
Modern Day

Parnell Square today is valued as the most intact of the city's Georgian squares, with a majority of the original surrounding built fabric remaining. Many of the original uses of the buildings have now shifted to different functions. For example amongst the Rotunda complex, the Round Room is now the Ambassador Theatre, the Supper Rooms are now the Gate Theatre, and the Pillar Room underneath it is also occasionally used for concerts.

The Rotunda is still in use as a maternity hospital, although an accretion of functional built interventions have cluttered the original Pleasure Gardens over the years, and only small portions of it remain.

Palace Row, or Parnell Square North, sits alongside, the GPO plaza, and College Green as one of the city's three most significant outdoor rooms. Parnell Square North is the traditional starting point for the city's most important parades and processions, in particular the St. Patrick's Day parade, an event with global reach.

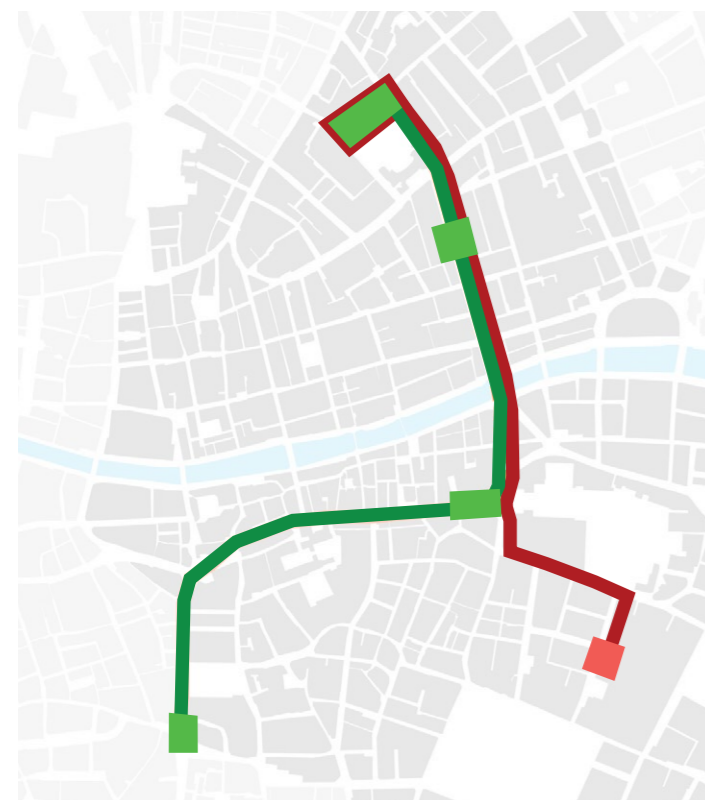
Mindful of the significance of this Georgian square in the context of both the city and in time, the proposed public realm project requires a sensitivity and conscientious response, to respect the surroundings and their history, while also intervening sufficiently to create a space to allow new stories to take place.



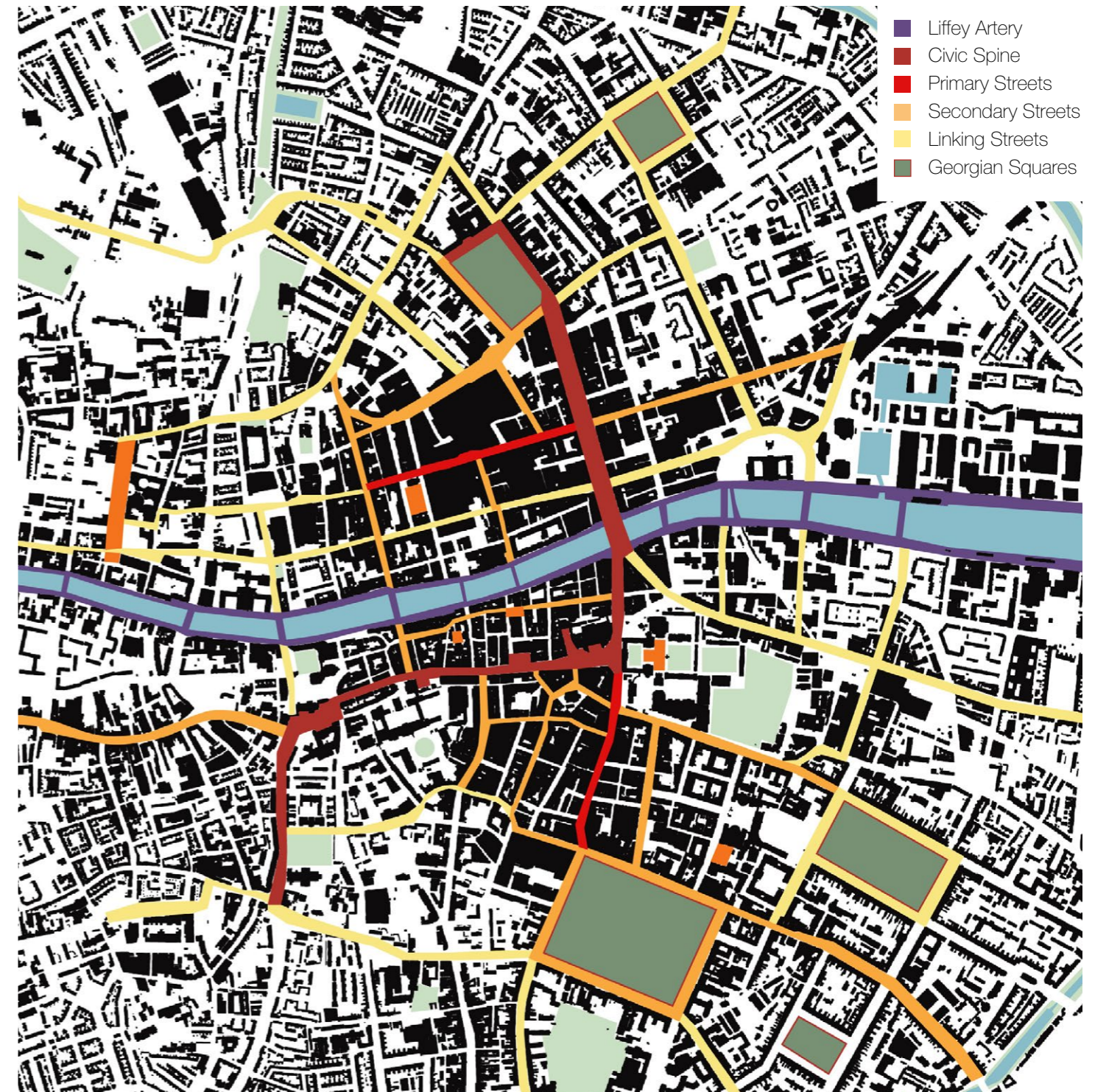
2.2 City Context

Parnell Square is not an island to be considered in isolation. Any ideas, decisions, suggestions and proposals must be seen in the context of the benefits to the whole city. As one of the city's five Georgian squares, it is an integral part of the historic fabric and the modern city as a whole. As the beginning of the city's Civic Spine, Parnell Square North is the traditional starting point for the city's most important parades and processions. As such, it should reflect its important role in the city's vitality, and how it is reimagined could be the benchmark along with O'Connell Street and College Green of how we value our city's key civic artery. Similarly, as the city's oldest Georgian Square, it could become a case study in how to protect and respect the city's heritage set pieces, while also recognising the value of the new changes and additions required to allow modern economic and recreational life to thrive.

As a city quarter, the Parnell Square Cultural Quarter is inevitably influenced and affected by the wider city surrounding it. The pressures, interests, improvements, deteriorations, positives and negatives of the places beyond it all have a large influence on how it is shaped. Fortunately, the flip side is also true, in that how Parnell Square is treated can become a microcosm of how we want Dublin to be shaped for the future. Any ideas or masterplans for the overall city must be implemented at a local scale and this is where Parnell Square can become an example of how Dubliners want the rest of the city and environment to take shape.



■ St Patrick's Parade ■ Processions and Protests



Adapted from 'Dublin City Public Realm Strategy (2012)' & 'Legible Dublin (2004)'



2.3 Policy Context

This public realm project seeks to realise one of Dublin City Council's key public realm projects, as featured in a number of DCC policy documents:

Dublin City Council Development Plan 2016-2022

The project is identified in the as a key element of the city's public space network forming as it does part of *"the grand civic spine from Parnell Square to Christchurch"* p57

The document highlights the importance of a high-quality public realm making Dublin a more attractive place to live, work and visit, and having a very positive impact on the city's competitiveness with other city regions internationally. As part of this public realm network *"Proposals to create a new cultural quarter at Parnell Square, to include the re-location of the City Library from the ILAC Centre, and to renovate and create a new food hall and café/restaurant destination at the Victorian wholesale fruit and vegetable market at Mary's Lane, will significantly expand the public's perception of the city core, and will create new destination points in the city."* p66

Various DCC policies and objectives indicate the general aspirations for projects such as this, and also highlight the PSCQ project directly:

"SC1: To consolidate and enhance the inner city by linking the critical mass of existing and emerging clusters and communities such as... Parnell Square... with each other, and to regeneration areas"

"SCO1: To implement a programme of environmental improvements along the Grand Civic Spine from Parnell Square to Christchurch Place, including College Green and Dame Street..."

"SC19: To promote the development of a network of active, attractive and safe streets and public spaces which are memorable, and include, where appropriate,

seating, and which encourage walking as the preferred means of movement between buildings and activities in the city."

"SC20: To promote the development of high quality streets and public spaces which are accessible and inclusive, and which deliver vibrant, attractive, accessible and safe places and meet the needs of the city's diverse communities."

"CHCO32: To promote and facilitate the development of a mixed-use cultural facility in Parnell Square anchored by a new City Library, stimulating the regeneration of the north inner city."

All four sides of Parnell Square appear as key secondary streets identified in the masterplan for *"Making a Legible City"* (p56); and the square is also included as potential streets for greening in the masterplan for *"City Centre Green Routes"* (p169)

Dublin City Council Public Realm Masterplan 2016:

The project is included in the key outlined priority zone of the *Public Realm Masterplan* (p7)

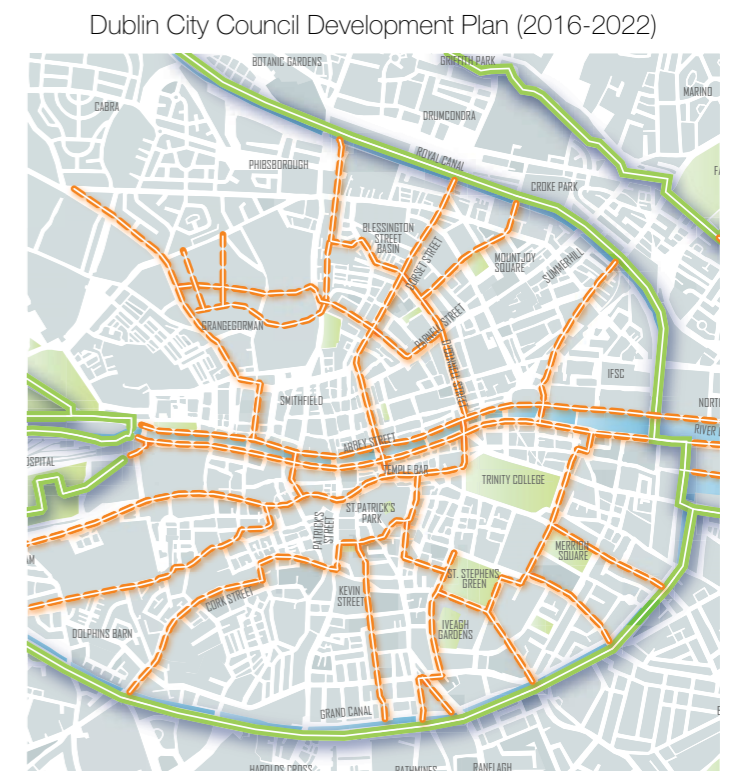
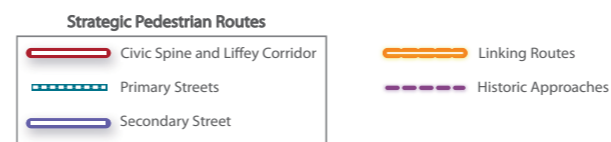
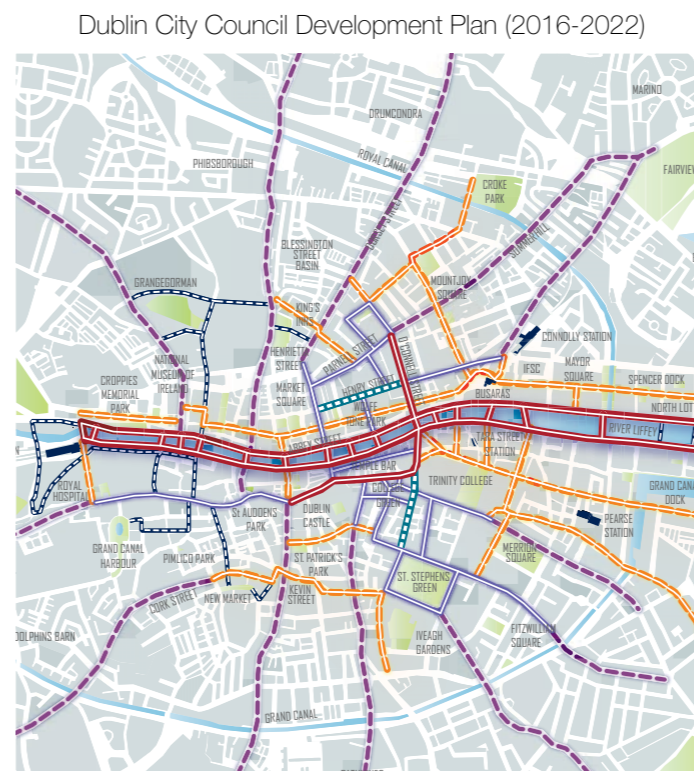
The public realm works are included in the *Phase I Public Realm Projects* (p15)

Further potentials are identified for Parnell Square including Parnell Square East and West as *Pedestrian Routes for improvement* (p17); The plaza along Parnell Square North is identified for both *City Centre resting spaces* (p18) and reducing traffic as part of a *Traffic calmed city cell* (p29)

The design of the project takes cognisance of these council policies, objectives, and aspirations, seeking to satisfy and go beyond them, as shown in the pages following, and drawings submitted with the application.



Dublin City Council Public Realm Masterplan (2016)



3. Wider Future Aims

3.1 Existing Condition



Exquisite Georgian backdrop to the vehicles & tarmac

The public realm of Parnell Square has become a muddle of its original civic grandeur. Although unusually amongst Dublin's Georgian squares, most of the original Georgian buildings are intact and in good condition, however most of the 'Pleasure Gardens' have been lost to a succession of sprawling extensions of varying quality to the Rotunda Hospital, and still more area has been tarmacked over for car-parking.

The full lengths of Parnell Square East and West now host a significant number of bus stops, with their consequent double decker buses looming over pedestrians confined to narrow pavements. The street area is further taken up by car parking along a majority of the perimeter of the Rotunda complex. Footpaths, in particular on the building sides, are constrictingly narrow for the volume of people passing by and waiting at bus stops. A majority of the general street width is taken up by vehicles, which is particularly evident at the Parnell Monument, placed on a barely accessible traffic island.

Despite these relatively recent haphazard changes of the square, it remains the best preserved of all of the city's Georgian Squares, not just with the red brick town houses, but also the stone mansion of Charlemont House (Hugh Lane Gallery), the Rotunda auditorium (Ambassador Theatre), the Gate Theatre, and the Main Rotunda Hospital building itself. Elsewhere in the square plays host to small thriving businesses and institutions such as the Dublin Writer's Museum, the Michelin Star restaurant Chapter One, and various hotels in the Georgian houses.



Existing Plan

3.2 Future Potential

- ① North Plaza Parnell Square Cultural Quarter
- ② Entrance Plaza at Garden of Remembrance
- ③ Stronger connection to Garden of Remembrance
- ④ Public Realm Improvements on Parnell Square West
- ⑤ Public Realm Improvements on Parnell Square East
- ⑥ Entrance Plaza at Ambassador Theatre
- ⑦ Junction Plaza surrounding the Parnell Monument

After assessing the existing conditions of Parnell Square, an assessment was made to identify possible future improvements to the wider area, that might then help inform the main project on Parnell Square North. The plan on the right shows the suite of potentials for the public realm in Parnell Square and surrounding streets. The proposals range from new and improved plazas, widened pathways facilitating new pedestrian life, improving the setting for Parnell Monument, improving the connection with the Garden of Remembrance and street greening to echo the previous character of the square as park. Of note at the larger scale is the cohesion between the public realm widths of O'Connell Street and that proposed for Parnell Square, a fitting upgrade of Dublin's Civic Spine.

1. Realisation of Palace Row/Parnell Square North as a cohesive public space, to improve the public realm and pedestrian experience of the space, and the interlinking of the various cultural attractions of the Parnell Square Cultural Quarter. The level of pedestrianisation will depend on the traffic flows required to be facilitated now and in future stages.

2. Improving the entrance experience to the Garden of Remembrance forms part of this project. New high-quality stone paving replaces the precast concrete units, with the tree avenue creating a spatial entrance threshold.

3. A more direct connection to the Garden of Remembrance could be created with an amphitheatre

staircase, working around the existing mature plane tree. This would work in tandem with the recent lift access project which improved mobility access to the Garden.

4. The footpaths along Parnell Square West are extremely narrow on the western side, especially with the amount of foot traffic and bus stops. This footpath could be widened by around 3m along the length of the street, and still leave enough width for 2 lanes plus a cycle lane - the current setup on O'Connell Street. The proposed BusConnects scheme would have bearing on the ultimate layout of this.

5. The footpaths along Parnell Square East are extremely narrow on the east side, especially with the amount of foot traffic and bus stops. This footpath could be widened by around 3m along the length of the street, and still leave enough width for 2 lanes plus a cycle lane - the current setup on O'Connell Street. The proposed BusConnects scheme would have bearing on the ultimate layout of this.

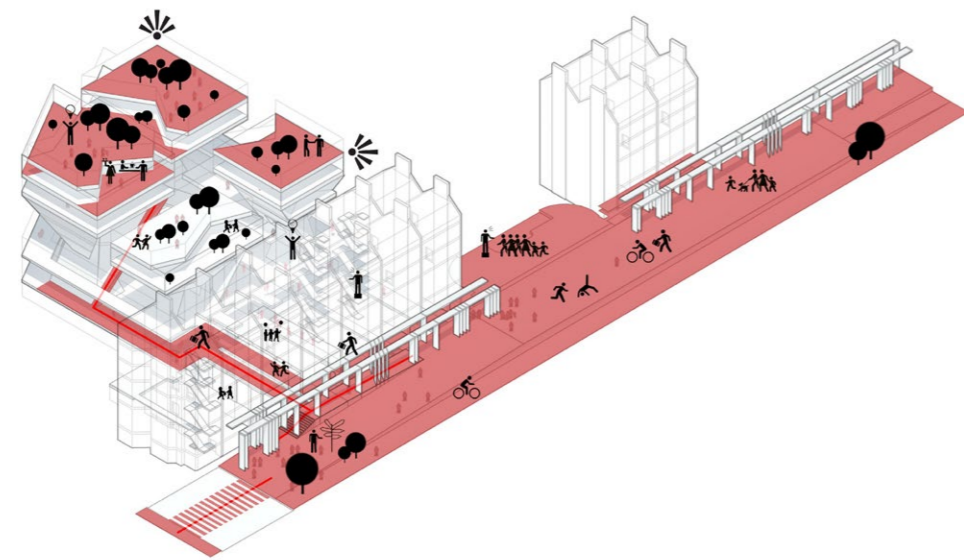
6. The free space in front of the Ambassador could be upgraded as an entrance plaza with high quality paving and street furniture to create a more aesthetic entrance sequence, more fitting to the heritage building.

7. The Parnell monument is currently on a traffic island at this street junction. The entire junction could be upgraded to a similar appearance to the GPO plaza, with traffic traversing a plaza, rather than pedestrian space leftover from traffic movements



Potential Future Plan

4.1 Key Aims



Early Concept Diagram

The importance of the public realm in the successful establishment of the Parnell Square Cultural Quarter should not be underestimated. The proposed project is made up of three key ingredients: The restored row of Georgian houses, the new extension to the rear, and the enhanced public realm which will help connect the library with the other cultural facilities in Parnell Square.

The early concept diagram above shows an evocation of this idea, where the activity and energy of the exciting internal spaces of the library spill out into the public outdoor space, which then coheres with the other buildings along the street. In this way, the public realm serves all the neighbouring buildings, and also becomes a destination place itself, where people might drop in during lunch or weekends to benefit from the remarkable elevated, south-facing space. In order to realise this ambition, a number of guiding principles were set out early on, to help direct design decisions, and retain the 'golden thread' of aspiration through to realisation.

1. Realising Parnell Square North as a legible Plaza

Rather than simply being one side of one of the city's Georgian squares, this space, delineated primarily by Charlemont House, has important significance at the head of Dublin's Civic Spine. It accompanies the GPO plaza and College Green as the three most significant urban rooms along this route. This is most apparent from its role as the gathering point for most of the capital's parades and processions, in particular the St. Patrick's Day parade, a festival with global reach.

- As the connective space for all the Cultural Quarter amenities lining Palace Row, it will form the foyer for these attractions. A cohesive plaza will help bind them

together, and facilitate the activities to spill outdoors.

- The public realm can be an attractive destination in its own right. It will effectively experience more visitors than the individual buildings, so it must also be a place to spend time, facilitate cultural events, and help establish Parnell Square in people's 'Mind Map' of the city.

- As such the treatment of traffic access becomes of critical sensitivity, and the design must avoid being split in two, making it read as a wide footpath on two sides of the road, rather than a cohesive paved public plaza.

2. Connectivity to the Primary Footfall

- The most important factor in an active public space is strong pedestrian access. If this is achieved here, visitors will be able to easily reach their destination along Parnell Square North, those sitting in the plaza can people-watch, and passers-by might choose to shortcut through it rather than circumventing. Without this activity a public space can be quiet and isolated.

- The more people regularly inhabiting and passing through, the more active and safe the space will be, thereby attracting further people, and leading to a virtuous cycle.

- The pavements that currently form the periphery to the former Parnell Pleasure Gardens are quieter, as the pedestrian connection across is hampered by four lanes of vehicular space on both sides. Currently, people who don't have a destination in Parnell Square North itself, are less likely to visit the space.

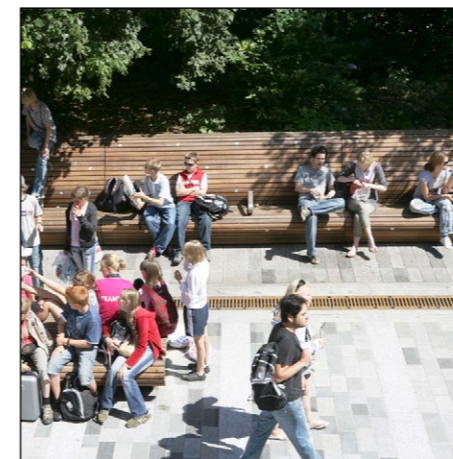
- If road crossings were made less daunting by reducing crossing distances, not only would it be easier for visitors to access the cultural facilities, but it would encourage more casual passers-by to wander through, some of whom may then engage with the facilities.



1. Exhibition Road, London



2. 'Heat Map' of heavier footfall on the West and East sides



3. New Road, Brighton



4. Street life, Copenhagen



5. Maréchal-Leclerc Plaza, Poitiers

3. Design of the Plaza for People to Use it

- The public realm of the city is a place to spend time in, be utilised by people, and a destination in itself, rather than incidental space to be walked through on the way into buildings. A current perception of Parnell Square is that it doesn't have anywhere outdoors that invites people to spend time. So to complement the inviting nature of the new library, the outdoor space must be designed to enable passers-by and people working in the area to sit and enjoy the favourable orientation and upgraded surroundings, in the beautiful Georgian setting.

- In addition, the Parnell Square city quarter is one of the most densely populated residential zones in the inner city, and many of these dwellings don't have private open space. An important civic attitude towards urban living is to facilitate use of public space for those that don't have private outdoor space. By providing seating and sufficient lighting for a large number of citizens and visitors, while aiming to mitigate negative effects as far as possible, an inviting tone can be set. With more people inhabiting the space, a level of passive surveillance can be generated, helping to discourage antisocial behaviour.

4. Maximise Built Interface for Activity & Passive Surveillance

Currently Parnell Square North can be quiet, and while this will transform with the new library, it will also be important to facilitate as much activity as possible along the facade that forms the interface with the public space. This manifests in the aims to have an outdoor presence of the cafe/restaurant and other library functions, including as many building entrances along the facade length, and programming the existing Georgian houses with activities that might be visible from the public realm.

5. Achieving the Right Tone for Georgian Setting

As the most intact of all of Dublin's Georgian squares, it is important to ensure that new interventions would not be jarring to the existing historic scene. While renewal of individual elements of the terrace and square is of great importance, this should not come at the expense of the overall Georgian set-piece. A basic level of quality materials must be set, to serve the existing setting in a restrained manner. Seeking to hit the right 'note' or tone of materials and style is important so as to arrive at a public realm that is not less than the sum of its parts.

4.2 Public Space Comparisons

An important part of the design process was the study of other spaces in the city, and what could be learnt from them in terms of scale, orientation, use, features, and materiality. The plan diagram on the right shows the proposed project compared to other plazas in the city.

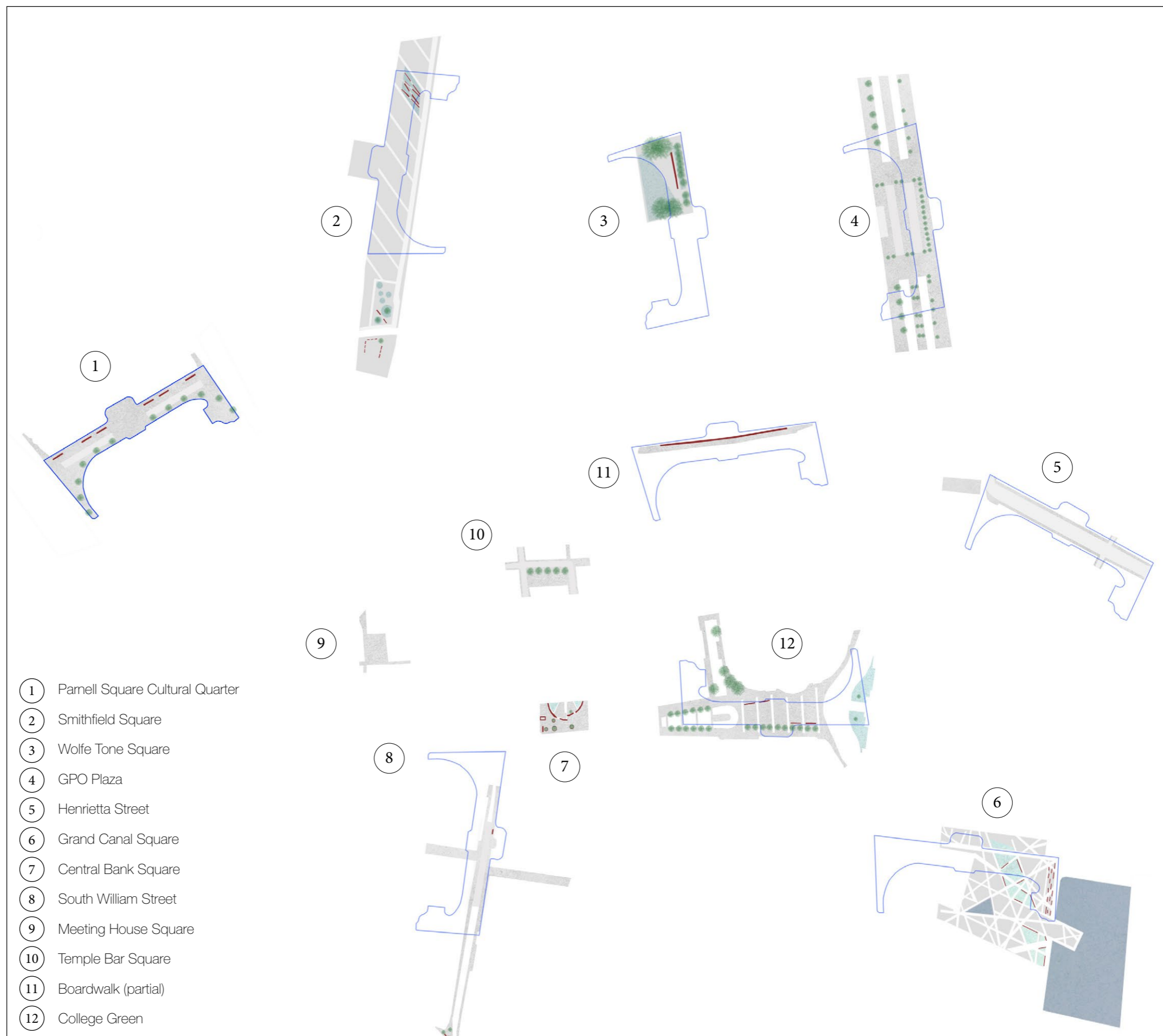
The comparison with Smithfield square shows a similarly proportioned but smaller version of the long narrow space. The forecourt of the Hugh Lane echoes the centralised plaza on the west side of Smithfield, and the car access along the paved carriageway up the east side is a single-lane version of the proposed layout.

With its extended pavement widths, paved carriageway, street trees, and strong central facade, the proposed PSCQ public realm, is like a halved version of the GPO plaza. The proposed pavement width of 9850mm along the north end of the space aligns closely with the widths either side of O'Connell St.

South William St is a useful comparison, while although being about half the width of the PSCQ, it is a bustling pedestrian-priority street, which accommodates steady numbers of traffic along the approximately 70m level-surface, granite paved carriageway. The instances of raised tables in the proposed project however are shorter, more controlled, and include appropriate warning tactiles.

In terms of spatial use, the long, narrow, south-facing benches of the boardwalk have many similarities with the proposed layout. The PSCQ space will benefit from much higher passive surveillance, thereby discouraging anti-social behaviour to a much greater extent.

The central space of College Green is wider and slightly shorter than the proposed PSCQ public realm, and sits at the end of the vista of Dame St, terminating with the facade of Trinity College, with the curved Parliament House bordering to the north. As one of the other primary 'urban rooms' along the key processional routes of the St.Patrick's Parade and protests to government buildings, it could be viewed as a sort of sister space to the PSCQ public realm, albeit on a larger scale. Many of the same urban features are also proposed here, such as high quality paving, street greening, seating, and event hosting flexibility.



- ① Parnell Square Cultural Quarter
- ② Smithfield Square
- ③ Wolfe Tone Square
- ④ GPO Plaza
- ⑤ Henrietta Street
- ⑥ Grand Canal Square
- ⑦ Central Bank Square
- ⑧ South William Street
- ⑨ Meeting House Square
- ⑩ Temple Bar Square
- ⑪ Boardwalk (partial)
- ⑫ College Green

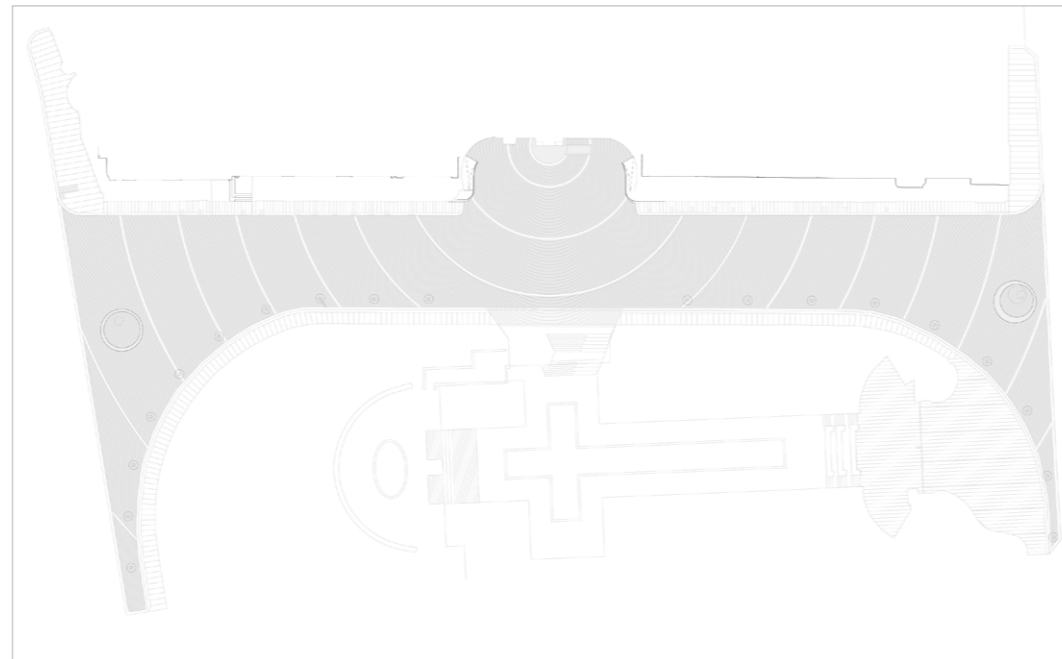
100m

Dublin Plaza Size Comparisons

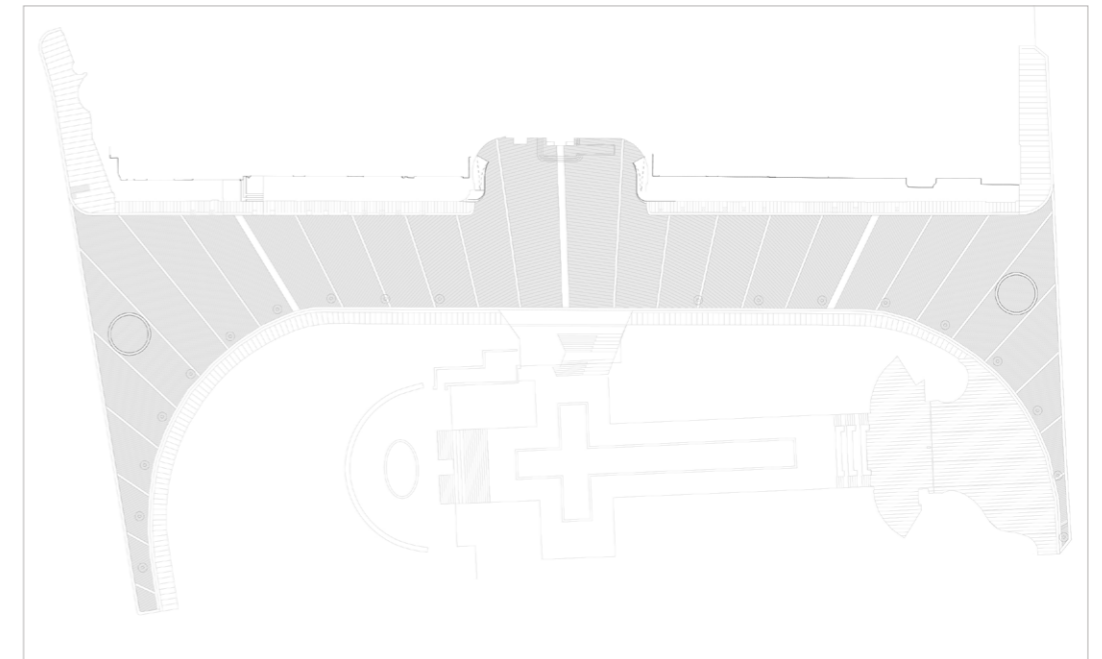
5.1 Option A: Full Pedestrianisation



Kardinaal Mercier Square



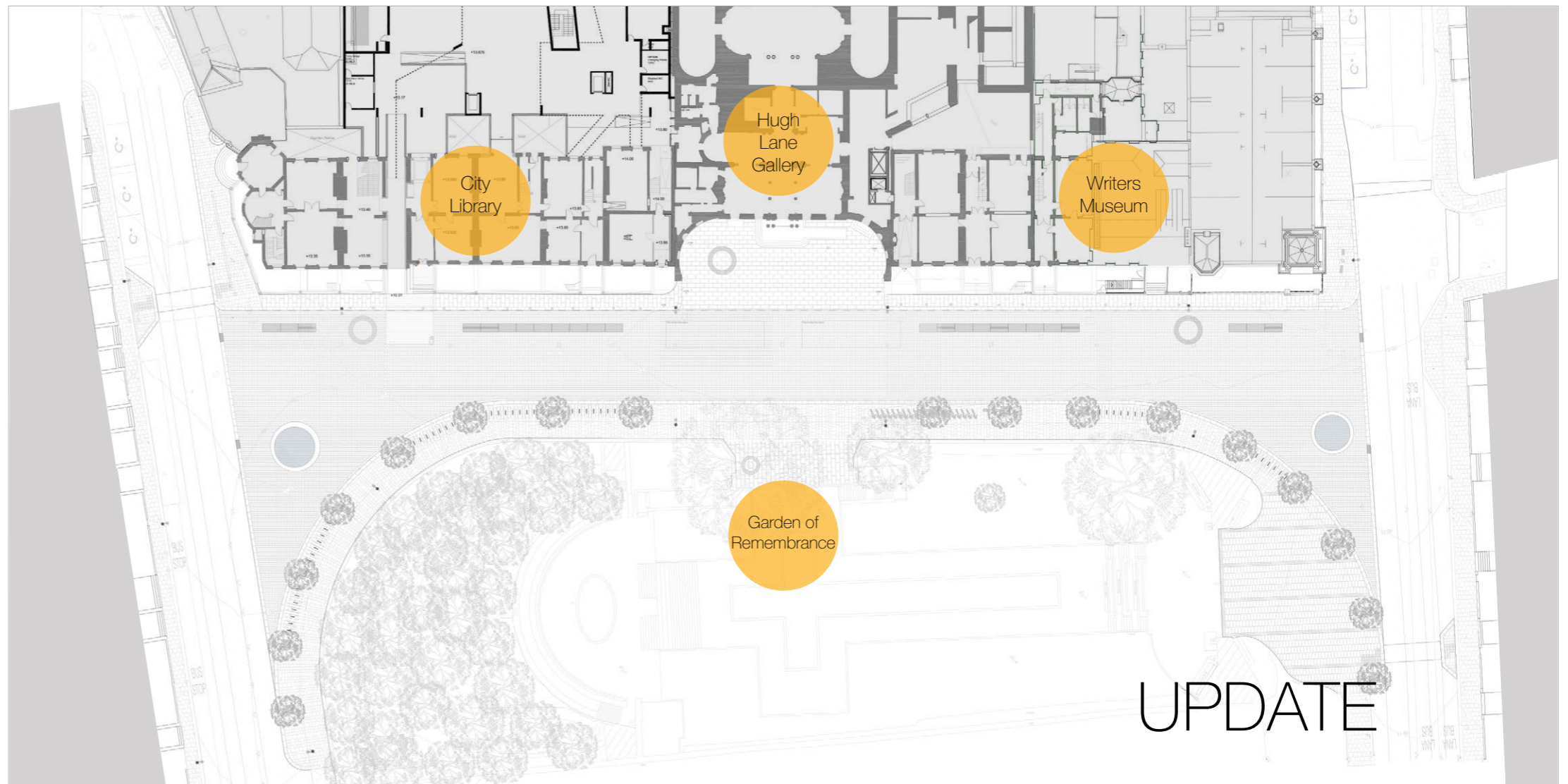
Paving Study: Hugh Lane Ripples



Paving Study: Radial rhythm

The first option assessed was full closure to vehicular traffic both private vehicles and public transport, while allowing deliveries and local access occasionally as required. This version creates the greatest benefit for pedestrian use of the space, allowing easy connectivity between the various cultural facilities of the Parnell Square Cultural Quarter. It offers the greatest room and flexibility for street furniture, in order that people get increased use of the space, and also facilitates an overarching paving pattern that addresses the entire space. With few vehicles interacting with pedestrians, it has the highest safety factor, particularly for children and those with sight or mobility impairments. With a fully pedestrian plaza, events such as markets and festivals would not be limited to weekends, and could happen at any time.

A somewhat negative aspect is that it would cause existing transport modes to use the alternative routes, potentially leading to higher traffic on surrounding streets. This would however be offset somewhat by the greatly increased provision of bicycle parking, the recently opened new LUAS stations nearby, and the future large-scale sustainable transport modes serving the area such as the BusConnects and the MetroLink.



Pedestrian Plaza with local & delivery access only

UPDATE

5.2 Option B: Public Transport Only



Street Section



Mariahilferstrasse, Vienna



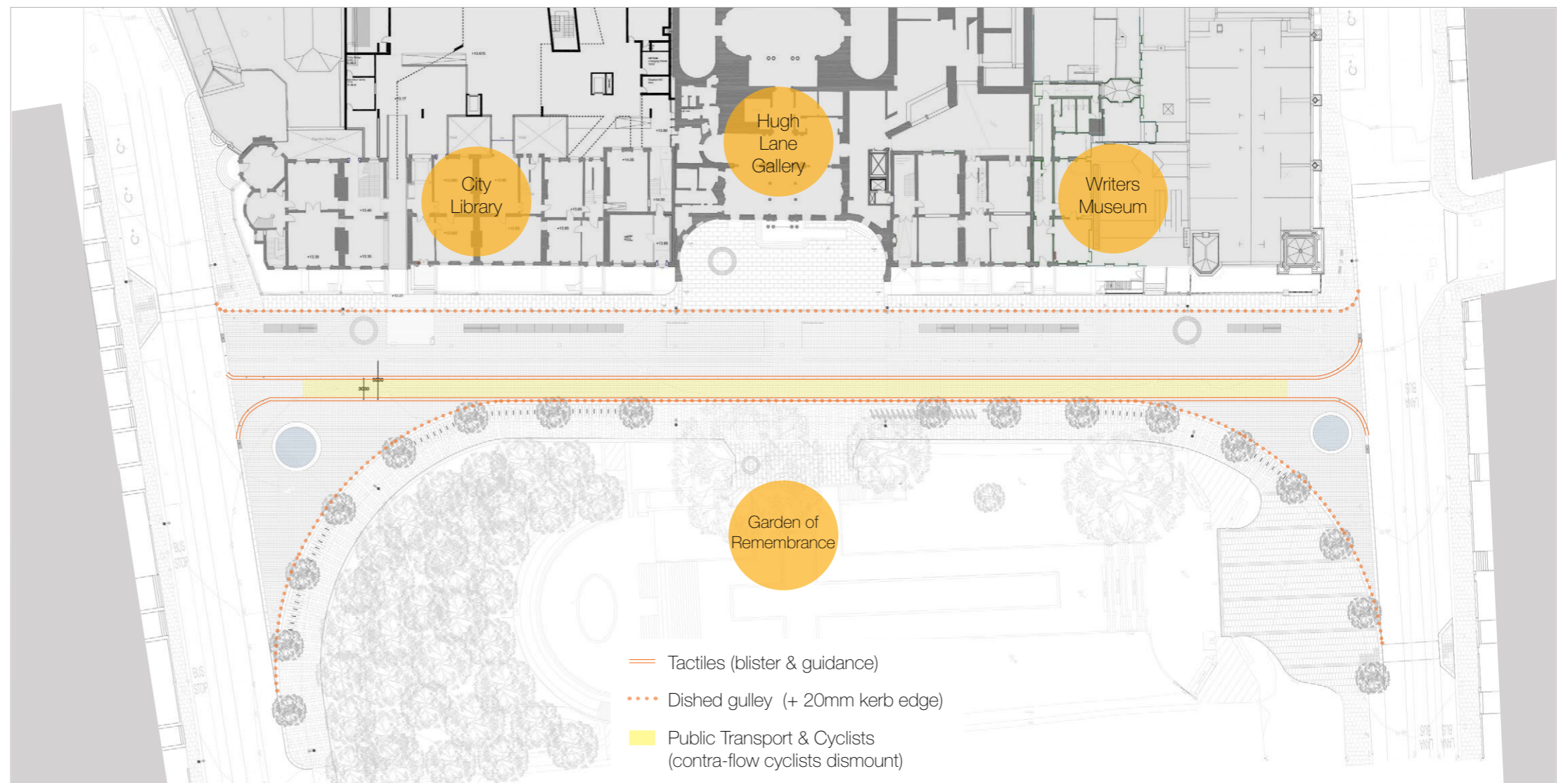
New Road, Brighton



Royal Mile Edinburgh

The second option assessed was a restriction on private vehicular traffic, while still permitting public transport, deliveries and occasional local access. As the level of traffic in this version would be low, with estimated number of movements below the threshold of 100 vehicles per hour (Manual for Streets, DfT UK, 2007) for a well functioning shared space, a level surface carriageway was proposed. This retains a similar level of easy pedestrian connectivity between the various cultural facilities of the Parnell Square Cultural Quarter. It offers significant room and flexibility for street furniture, creating increased use of the space, and still facilitates an overarching paving pattern that addresses the entire space. Another positive of this version is that it permits the existing flows of sustainable transport modes to continue, while reducing less sustainable modes along this short stretch. Shared surface design has also been shown to lower vehicle speeds, leading to a generally safer and calmer pedestrian-priority environment.

Although a low number of vehicles would be interacting with pedestrians, and most would be bus drivers with specific training, the shared surface model of street design causes concern for some pedestrians, particularly those with sight impairments. For this reason the traditional pavements alongside the building edges to the north and the Garden of Remembrance railing to the south are proposed as traffic free 'comfort spaces'. The boundary would be defined by a bullnosed edge as well as the dished gully, to ensure legibility of the existing pedestrian pattern to a probing cane. Street trees and furniture also act as additional safety buffers.



Single-lane shared surface carriageway

5.3 Option C: Existing Transport Modes Maintained



Street Section



GPO Plaza with full traffic capabilities



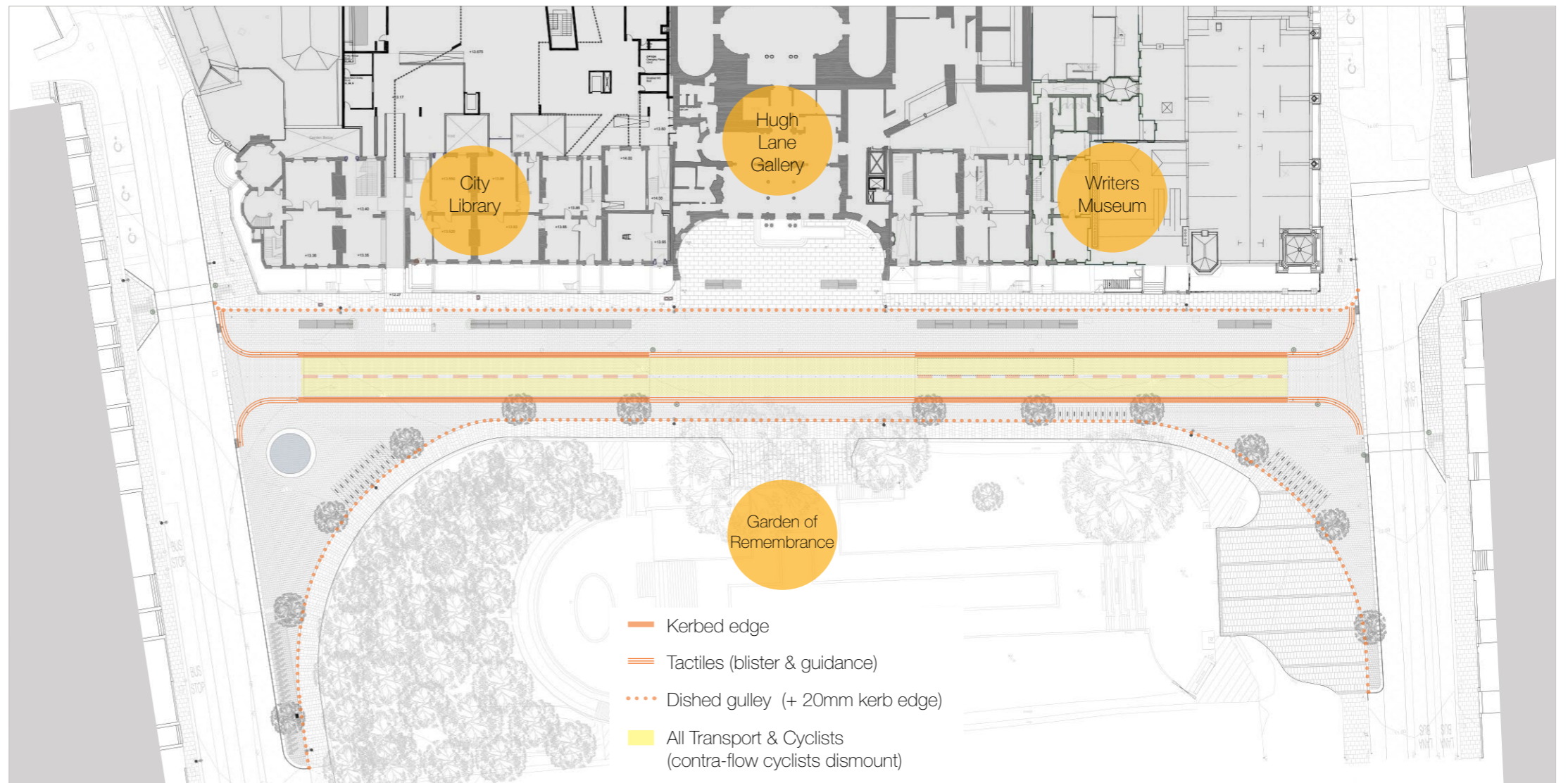
Raised table crossing along O'Connell Street



Misery Hill junction

The third traffic option assessed was an accommodation of all existing traffic modes, in a more space efficient two lane layout. Combined with removal of car parking, this allows for an increased pedestrian space, flipping the width ratio of vehicle to pedestrian from 75:25 currently, to 30:70 in favour of more public realm space. This allows a significant widening of the footpaths, particularly along the north side, which is south facing and serves the main entrances to the new City Library, Hugh Lane Gallery, Writers Museum, as well as other attractions such as the Abbey Presbyterian Church, and Chapter One restaurant. The augmented pedestrian area offers substantial room and flexibility for street furniture, so that people get increased use of the space.

Although the balance is shifted towards the pedestrian, there is still a significant traffic element moving through the space. In order to provide important traffic-calming, speed table crossings are proposed at both ends, as well as a larger one in the centre corresponding to the Hugh Lane Gallery forecourt. This ensures that all vehicles moving through the space must reduce their speeds considerably, creating an improved and generally safer pedestrian experience. These tables would be demarcated by tactiles to signal their location to sight-impaired users. Additionally, the traditional pavement line alongside the buildings to the north, and the Garden of Remembrance railing to the south are proposed as 'comfort spaces' delineated by a shallow kerb edge and dished gully, to ensure the existing pedestrian pattern would be legible to these vulnerable street users, and with street trees and furniture as additional buffers.



Two Traffic Lanes

1:750



BSLA CGI Study

6.1 Selected Option: Two traffic lanes, with significant traffic-calming measures, and public realm improvements

Considering disruptions to traffic around the city core by the LUAS green line, and potential disruptions by future projects such as College Green and BusConnects, the public realm option which accommodates existing traffic modes was selected. The design was then approached to create the most pedestrian-friendly version of this option, and to facilitate potential future adjustments should traffic requirements subsequently reduce.

Traffic will traverse the space in a two lane carriageway, parallel to the building façades. The junction on the west side is further north than the existing condition where vehicles sweep around the curve of the Garden of Remembrance. This placement will force vehicles to slow down for the tighter turn, and therefore enter the space at a lower speed. Another key traffic calming feature are the raised table pedestrian crossings. Here the road raises to allow the pavement level continue more easily across it, effectively acting as a wide speed bump (also known as Speed Tables). These occur at either end of the carriageway, with a wider one in the centre of the space, which serves both to reduce the mid-block speeds, and to reinforce the importance of Charlemont House in the urban form. These speed tables will be demarcated with tactile paving to highlight the boundary for the visually impaired. A third traffic calming measure is the stone sett surface, which further indicates to drivers the pedestrian priority of the space.

The removal of parking spaces allows the pedestrian space to be increased significantly. The majority of this increase is arranged on the northern side, as this is south facing and serves the building entrances. With 3000+ new daily visitors expected to the library mostly on foot, this wider footpath will be vital for the smooth and safe arrival and exit of this volume of people added to existing visitors and passers-by. With this set to become a bustling and sunny space, extensive seating is provided to ensure that people can enjoy and spend time in the outdoor space, particularly the elderly or less able-bodied, who may require more rest breaks when moving around the city.

Existing pedestrian crossings were retained in place where possible, with some improvements such as narrowing the crossing distance on the west side. Other crossings were affected by the new road layout, including those serving the island on the east side. Here the crossing is reinstated to traverse the new two-lane road, with the crossing to Parnell Square East moved further south. A new controlled crossing is also proposed to the west of the Hugh Lane forecourt.



1. Kerbed carriageway through Smithfield Plaza



2. Raised table crossings on O'Connell Street



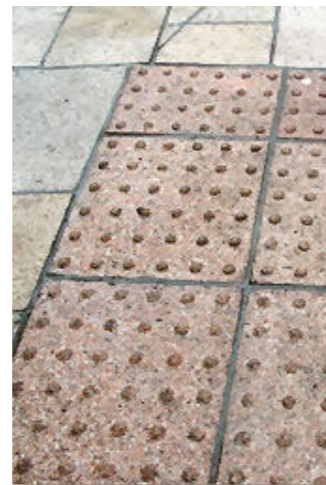
3. Wide pedestrian footpath with seats (Place Republique, Paris)



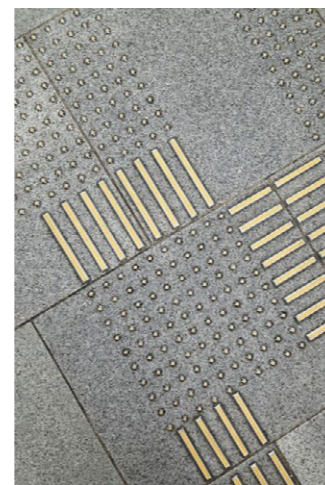
6.2 Pedestrian Movements & Universal Access



20mm kerb at historic pavement junction (except crossings)



Red/pink Granite



Steel with coloured inserts
(to prevent slippage/dazzle)



Cast Iron

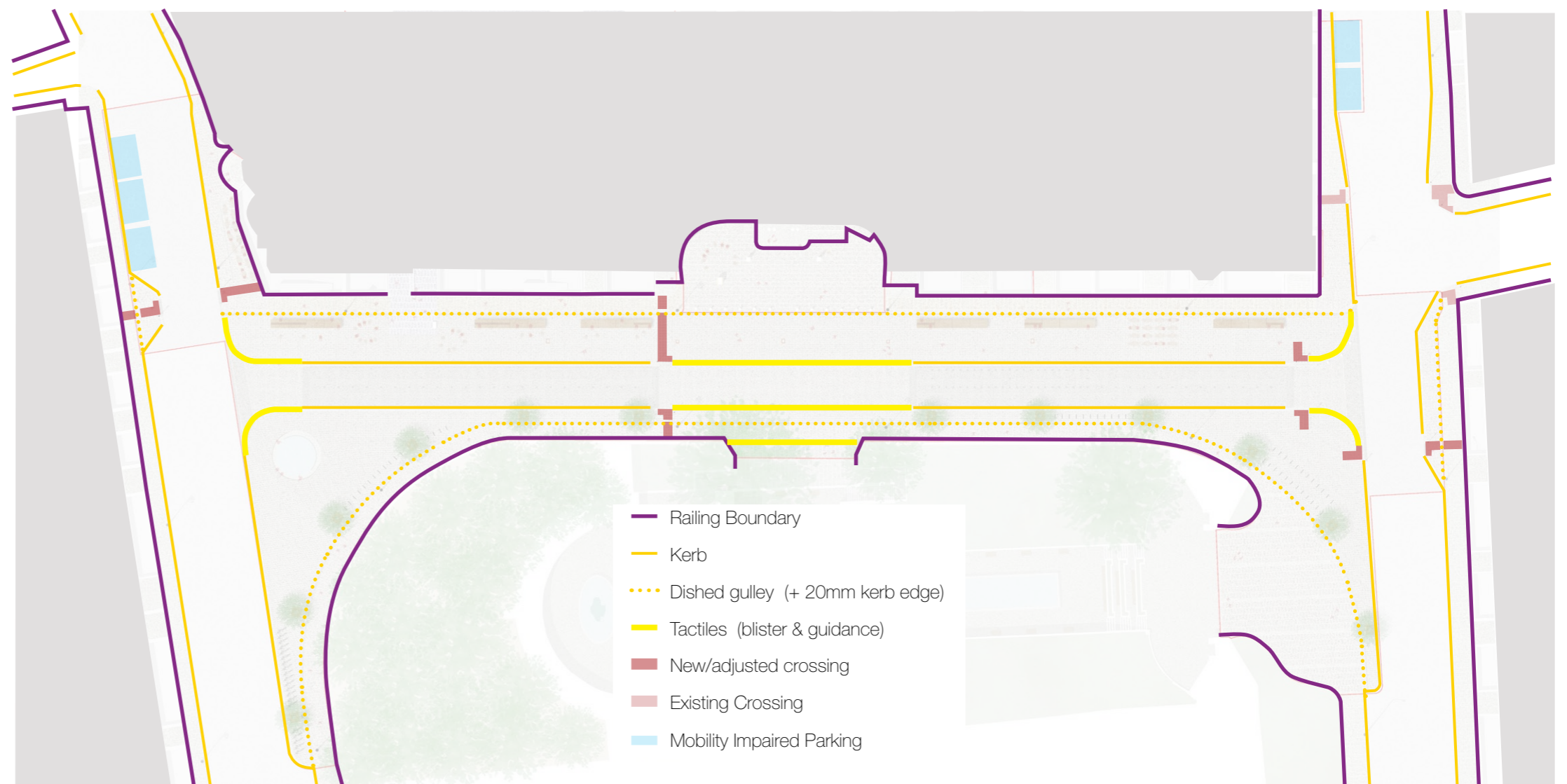


Likely navigation routes of the visually-impaired around the PSCQ

Access to the new cultural quarter for all users is extremely important, and this requirement was factored into the public realm designs to ensure safe and user-friendly routes to the existing and proposed facilities. A key input into this process was the site walk with an NCBI representative, who gave advice on the potential circulation routes, what features to include, what features to omit, and advice on tactile surfaces. All points of advice were included in the proposed public realm design.

The likely circulation routes are outlined in the top-right diagram, with the north side of the street being accessed to the west and east by existing controlled crossings. A new central controlled crossing provides improved access from the south, and Garden of Remembrance northern entrance. The guidance and tactile runs and features are outlined in greater detail in the main plan. This shows the edge of the buildings/railings; full kerbs; dished channel with shallow guidance kerb; tactile paving; and key controlled crossings.

With cognisance of both the safety requirements in the guidance documents, and the sensitive heritage surroundings, a number of tactile paving types were assessed for the project, with some examples shown above. Considering the historic architectural importance of the area, the public nature of the works, and the variant preferences among sight-impaired users, there would be a strong case for making this a Pilot Project, where the proposed tactile designs are trialled and assessed (by both sight impaired people and the general public) for their functionality, materiality, and suitability for the context. It could thereby serve as an example for other similar areas.



Likely Layout for Pedestrian and Universal Access

6.3 Parades & Processions



St Patrick's Day Parade



St Patrick's Day Parade



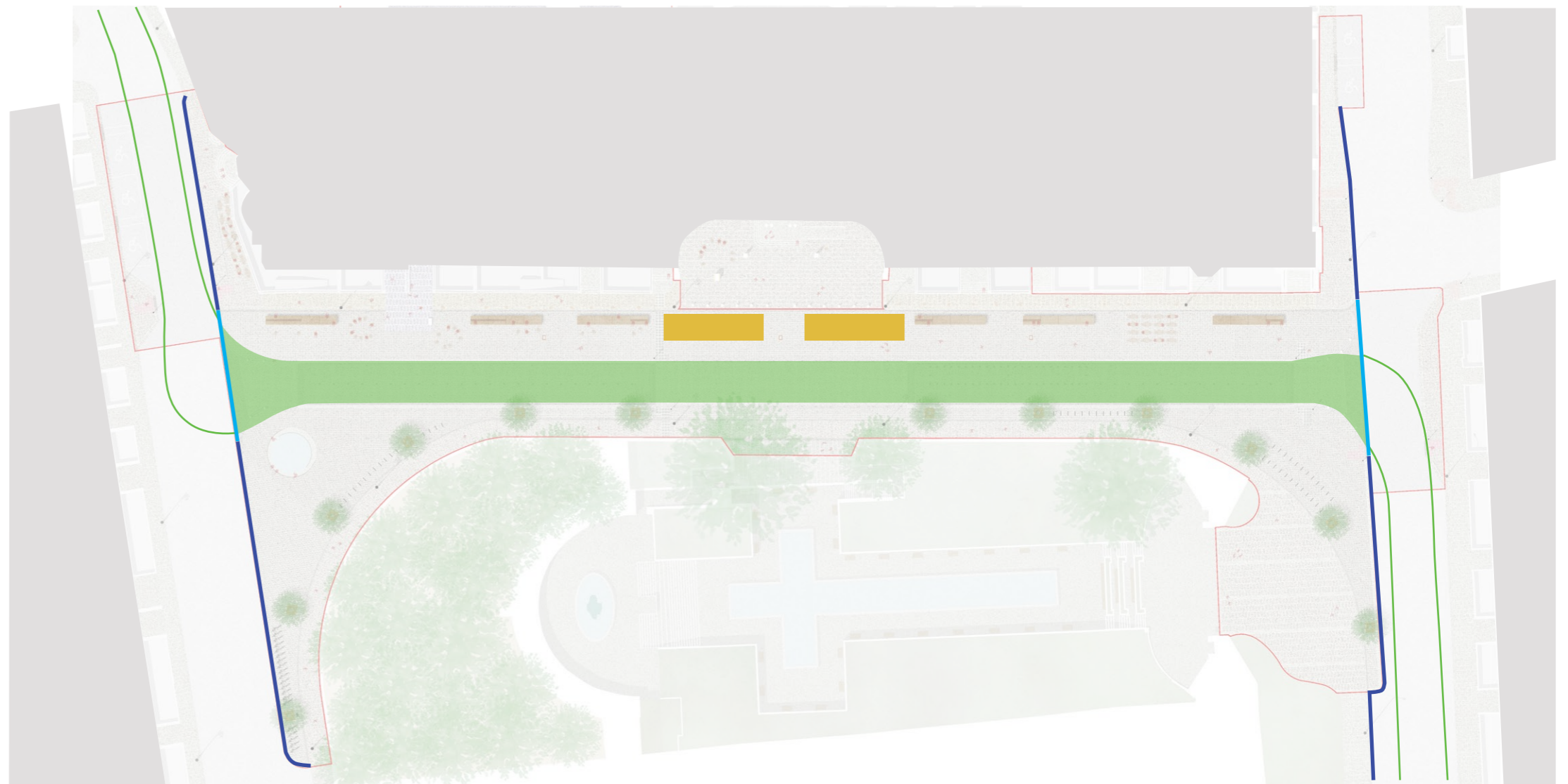
St Patrick's Day Spectator Stands



Processions and Protests

Parnell Square North is not just one side of one of Dublin's Georgian squares. Considering its role as the starting point for St Patrick's Day Parade and other protests and processions, it is essential that the new public realm layout works well for day-to-day uses while still accommodating these occasions.

The diagram on the right shows dropped kerbs allowing wider turns at the west and east junctions of the space. The parade route itself follows the 2-lane carriageway, with pedestrian spectator space on both sides. The spectator stands could be placed more centrally in the urban space than where they are currently set up.



Parade Route

- Parade Route
- Spectator Seating
- Kerbing
- Dropped Kerb

6.4 Markets & Events



Weekend Markets in Dublin



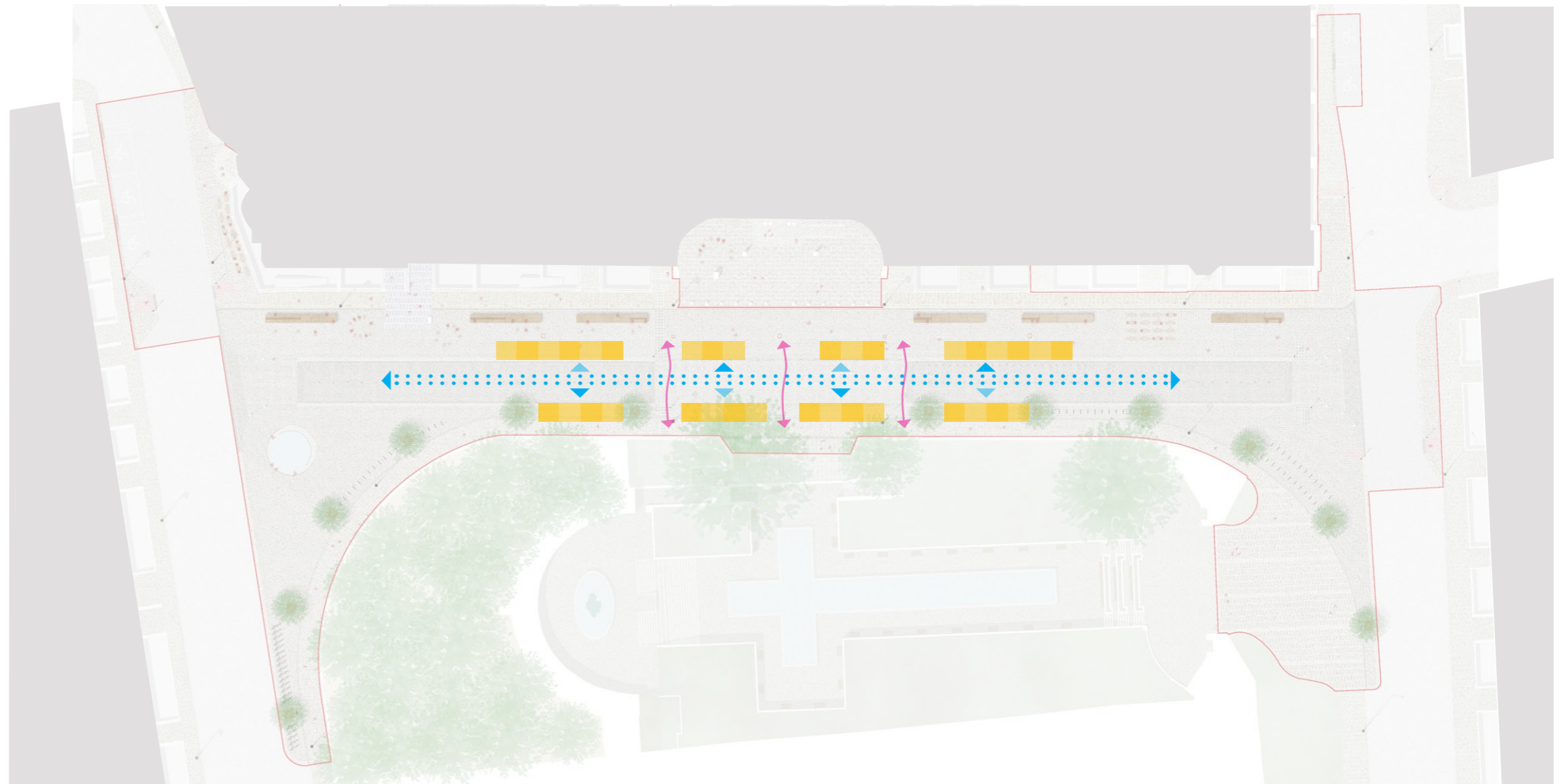
Temporary Street Festival, Mitama in Tokyo



CGI showing market taking place in the plaza

Alongside national events such as the St. Patrick's Parade, the space is also intended to facilitate other events such as markets. The placement of the carriageway, and street furniture allows a number of layout options, with one option shown on the right, where the lanes are temporarily closed to create a linear street market or festival. Layouts would also be feasible along the north pavement, keeping road lanes open.

The space could also host performances, with one option proposed to park a mobile stage along the west side, with spectators filling this sloping zone adjacent.



- Market Stalls
- Main Street (& Fire Access)
- Permeability retained

Suggested Market layout

6.5 Day-to-day Activity

The approach taken in the project is that the public realm is a place to spend time in, be utilised by people, and a destination in itself, rather than simply incidental space to be walked through on the way into the buildings. Additionally, one current perception of Parnell Square is that it doesn't have anywhere outdoors that invites people to spend time. So to complement the inviting nature of the new library, the outdoor space was designed to enable passers-by and people working in the area to sit and enjoy the favourable orientation and upgraded surroundings. In addition, the Parnell Square city quarter is one of the most densely populated residential zones in the inner city, and many of these dwellings don't have private open space. An important civic attitude towards urban living is to facilitate use of public space for those that don't have private outdoor space. By providing seating and sufficient lighting for a large number of citizens, while aiming to mitigate negative effects as far as possible, an inviting tone can be set. With more people inhabiting the space, a level of passive surveillance can be generated, helping to discourage antisocial behaviour.

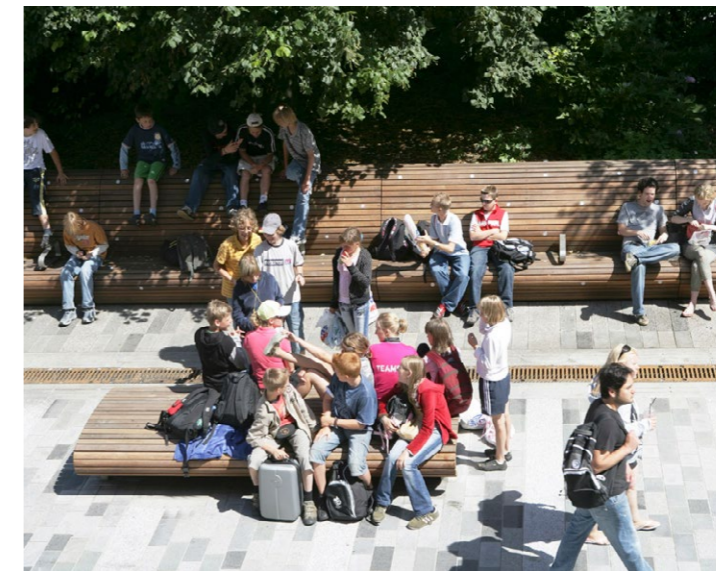
A series of double-sided city benches form the main spine of street furniture. These offer the option to sit on either side comfortably without impinging on the person behind, thereby effectively doubling the 'sittable' area, when compared to a shallower bench. One side faces towards the sun, and the other towards the building entrances and busy pedestrian footpath. Another seating option is movable chairs associated with the library, to be available to place flexibly in the space, which can enable library events, and which could then be stored at night. Public Wifi is proposed near the library to serve those sitting outside, and there is also a public drinking fountain proposed. Another urban feature is the water pool at the western entrance to the space. The sound of running water can help to offset traffic noise, and the opportunity to sit and interact with water in a city setting is desirable for children and adults alike.



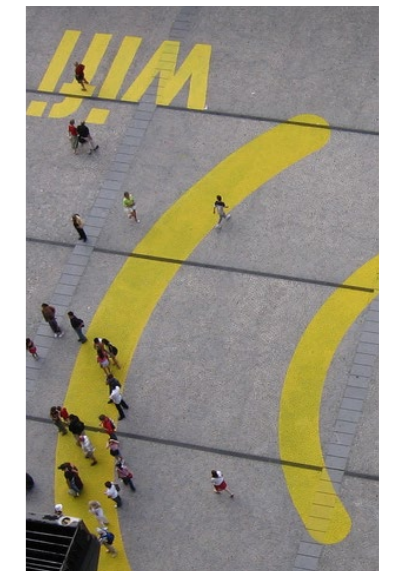
Misted water pool, Mayfair, London



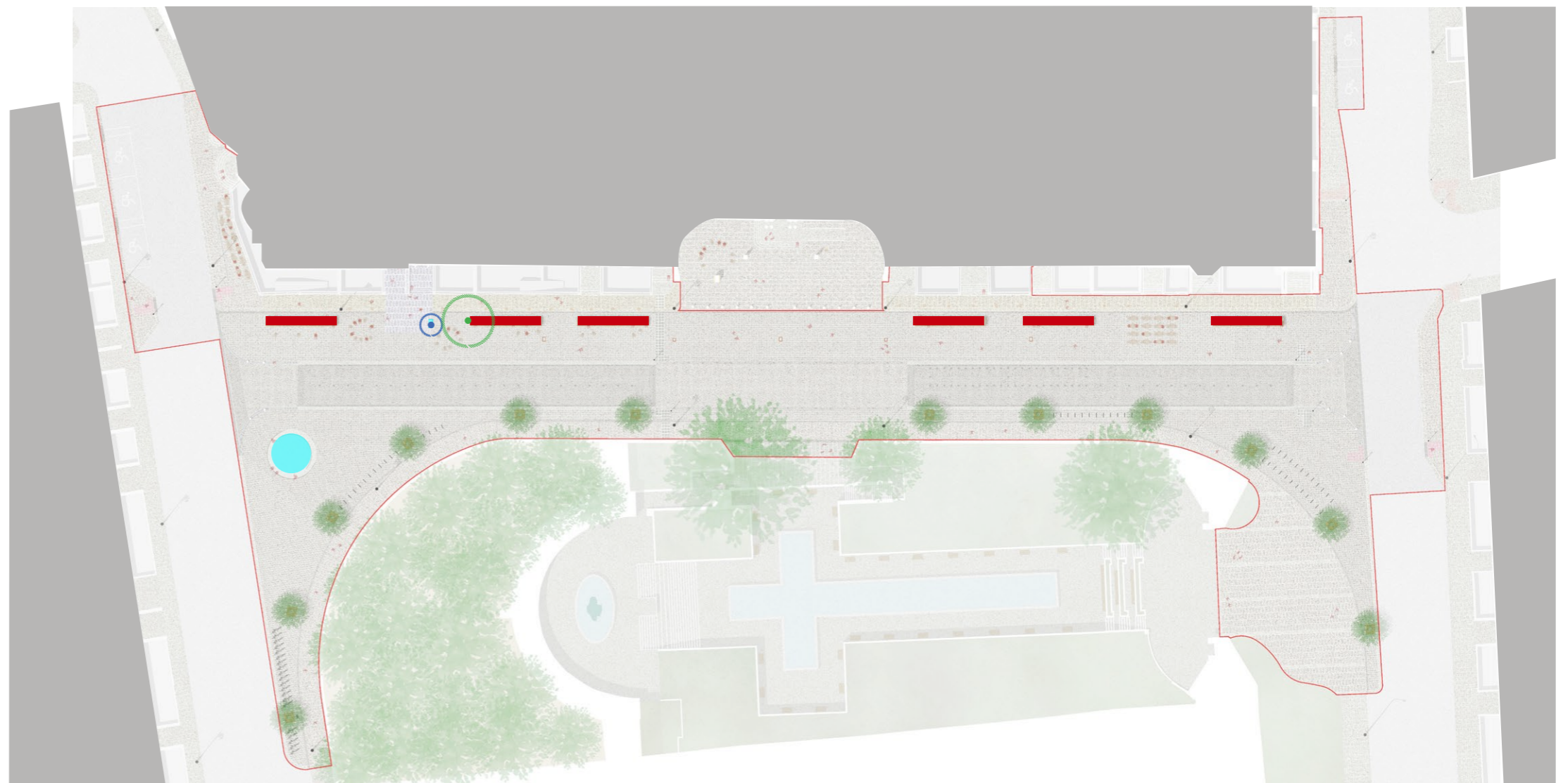
Water Lily pool, Bishops Sq, London






Extensive seating, New Road, Brighton



Public Plaza WIFI



Street Furniture

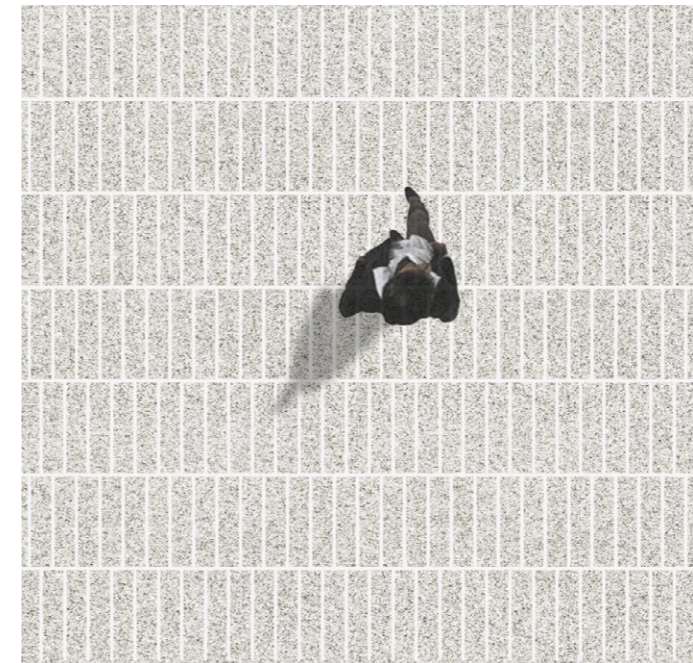
-  Long, two-sided bench; arm and back rests
-  Water fountain pool with seated edge
-  2no. Existing fixtures realigned to new path; painted black; upgraded to LED warm temp (eg.2500K)

6.6 Surfaces

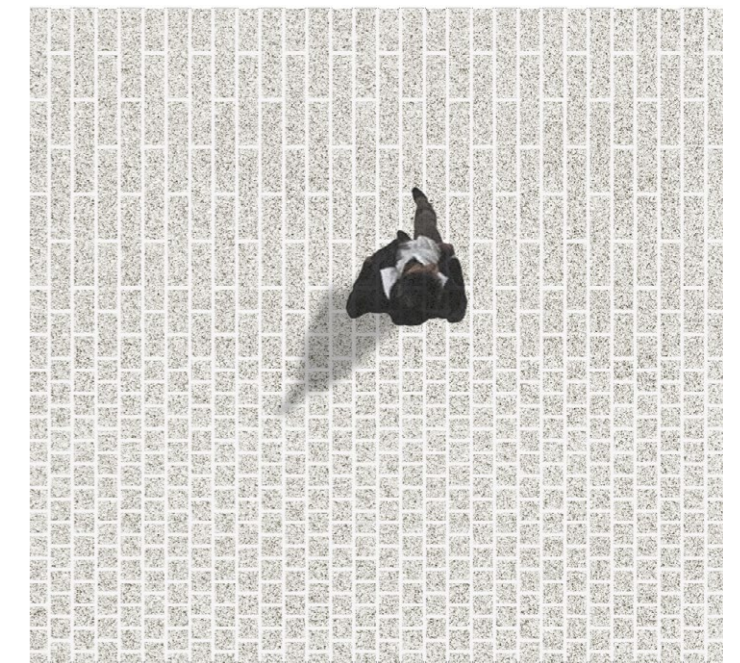
For a contemporary development in a heritage area, the right balance in terms of material quality, tone, texture and colour was sought to complement the surrounding fabric. An inventory was made of the existing quality landscape elements such as historic paving, cellar covers, light fixtures, obelisks etc. These items were incorporated sensitively into the designs, with the new materials proposed intended to harmonise with the historic granite in quality and tone. The diagram below right shows proposed materials and locations of kerbs.



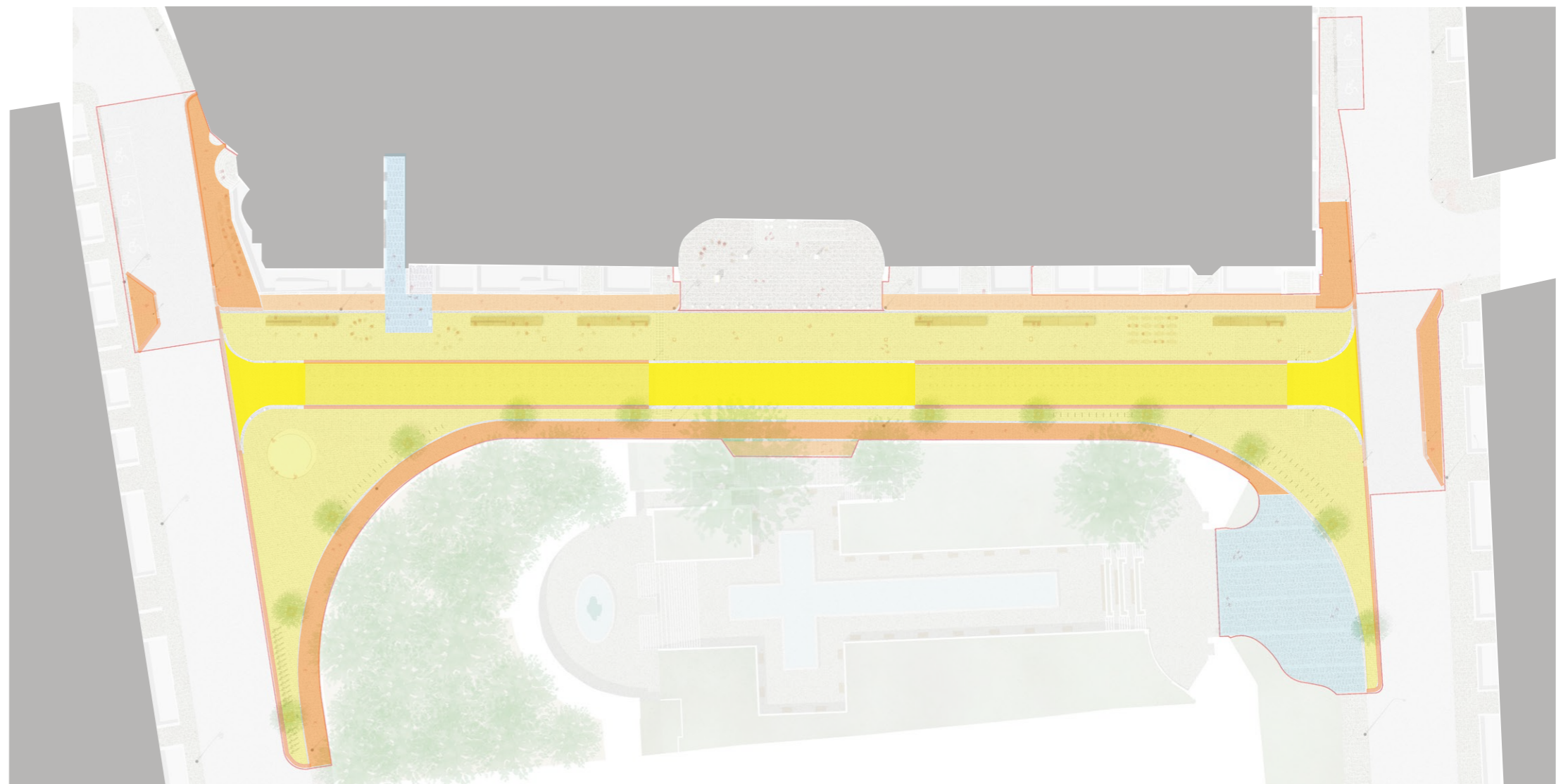
Existing historic pavement to be retained



Paving Study



Paving Study



Surface Diagram

Entrances to Library & Garden of Remembrance

European granite to match existing historic granite in tone, colour, and petrographic qualities. Laid in larger slabs and continues into Library interior

Existing/historic granite footpath

Retained; Coal cellar covers also retained

Proposed Paving Slabs

European granite to match existing historic granite in tone, colour, and petrographic qualities. Laid in varying sizes as per historic footpaths

Proposed Paving Setts

European granite to match existing historic granite in tone, colour, and petrographic qualities. Laid in smaller setts for greater flexural strength (events etc.)

Paved Raised Table Crossing

European granite to match existing historic granite in tone, colour, and petrographic qualities; Laid in small setts for greater flexural strength

Paved Carriageway

European granite to match existing historic granite in tone, colour, and petrographic qualities; Laid in small setts for greater flexural strength; Lane markings in stone; Kerbed edges

Kerbing

European granite to match existing historic granite in tone, colour, and petrographic qualities; 400mm wide

Dropped Kerb

European granite to match existing historic granite in tone, colour, and petrographic qualities; 400mm wide

6.7 Lighting



Early Lighting Study



Internal light of Georgian houses animating a London square



Tree Uplighters



Bench uplighting

Again, for a contemporary development in a heritage area, the right balance in terms of retaining and repairing existing features, and introducing new features was sought. The space is currently lined with heritage lighting fixtures, to the same model as those commonly seen in the city's other Georgian streets. Rather than deviating from this established palette, these fixtures will be retained, upgraded, and painted a more appropriate black colour. The required lux levels for the space are firstly achieved by upgrading the existing fixtures to a farther-casting LED bulb, with warmer temperature light in the yellow range rather than the colder white. The street furniture is then picked out with lighting, such as bench and tree uplighters, and water fountain lighting.

-  9no. Existing fixture retained in situ; painted black; upgraded to warm temperature LED (eg.2500K)
-  1no. Missing fixture reinstated; painted black; upgraded to LED warm temperature (eg.2500K)
-  2no. Existing fixtures realigned to new path; painted black; upgraded to LED warm temp (eg.2500K)
-  Tree Uplighters; 2no. per tree; LED warm temp (eg.2500K)
-  Fountain Lighting; LED warm temp (eg.2500K)
-  Linear Bench downlighters; 1 strip on either side of bench; LED warm temp (eg.2500K)



Lighting Plan

6.8 Public Art Potential



Public Art Study



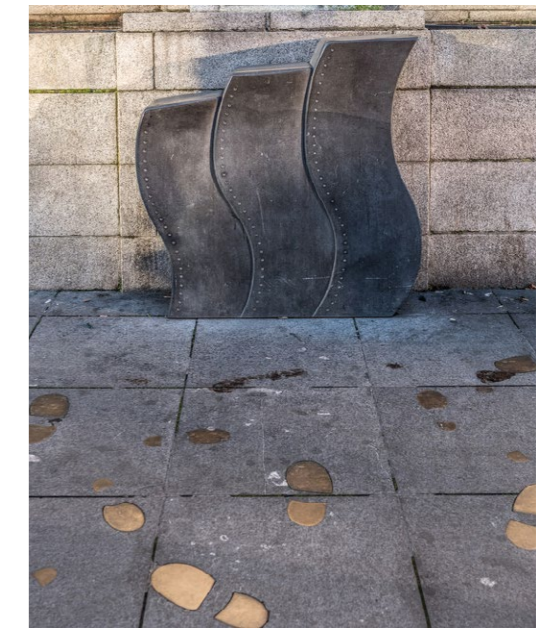
Service (coal cellar) lid with artistic engraving



■ Suzanne Walking in Leather Skirt, J.Opie



● Children of Lir, Oisín Kelly

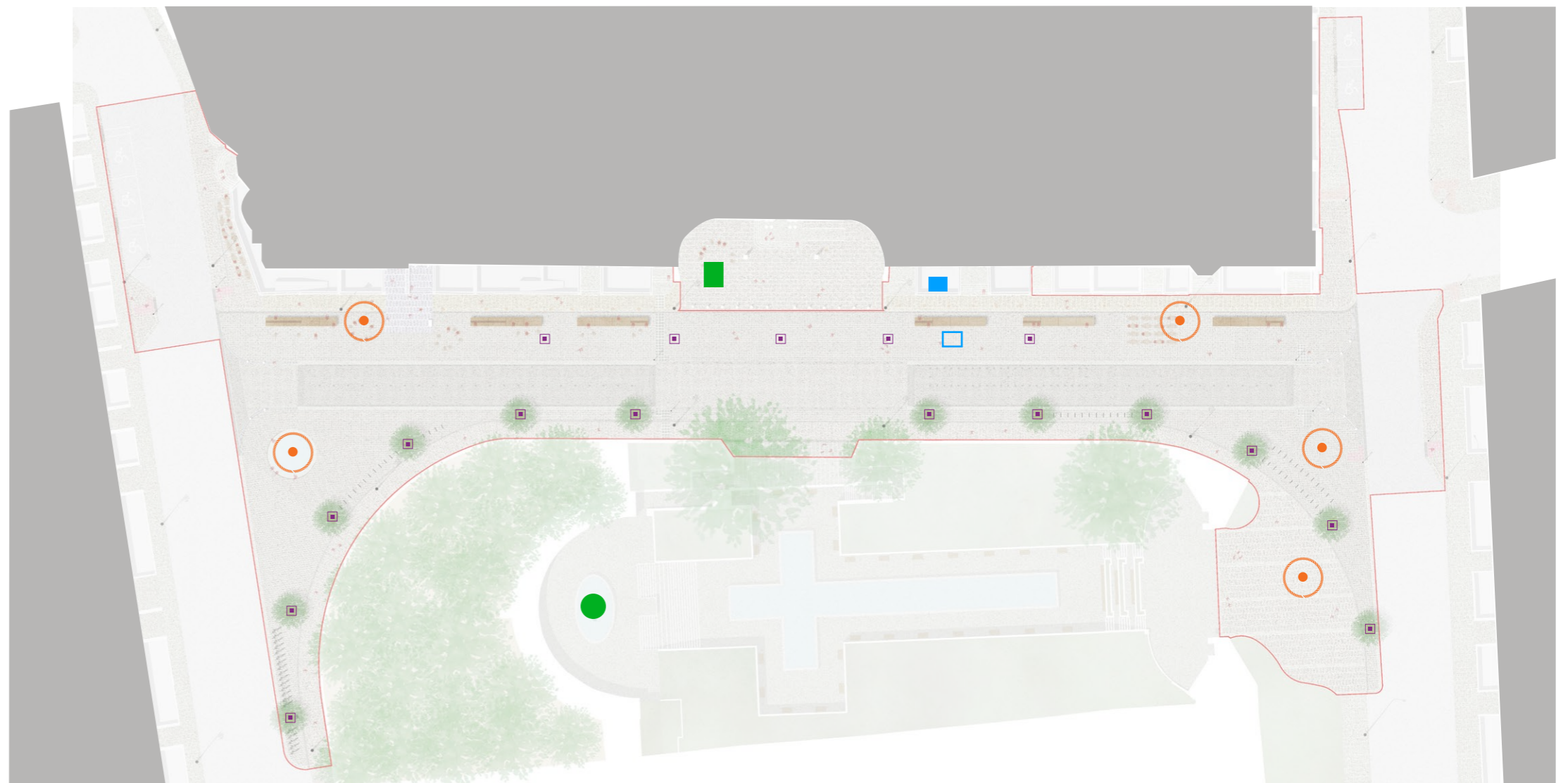


■ Miami Showband Memorial, R. Herry

□ Potential location for replacement artwork

The Parnell Square Cultural Quarter will be home to key Irish cultural institutions such as the Hugh Lane Gallery, the Writers Museum and now the City Library. As the connective element between these valuable attractions, the public realm can extend these functions out into the external space, helping to increase their profile and visibility, and providing additional space for exhibits or activities. Quality public art already exists in the Quarter, with the Julian Opie piece in the Hugh Lane forecourt, and Oisín Kelly's Children of Lir in the Garden of Remembrance. The Miami Showband Memorial by Redmond Herry is currently placed outside no.21, the former National Ballroom. The basements of these buildings are to be reinstated, so it is proposed to offer a new location for the memorial, in consultation with the artist and Justice for the Forgotten.

The proposed extended public realm creating a generous space for pedestrians, can also house new public artworks. A range of possible locations is shown on the right, with the potential for the space to become a sort of external exhibition for the Hugh Lane. In the spirit of the traditional cellar covers and other services, there is also potential to develop the new in-ground service covers and tree grilles, to feature engraved artwork, or literary quotations, in collaboration with the Writers Museum, and new Library



Potential Art Locations

○ Potential Locations for new art
(to be developed with DCC arts officer, & artists)

■ In-ground features to potentially include inscriptions
eg. literary quotes or images (to be developed with
DCC arts officer, & artists)

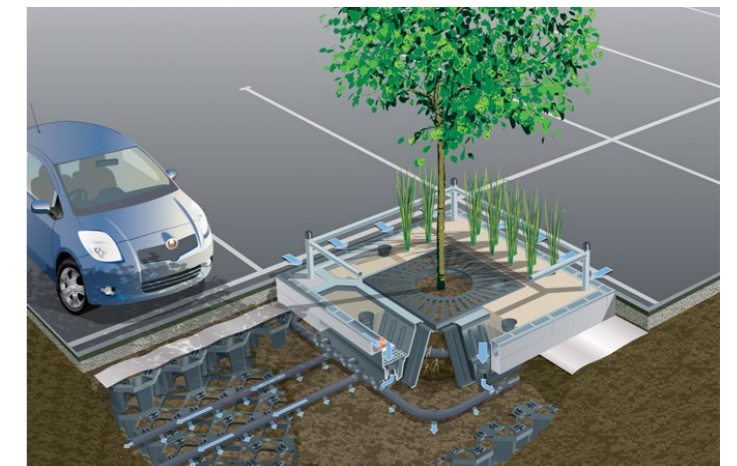
6.9 Drainage



--- Dished granite surface gully

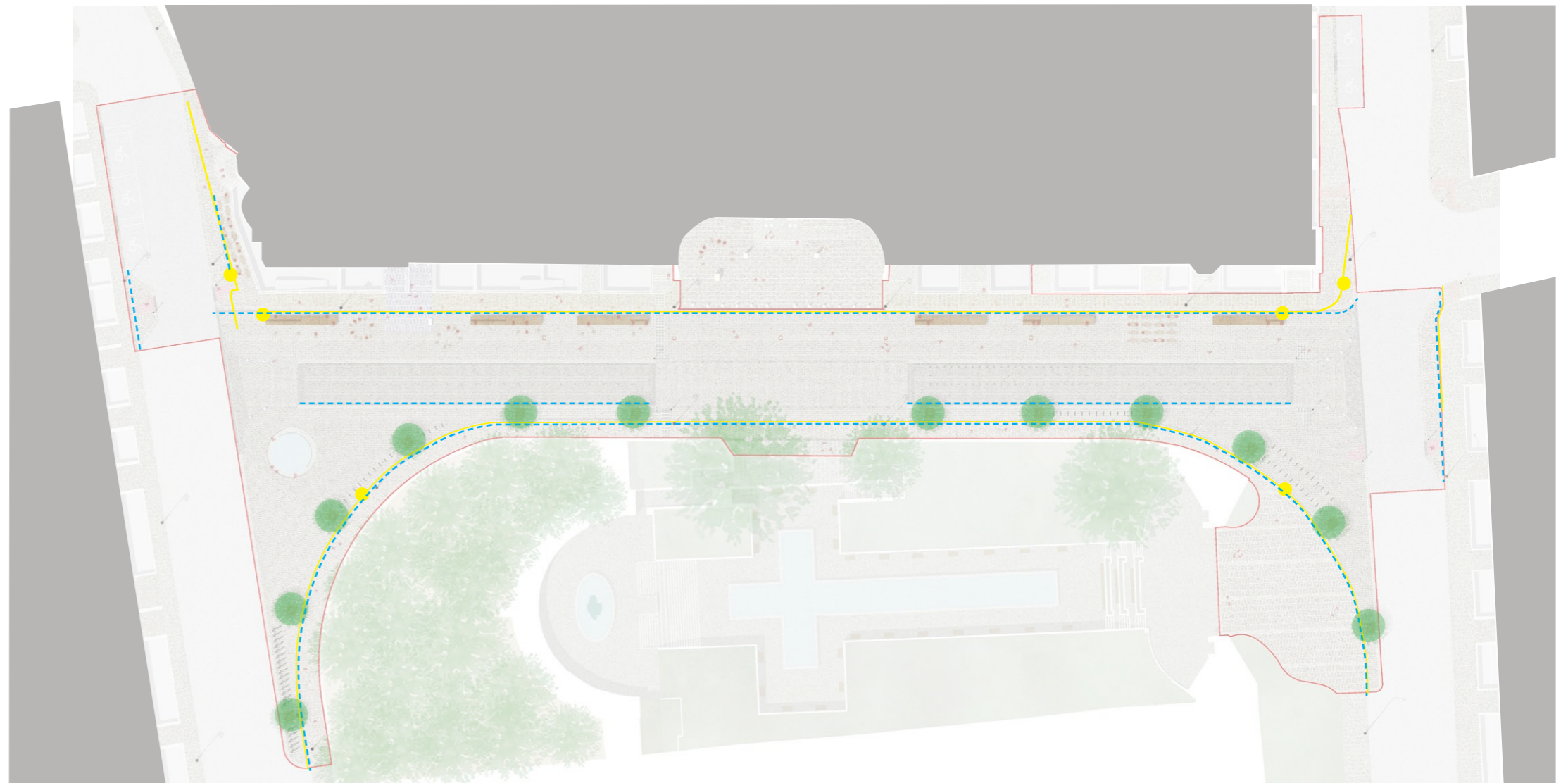


--- Dished granite surface gully



● SUDS tree pit

The approach to the external site drainage was to generally work with the existing falls in order to reuse existing pipework where possible. High quality granite surface gulleys are proposed to conduit the water to rainwater outlets, which will be installed at a greater frequency than the few existing ones. A new gully will be required within the kerbed carriageway. It is also proposed to use SuDS tree pits to help percolate away some of the rainfall from this otherwise hard surfaced space.



- Existing Rainwater inlet removed
- Existing Rainwater gully route
- Proposed Rainwater surface route, with dished granite surface gully and new inlets at 20m intervals.
- Street Tree with potential SUDS rainwater chambers to percolate rainfall naturally back to the water table

Drainage Locations

6.10 Services



Engraved text into surface feature



■ In-ground water unit



■ In-ground power unit

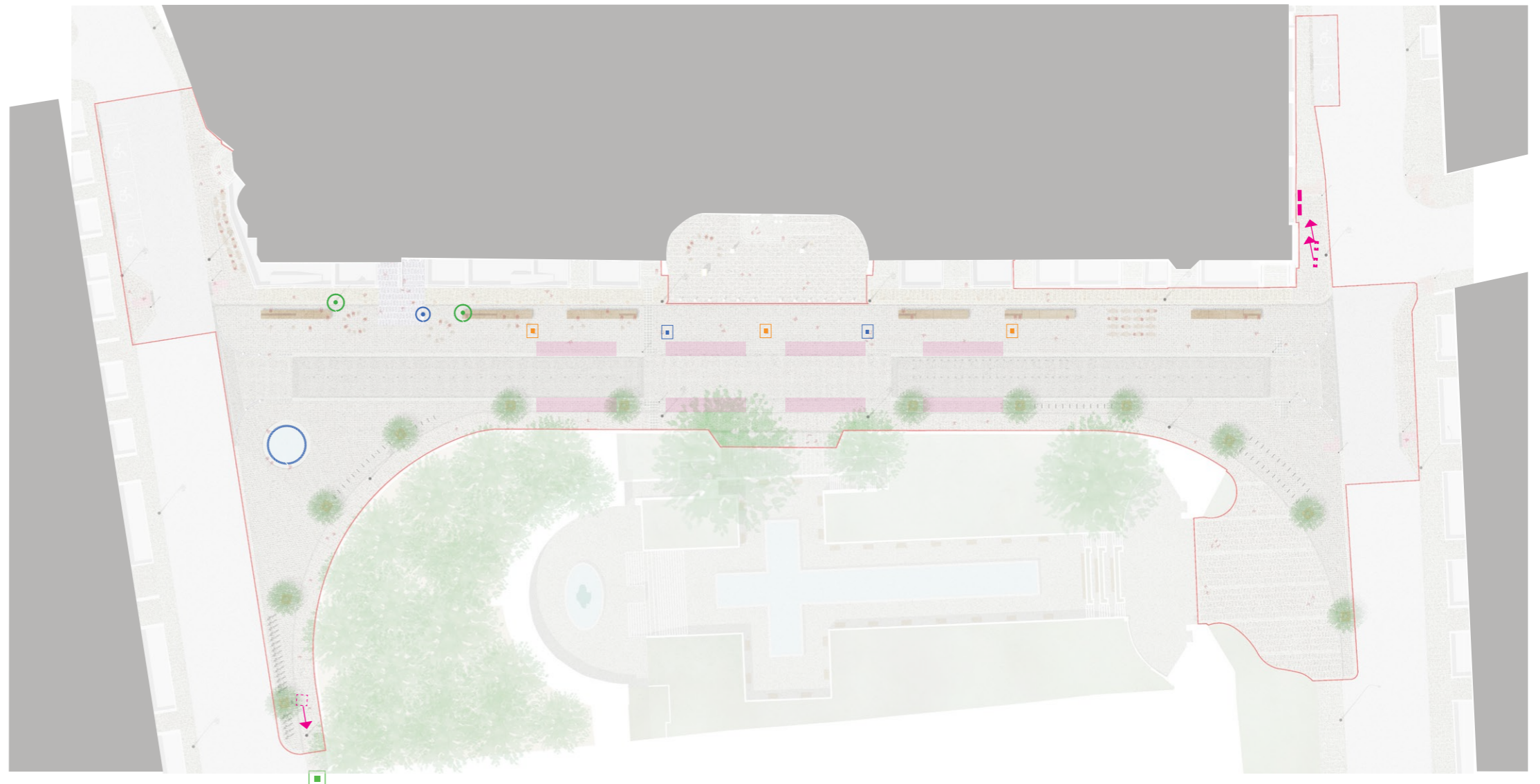


○ Water Fountain Study

In order to facilitate events in the space, such as markets and festivals, a line of service points to (separately) supply water and electricity for such occasions. Due to the historic context, these are proposed as recessed in-ground covers, with paving inserted. Alternatively, they could also house engraved images or text, in the spirit of traditional crafted service covers.

Public WiFi linked to the new library is also proposed, with AP antennae concealed in the benches or streetlight, where possible.

Due to the new layout, some services need to relocate short distances, such as the E-car charger on the south-west side, and the mini-pillars to the north-east.



- In-ground water unit
- In-ground power unit
- Fountain Feature: Solid Granite base; jets; misters
- Drinking Fountain: Solid Granite base
- Library Wifi: Driver concealed under bench
- 2no. Service boxes relocated from centre of footpath
- 1no. E-car charger moved to nearby parking spaces
- Potential Market Layout

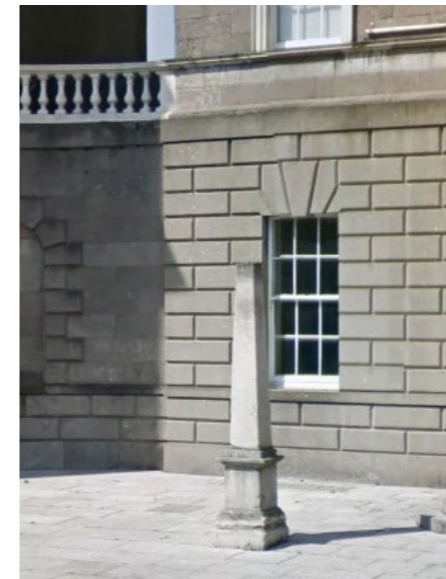
6.11 Landscape Architectural Heritage



James Malton painting of Charlemont House, 1793



Historic pavements with cellar covers intact



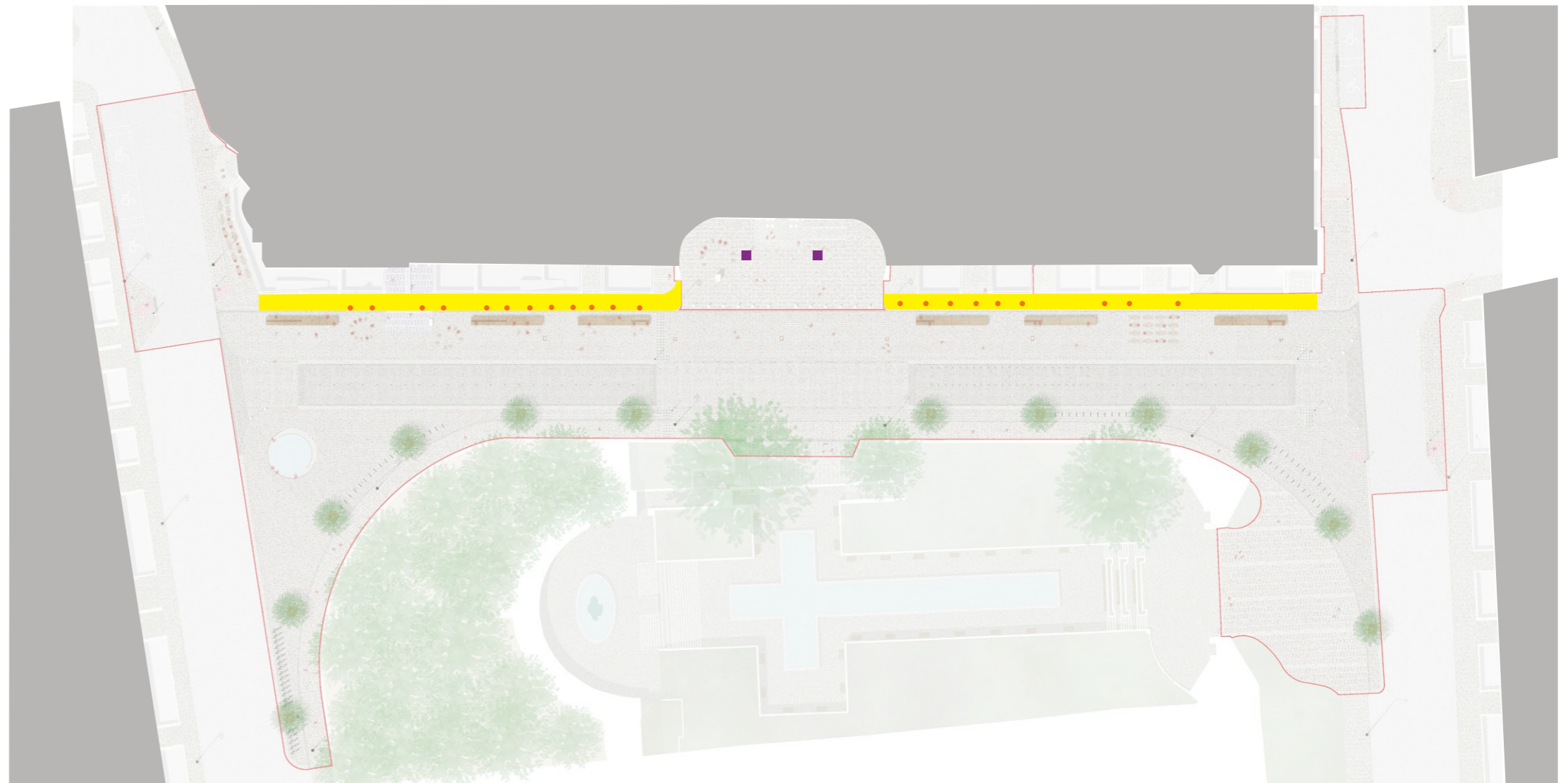
Obelisk from Gardiner's Mall



Historic railings, steps and footpaths

While much of Parnell Square still retains its heritage granite kerbing, the north side of Palace Row contains the last of the intact full-width footpaths. This is to be incorporated sensitively into the new design, in order to retain the layered relationship of historic footpath to railing to building. A small exception is the paving emerging from the new library to help announce the main entrance into the public space. Also of note along this footpath are the heritage cellar lids, to be retained in situ where possible.

Similarly it is also intended to retain and repair historic railings where they exist, with only small scale interventions for new basement staircases etc.



- Obelisks
- Cellar covers intact
- Historic Pavements

6.12 Ecology

The ecological aspiration for the project is to seek to introduce a significant quantum of new planting and green space compared to the existing condition. Where this is perhaps most notable is with the 'hanging gardens' on the library roofs. A central courtyard brings light down into the new extension, and this is intended to be lushly planted with a mix of trees, shrubs, and groundcovers, providing a seasonal interest, an verdant views from many aspects and levels inside the library. Similarly, one level up is another roof garden, which will have a greater proportion of paved surface, and also be more accessible to library visitors. Sufficient provision has been made both spatially and structurally for significant soil depth for suitable trees to flourish in this specific microclimate. The planting for these roof gardens will include a mix of native and non-indigenous species, with an emphasis on suitability to the high wind environment of a roofscape, as well as flowering, fruiting and scented features to benefit urban biodiversity.

There will also be a joined terrace on top of the existing Georgian houses, where there is space to include planting in a more contained arrangement, in order to allow a greater accessible paved area, considering the favourable aspect and city views.

The functional roof surfaces of the new extension can also provide an area for ecological gain. These spaces, accessible only for maintenance, can accommodate simple roof systems such as a biodiversity brown roof. This provides microhabitats and food for insects, for which any increase in numbers serves larger animals further up the food web, of importance in the challenging urban environment. Similarly the new brick façades could include subtle special bricks in discreet locations, to house bats or birds such as swifts.

The other significant ecological improvement will be out in the public realm, where a substantial row of new street trees is proposed, augmenting the existing vegetation in and around the Garden of Remembrance. Due to its suitability for the urban environment and familiarity around Georgian Dublin, the chosen species are likely to be London Plane. These can be seen around the city, growing to substantial scales, again providing vital habitats to urban wildlife.

- Planted Roof Gardens
- Green/Brown Roofs



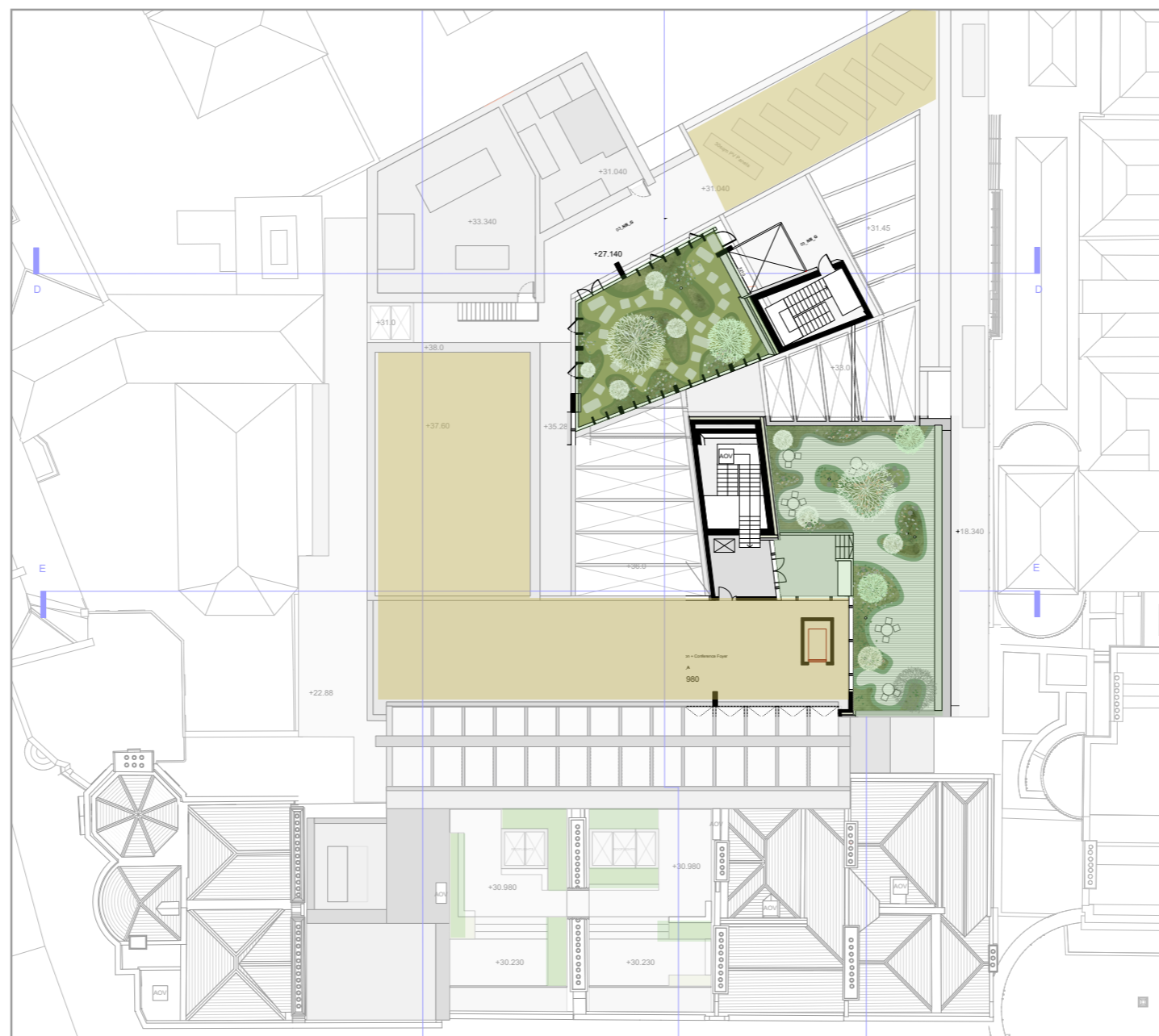
Functional inaccessible Brown roof systems



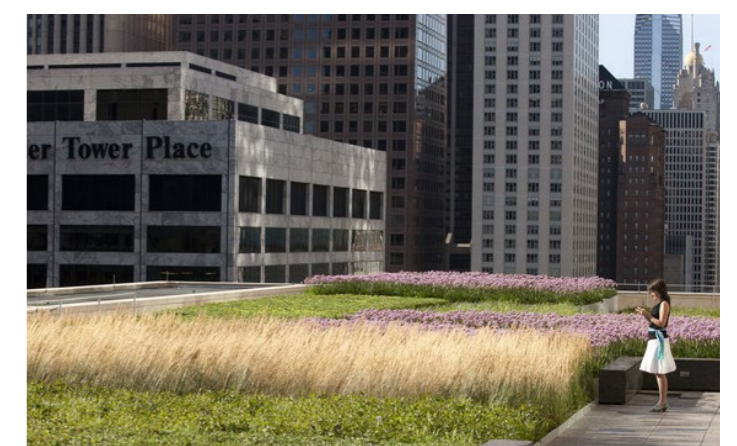
PV panels on green roof mat



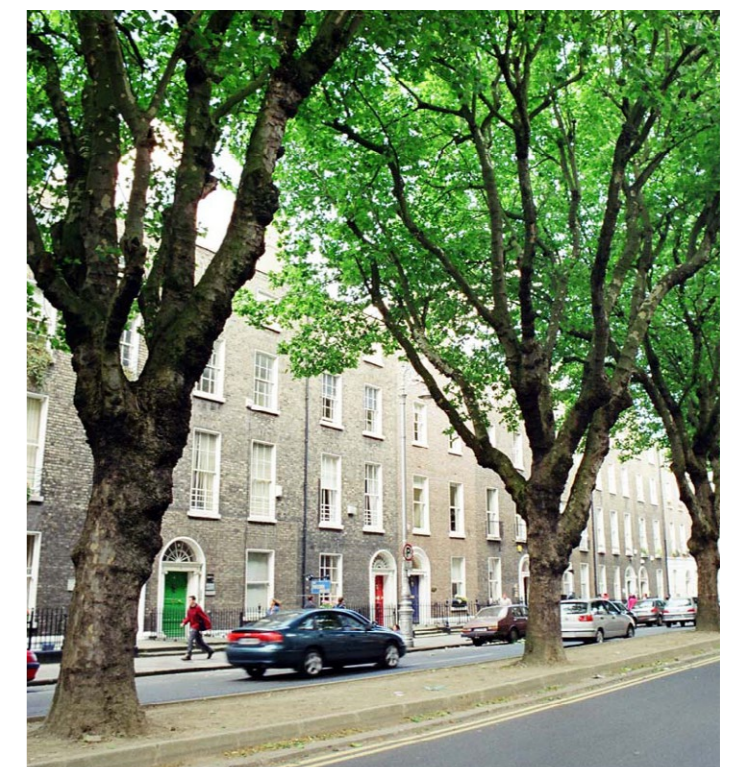
Subtle brick specials with cavity for birds or bats



Roof Garden Locations



'Naturalistic' landscape effect on a roof (Michigan Ave, IL)



London Plane Trees, Baggot Street

6.12 Ecology: Planting

The planted roof courtyard and gardens are an inherent part of the experience of the building, with views of the hanging courtyard central to the main library atrium, and the other roof gardens leading off from the conference and exhibition spaces providing verdant outdoor experiences with favourable aspects and views over the city.

Choosing the right plants for the specific microclimate is of key importance to the long term survival and thriving of these garden spaces. The higher wind-drying of a roof space presents a challenging condition for most species, while the varied building massing will provide variance in sheltering and shadowing, generating further climatic sub-divisions.

Further considerations for the plant selection are the aesthetic qualities, particularly seasonal variety; support for urban biodiversity throughout the year; flowering and scent-making species; and inclusion of native species.

The table below shows a sample schedule of the range of trees, shrubs and smaller plants that can achieve this balance, with each category playing an important role in the creation of the environment, from canopy and enclosure down to groundcover and seasonal flowering bulbs.



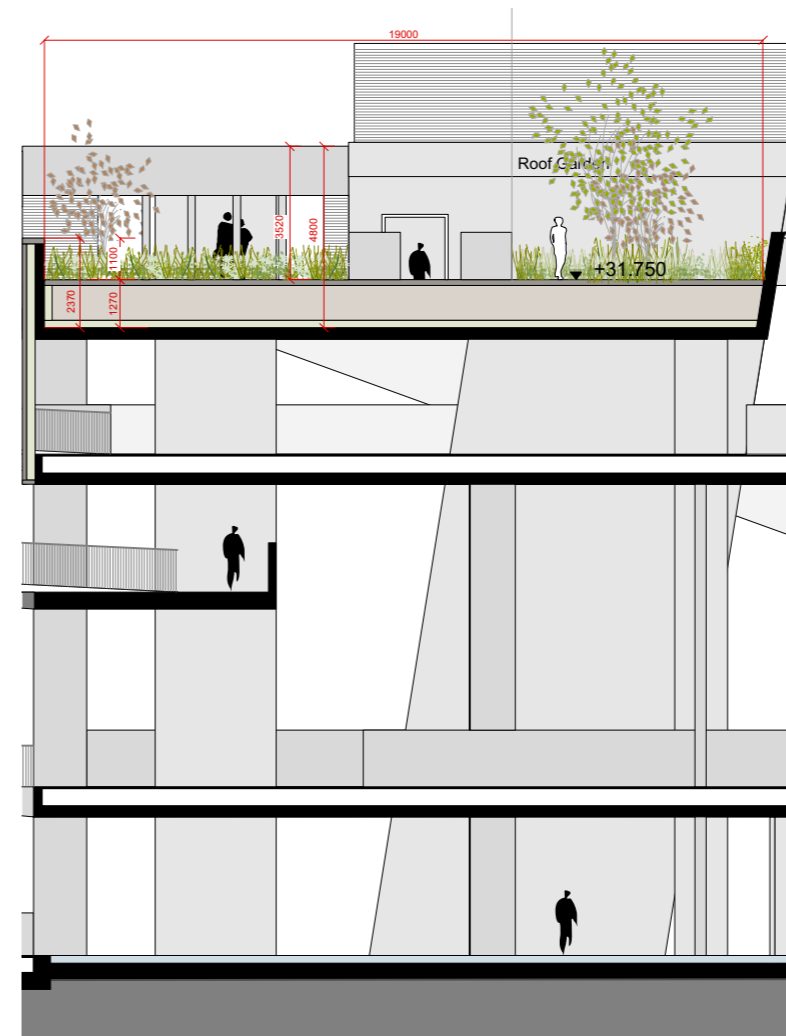
Accessible roof garden with substantial planting (High Line; NY)



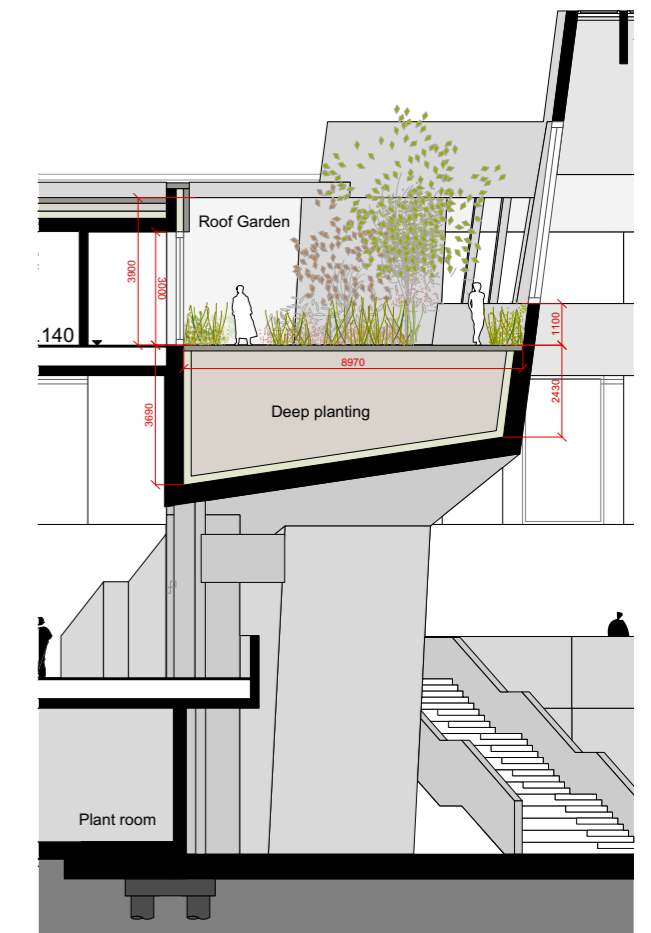
Verdant courtyard providing light and views (Tahari; NJ)

Roof Gardens: Sample Planting Schedule

Trees Betula utilis jacquemontii Morus Nigra Malus evereste Fraxinus ornus	min 20-25cm girth; min 1.5m clear stem; min height 5m min 20-25cm girth; specimen branching from 50cm; min width 1.5m; min height 3m min 20-25cm girth; specimen branching from 50cm; min width 1.5m; min height 4m min 30-35cm girth; min 1.5m clear stem; min height 6m
Shrubs Acer palmatum 'osakazuki' Amelanchier Lamarkii Ficus carica Sambucus nigra 'black lace' Hamamelis mollis Prunus Serotina Philadelphus belle etoile	min 50L pot; min 5 breaks 50cm from base; min width 1.8m; min height 2.5m min 50L pot; min 5 breaks 50cm from base; min width 1.8m; min height 3m min 50L pot; min 3 breaks 50cm from base; min width 1.8m; min height 4m min 50L pot; min 5 breaks 50cm from base; min width 1.8m; min height 2.5m min 20-25cm girth; specimen branching from 50cm; min width 1.5m; min height 3m min 50L pot; min 3 breaks 50cm from base; min width 1.8m; min height 2.5m min 20L pot; min width 1.2m; min height 1.5m
Grasses Calmagrostis 'Karl Foerster' Sesleria autumnalis Stipa gigantea	3L pot; min height 25-30cm 3L pot; min height 25-30cm 3L pot; min height 25-30cm
Ferns Adiantum aleuticum Asplenium scolopendrium Dryopteris wallichiana	3L pot; min height 20-25cm 3L pot; min height 20-25cm 3L pot; min height 30-35cm
Groundcover etc. Cerastium tomentosum Digitalis ferruginea Fragaria vesca Helleborus niger Lavandula 'spica' Libertia formosa Pinus Mugo Phlomis russeliana Saxifraga urbium Thymus serpyllum	3L pot; min height 25-30cm 5L pot; min height 40-45cm 2L pot; min height 20-25cm 2L pot; min height 20-25cm 3L pot; min height 25-30cm 3L pot; min height 25-30cm 5L pot; min height 40-45cm 3L pot; min height 30-35cm 2L pot; min height 20-25cm 2L pot; min height 20-25cm
Bulbs Allium sphaerocephalon Gladiolus 'the bride' Lycoris squamigera	3L pot; 8no.each 3L pot; 8no.each 3L pot; 8no.each



L04 Roof Garden: More exposed corner condition



L03 Roof Garden: Sheltered raised courtyard



This scheme has had the benefit of many iterations and a four year period of evaluation and critique. Each consultation as recorded elsewhere, added to the specific requirement of how this particular space function in relation to the new development but also to improve the appearance and presentation of this part of the city. Lighting, bins, seating, tree planting, road alignment, traffic management devices, whether expressed or hidden can genuinely be said to be integrated and co-ordinated. What this project offers is a decluttered and re-interpreted city environment that celebrates the quality and grandeur of the surrounding architecture, while offering a series of human scaled details for the comfortable enjoyment of those who will accept the invitation to experience it.

We expect that this northern portion of Parnell Square will immediately change character when the proportion of space given over to traffic and that to pedestrians is dramatically changed in favour of the latter. Once the surfaces of the streets are replaced by fine stone materials this will communicate a further message to drivers that they are the transgressors in this arrangement and should proceed with caution. We expect that after the urban design reconfiguration foot traffic will heavily predominate here and that the space will be used often and well as the balance shifts. We expect that noise and pollution will be reduced and

that the symbolism of the place as a democratic forum will become even stronger.

Underpinning the landscape approach to this development is the need to create diversity, layering and complexity that works for the client and is attractive to the general public, but that appears calm and effortless. This can mean a simple gesture such as having arm or back rests on some benches or the provision of more complex infrastructure such as in-ground power and water services that we include to encourage markets, book fairs, outdoor galleries and to facilitate events.

The library will engage tangibly with its setting with the paving running through from the central core of the building to outside guides the journey between them. The entrances to the buildings are suitably signified, while providing ease of access and pedestrian flow with plenty of seating nearby, south facing and looking across to the Garden of Remembrance.

This approach is about creating a civic space that links these buildings and acts as a busy node with the outdoor-indoor space-flow, and allowing for the materials and public realm composition to appropriately reflect this. We have designed this city space as a social and recreational place, with a consistent and recognizably Dublin character where an open stage is offered for range of supporting urban activities.

