



**Níall McLaughlin  
Architects**

**Oxford  
Projects**



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**1 (previous)** View of the Sultan Nazrin Shah Centre.

**2** View looking up one of the stair towers of the ROQ East and West Buildings.

## Project Details

Author	Níall McLaughlin
Title	Oxford Projects
Output Type	Building and urban design
Projects and Completion Dates	Radcliffe Primary Care Building (completed 2016) Sultan Nazrin Shah Centre (completed 2017) Catherine Hughes Building (completed 2019) Master's Field Project (ongoing; phase 1 completed 2019) North Oxford Development Project (ongoing) Oxford India Centre (ongoing) Radcliffe Observatory Quarter Masterplan (ongoing)
Clients / Commissioning Bodies	Oxford University Estates Directorate (OUED) for Radcliffe Primary Care Building Worcester College for Sultan Nazrin Shah Centre Somerville College for Catherine Hughes Building Balliol College for Master's Field Project University College Oxford for North Oxford Development Project Somerville College for Oxford India Centre
Collaboration with Statutory Bodies	University of Oxford Conservation Officer, OUED
Practice Team	Benni Allan, Penelopi Antoniou, Eimear Arthur, Simon Bishop, Alastair Browning, Joanne Chen, Yangyang Chen, Alastair Clarke, Alastair Crockett, Bev Dockray, Emily Doll, Harriet Duetz, Alis Fadzil, Adelina Fasan, James Foskett, Holly Galbraith, Abigail Giddings, Tilo Guenther, Katherine Hagab, Tamsin Hanke, Joanna Karatzas, Alicia Lafita, Caoilinn McConville, Tom McGlynn, Rasmus Pikk, Susanne Sherif, Ioana Vierita, Kerry Watton



## PROJECT DETAILS

Acoustic Engineers	Gillieron Scott Acoustic Design, Cole Jarman, Max Fordham
Approved Building Inspectors	Aedis Group
Arboriculturalist	Sylba Consultancy
CDM Advisors	Bureau Veritas UK
Contractors	BAM, Beard Construction
Decorative Mouldings	Fine Art Mouldings
Fire Consultants	JGA Fire Engineering
Ecologist	GS Ecology
Furniture Design	Benchmark, David Colwell Design
Heritage	Asset Heritage Consulting, Barton Willmore
Hydrological Design	Wallingford HydroSolutions
Joinery	Barn 6 Furniture
Landscape Architects	Dominic Cole, Kim Wilkie, Simon Bagnall, Townshend Landscape Architects, Urban Design Studio
Planning	Kemp & Kemp, Barton Willmore
Project Managers	Bidwells, PDCM
Quantity Surveyors	Castle Hayes Pursey (CHP), Gardiner & Theobald, Gleeds, McBains
Services Engineers Ridge, Silcock Harley Haddow	Dawson & Partners, King Shaw Associates, Max Fordham,
Stonework	Szerelmey
Structural Engineers	AKSWard, Pell Frischmann, Price & Myers, Smith and Wallwork
Transport	Paul Basham Associates

## Statement about the Research Content and Process

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### Description

Through a decade-long series of building and planning commissions, Níall McLaughlin Architects (NMLA) developed a research-based, integrated and anticipatory way of building within Oxford's historic environment and architectural heritage.

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### Questions

1. How do sustained architectural interventions in regulated environments foster connections?
2. How can new buildings be integrated into a historic environment?
3. How can existing regulations be utilised to critique proposed masterplans?
4. How can earlier projects inform new work?

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### Methodology

1. Surveying and analysing the spatial structure of Oxford's architectural and urban fabric;
2. Conducting visual and text-based research on the history of Oxford's architectural traditions, from the Gothic to the modern;

3. Refining architectural details and ideas, building on the experience and knowledge of previous projects in the same environment;
4. Engaging in a sustained and propositional way with communal committee structures, the University of Oxford colleges and the OUED;
5. Advancing knowledge through interdisciplinary discussion within UCL and institutions in the UK and abroad;
6. Deploying a range of design-led research methods using drawing, making and prototyping.

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### Dissemination

The projects have been individually or collectively presented in 18 invited talks and keynote addresses in the UK, Norway, Germany, France, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, India and the US. They have also been reviewed extensively, in print and online. The Sultan Nazrin Shah Centre was exhibited at the 16th International Architecture Exhibition, La Biennale di Venezia (2018).

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## Project Highlights

The Sultan Nazrin Shah Centre won the Oxford Preservation Trust Award (2017), three RIBA Awards – National, Regional and South Building of the Year (all 2018), and a Wood Award (2018). It was shortlisted for the RIBA Stirling Prize (2018). The projects have led to work for NMLA in Cambridge – Jesus College, Magdalene College, Trinity Hall and Peterhouse – and advisory roles in architectural competitions in Oxford.

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## Statement of Inclusion of Earlier Work

NMLA's work in Oxford dates back to the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter (ROQ) East and West Buildings, completed in 2010. Various projects were subsequently undertaken between then and 2014: the Wolfson Building extension and refurbishment for Somerville College (completed 2011); a Detailed Feasibility Study for the Department of Statistics (2011); Parks Hospital Medical Research Campus Masterplan for the University of Oxford Estates Department (2012–4); and a Detailed Feasibility Study for Modern Art Oxford, Department of Art History, Ruskin School of Art (2013).

Frequent reference is made throughout this document to the ROQ East and West Buildings on the grounds that they were fundamental in establishing the larger research project: the decade-long series of projects that were undertaken in their wake enabled NMLA to further develop and refine a reciprocal strategy of building in Oxford, where the existing urban fabric and the history of the city become part of the architectural

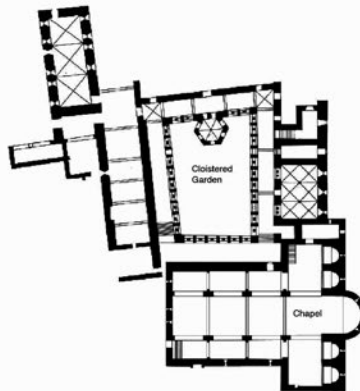
proposition, and vice versa. These strategies were formulated in two research studies: *The Tradition of Modern Architecture in Oxford* (2010), which investigates architectural typologies, highlighting the link between modern architecture, the 'monastic' Oxford college and the free-standing European university faculty building **(3)**; and the *Walton Street Wall Strategy Document* (2011), which examines the aesthetic, communal, evidential and historical value of the Walton Street wall and, more specifically, the development of the spatial type of the college as a confined urban form **(4)**. These studies examine and compare historical maps and other visual documents, and utilise drawing and photography as analytical tools. Their findings were critical in the development of later projects.

## Context

### 1.1 College and Faculty Buildings

One dominant feature of the centre of Oxford is the cluster of colleges around the central University area. These contribute significantly to the character of the streetscape, the relationship between public and private space, the skyline and the overall texture of the city. The college as a building type developed from the Christian monastery, which is a building that represents the spatial organisation suitable for people of shared faith living in a structured community. The independent faculty building is another form of organisation with no significant residential component and no primary space for worship. It is a workplace characterised by cells of different sizes suitable for individuals, or groups, to carry out specialised activities. The urban form of the area around South Parks Road is one manifestation of this way of organising buildings. They seem bigger and denser. They sit as independent blocks on their own sites.

#### Monastery Le Thoronet Abbey



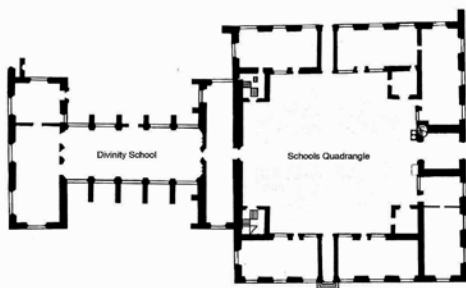
The 10th century monastery of Le Thoronet shows a typical arrangement of this building type. The two principal organising elements are the chapel and the cloistered garden. These are consciously juxtaposed, the chapel as the site of the liturgy and the Eucharist, the enclosed garden as an image of God's perfection. The refectory and library are important secondary elements. Individual monks' cells are arranged around the cloistered court. The buildings that face outwards from the central cluster are associated with utilities and management of the land.

#### College Merton College



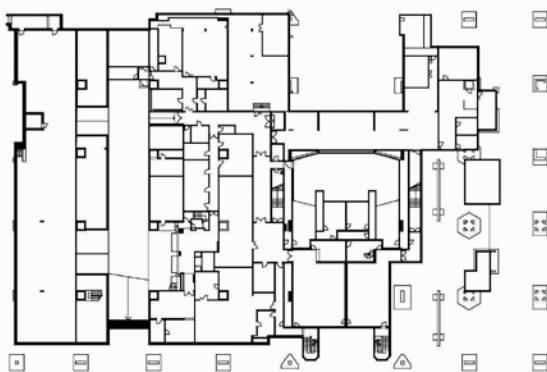
Merton College was founded in the mid-13th century as a settlement housing around thirty fellows teaching the liberal arts. The juxtaposition of the chapel with the surrounding enclosed quadrangles housing fellows is similar to the monastic building type. The library and hall bear an obvious correlation to the refectory and library of the monasteries in terms of scale and relative importance within the spatial organisation.

STATEMENT ABOUT THE RESEARCH CONTENT AND PROCESS



**Faculty Building  
Bodleian Library**

The sequence of development of the Bodleian Library shows the emergence of a new building programme and its development in relation to the monastic arrangement. The original proposal for the Divinity School was for a roofed hall like a simple chapel. The design was changed, following Duke Humfrey's bequest, to accommodate a library on a floor above the hall. The subsequent development of the Schools Quadrangle follows the cloistered form but contains specialised teaching spaces rather than residential rooms. This is not a garden with a colonnaded perimeter but a small public square serving as an entrance to all the parts of the building. The presence of the Library above the Hall of the Divinity School tells us it is not a monastic chapel. This hybrid organisation uses certain organising principles from the monastery or college but departs emphatically from the way in which these spaces are used and understood.



**Faculty Building  
Zoology and Psychology**

Oxford University has relatively few significant independent faculty buildings before the mid-20th century. This may be a result of the strength of the college system. It is not surprising that the most usual faculty buildings are laboratories, a use that would be increasingly difficult to accommodate within a college. The important thing to notice about this building is the overall scale and relative density of the plan. This is a big block with few entrances and it is not interlaced with open courtyards. Public circulation is through corridors and internal spaces are bigger and more homogenous. The development towards the modern faculty building is characterised by larger blocks with independent internal organisation, which improves security, servicing and central administration.

**3** Comparative reading of the 'monastic' type of college and faculty buildings from NMLA's study *The Tradition of Modern Architecture in Oxford*.



STATEMENT ABOUT THE RESEARCH CONTENT AND PROCESS



4 Typological study of building sections from the *Walton Street Wall Strategy Document*.

## Introduction

When NMLA were commissioned to design and realise the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter East and West Buildings, they did not expect that a decade later they would still be involved in multiple projects across Oxford. This first project started from an architectural competition win, jointly commissioned by the University and Somerville College. The design for the student accommodation buildings was to be realised in conjunction with Rafael Viñoly's 2006 design of a masterplan – a large scale redevelopment of the Radcliffe Infirmary site in the centre of Oxford – which introduced a Beaux Arts composition with grand axes between and across existing buildings (5-7).

McLaughlin has a unique knowledge of Oxford's historic environment due to his long-term engagement with the city. He knows of buildings that have not materialised and also specific architectural details and urban qualities that remain latent in each project. This resulted in his appointment as 'Keeper of the ROQ Masterplan' after Viñoly's resignation. This role includes coordinating the different architects commissioned for the individual faculty buildings and ensuring that, as a whole, the new quarter is a workable and positive contribution to the fabric of the city.

McLaughlin's design approach builds on not only each project but the city too, and differs from established practices of architectural heritage and conservation. Together, the Oxford Projects define architecture as something that guides us through the deep structure of a city and its multilayered history. The modern architectural interventions in Oxford's dense fabric do not seek to unsettle the overall image of the city – characterised by its colleges and medieval urban structure – rather, they subtly reinforce, complete or foreground the latent

potential of existing architectural and urban formations (8).

NMLA developed an anticipatory approach for integrating specific architectural interventions within Oxford's historic environment, focusing on a succession of major and minor moments that advance place-making by incorporating adaptable points into the fabric of existing buildings to make connections to structures in the future. By editing, deleting and adding architectural features, NMLA create a deep sense of urban 'grain' and demonstrate focused change to listing regulations and planning predictions. This approach works across scales and disciplines, from architecture to urban planning. NMLA's attention to ordinary details enhances specific locations and extends further to large-scale changes in the field of planning and quality control.

Beyond the individual award-winning qualities of their buildings, NMLA exemplify best practice for a specific historic urban environment in the long term. Ultimately, their coherent architectural spaces and well-defined urban clusters aid orientation, reduce enervating distraction and encourage identification within the city.

**5** Aerial view of the vacant ROQ site after demolition of the Radcliffe Infirmary.

**6** Aerial view of Somerville College after the completion of the ROQ East and West Buildings (left). The buildings that were expected to be erected across the street have not materialised.



INTRODUCTION



5



6



## Aims and Objectives

1. Connect new and old buildings, reinforcing ties between various disconnected spaces;
2. Realise specific buildings as well as an overarching design strategy for the historic environment of Oxford;
3. Engage with the challenges of designing within the historic depth of a city and its existing regulatory frameworks and masterplans, and respond with a research-led approach, whereby ‘erecting a building’ and ‘building the city’ become one and the same intertwined process;
4. Reinterpret and reframe regulated architectural heritage through a series of individual interventions to enrich the urban grain of newly developed areas;
5. Produce coherent spaces and a set of curated connections that host surprises of urban encounter and episodic spatial transition;
6. Facilitate navigation and reduce distraction, foregrounding centres of attention within the perceptual horizon of the city towards which broader architectural compositions gravitate.

**7** Key plan depicting successive projects designed for Oxford University over the past decade:

1. Somerville College (completed 2011)
2. Wolfson Building (completed 2012)
3. Radcliffe Primary Care Building (completed 2016)
4. Sultan Nazrin Shah Centre (completed 2017)
5. Catherine Hughes Building (completed 2019)

## Questions

1. How do sustained architectural interventions in regulated historic environments foster personal and historic connections, promote sociability and a sense of identifying and belonging?
2. How can new buildings be integrated into a historic environment yet also provide a sense of cohesion? What methods can be employed that predict future buildings to ensure this cohesion is continued?
3. How can existing regulations and the architectural and urban qualities they aim to preserve be utilised to critique proposed masterplans? How can they be challenged or reinforced by current historical research and architectural practice?
4. How can earlier Oxford projects be revisited to inform the direction of current projects?

6. Master’s Field Project (ongoing; phase 1 completed 2019)
7. North Oxford Development Project (ongoing)
8. Oxford India Centre (ongoing)
9. Radcliffe Observatory Quarter Masterplan (ongoing)

## Context

Research for the Oxford Projects stems from a wider interest in architecture's relationship with its multifarious contexts: historical, spatial, urban, architectural, social and political. Whilst this interest in context has its own long history in twentieth-century architecture, McLaughlin attempts to develop it further for the twenty-first century. From the late 1950s onwards, Western European and North American architects have developed contextual approaches – from the Italian Neorationalists to the peripheral Critical Regionalists of the late twentieth century – to relate new projects to the multilayered past of an existing site, which in turn shapes the form of a single building. McLaughlin engages with a site and its context in a way that extends beyond the single building to the experience of the city around it. Often, specific design features of his projects are not architecturally functional but serve to change the perception of the city.

Whilst Sir Nikolaus Pevsner's original conception of the Picturesque in architecture and urbanism already touched on such issues, his theoretical insights have rarely been translated into specific design projects. Pevsner argued that the great contribution of medieval English urban design and planning was that it was not based on a prescriptive set of abstract principles, but on a series of specific case studies. His local, emotive and environmentally aware approach emphasised the visual aspect of planning decisions, especially how harmonious urban environments are experienced by people on the street (Pevsner 2010). NMLA closely researched and used Pevsner's theory to inform the ROQ East to West Link, which was the catalyst for NMLA's long-term engagement with Oxford.



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**8** Site-plan sketch showing the new Catherine Hughes Building (right), establishing the urban rhythm of A-B-C-D-C-B-A, alongside the existing Wolfson Building (centre) by architect Philip Dowson.

## Methodology

The research processes developed for the project include:

1. Collecting information, visiting, surveying and analysing the architectural typologies, spatial structure and rhythms of the historic urban fabric in Oxford, using free-hand sketching, orthographic drawing and photography to record findings;
2. Undertaking visual and text-based research to examine the history of the making and regulated preservation of architectural traditions in Oxford, from the Gothic to the modern;
3. Consulting with the Oxford Colleges and OUED on campus development, design strategy and masterplanning, including proposing innovative educational models and changes to the brief. An involved engagement with communal committee structures and broad-based consultation meetings to persuade various constitutions influenced the building and planning processes. This owes much to the democratic structure of the colleges that is specific to Oxford and Cambridge;
4. Advancing and sharing knowledge through informal discussion, seminars and invited talks within UCL and other institutions in the UK and abroad during the research and design development of the projects;
5. Introducing a full range of design-led research methods, including drawing, making and prototyping, which aimed to develop a design strategy for the broader site, focusing on the experience from the street rather than the stand-alone building;
6. Refining architectural details and ideas, building on the experience and knowledge gained from previous projects in the same environment.

**9** View of the stair tower from the quad at Somerville College.

**10 (overleaf)**  
External view of the completed ROQ East and West Buildings.









## ROQ East and West Buildings

In 2017, NMLA developed a detailed survey of the elevation of their first Oxford project, the ROQ East and West Buildings completed in 2010, studying them as part of the historic urban fabric and how they had weathered over time **(11)**. Bookended by staircases that operate as ‘lanterns’ **(10)**, these buildings establish and capture an urban rhythm through their architectural form, and were originally conceived as one side of a long narrow street. In their designs, NMLA anticipated the opposite side of the street being built and also the eventual reintegration of ROQ East and West within the building stock of the older college; however, the opposite side of the street had still not been built in 2017. The external weathering conditions for the oak windows were, therefore, dramatically different to that which was predicted and instead remained exposed to sun, wind and driven rain, which had resulted in unexpected weathering patterns. As a result, NMLA worked with the college’s buildings team to subtly alter details to ensure better long-term durability. The outcome of the survey has also been incorporated into NMLA’s timber weathering database and has informed subsequent projects, such as Jesus College, University of Cambridge. The study was presented as part of a seminar on buildings that age well to the Oxford City Council Planning and Conservation Team.

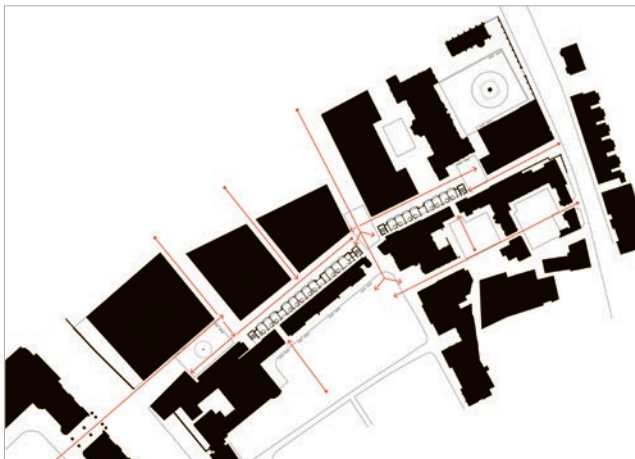


**11** Weathering study, ROQ East and West Buildings.

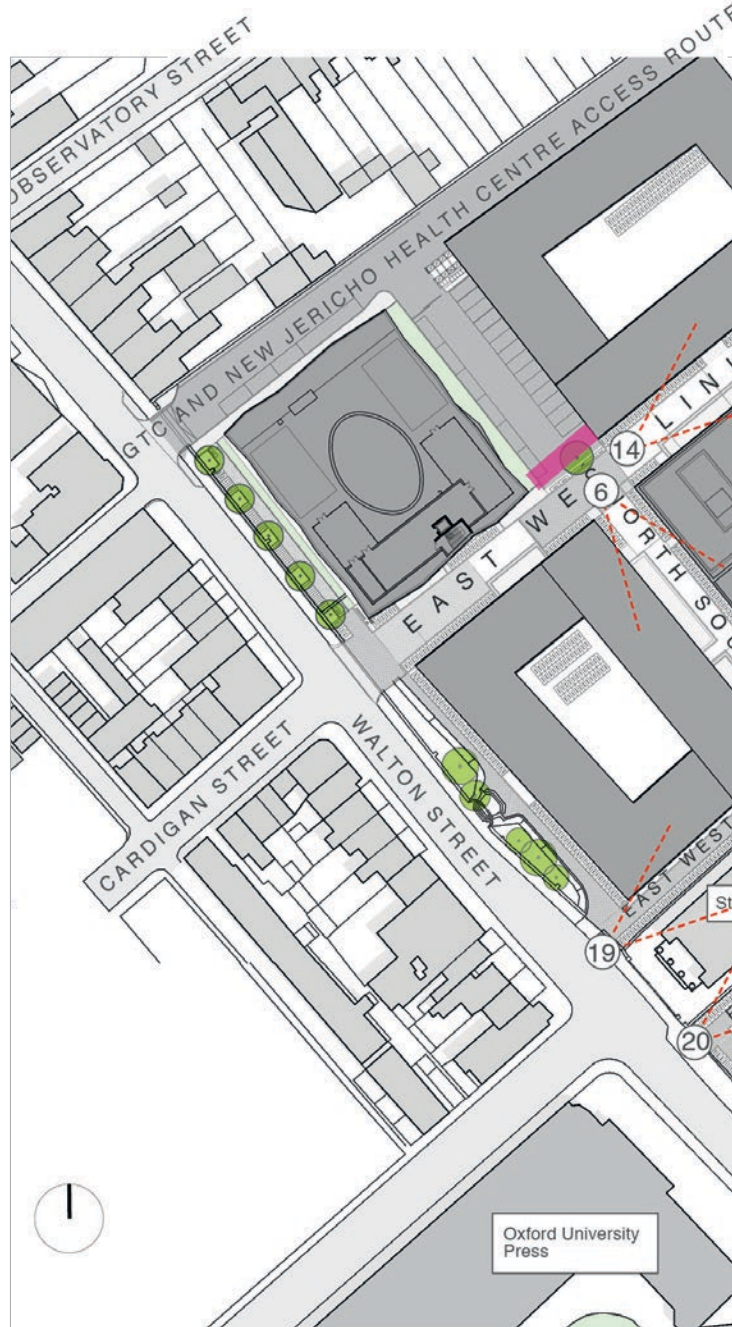
# METHODOLOGY



As a result of their prolonged engagement with Oxford, NMLA coordinated and designed the *ROQ Framework Document* (2011) for planning with uncertainty in mind (14-5). This is an underlying planning document that combines architectural and urban guidance to ensure that the intended qualities of the public realm would be retained in any new developments. Stakeholders can refer to it to inform future architectural competitions in a detailed and site-specific way.

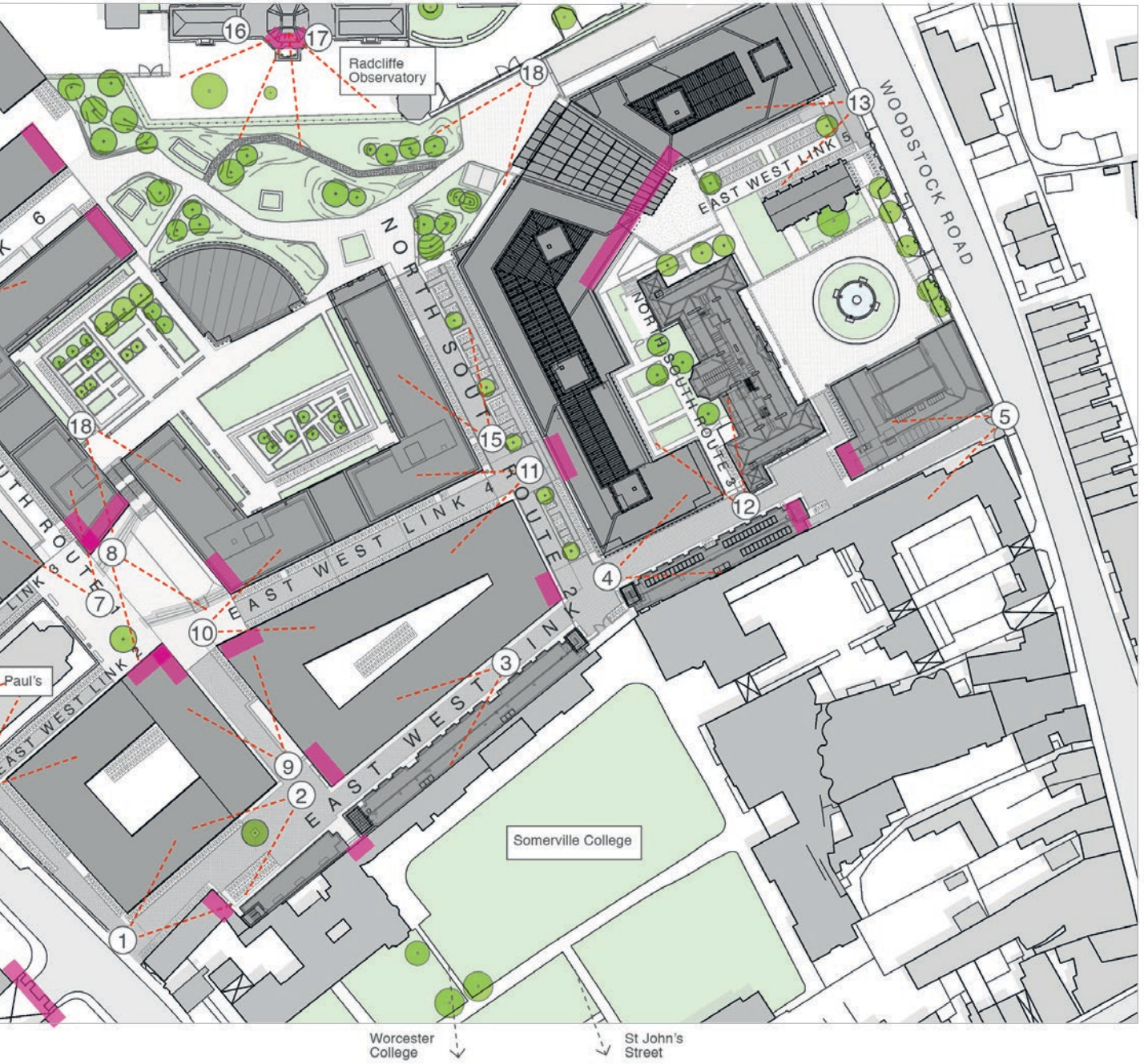


12



**12** One of the practice's first drawings for the ROQ site – a figure/ground diagram that reveals the urban stock and its underlying order – looking at how it develops in relation to street level.

**13** Key views and termination points of the ROQ site.





14

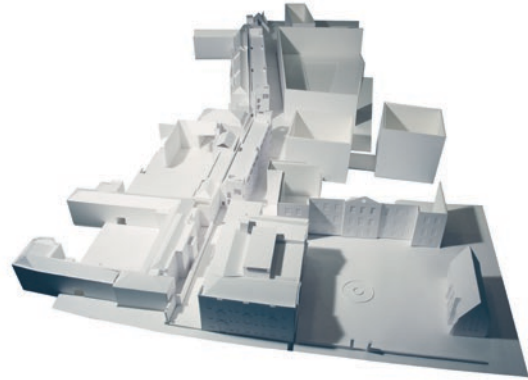
- ← Views of the Observatory
- ..... Existing buildings
- 2 storeys
- 3 storeys
- 4 storeys
- 5 storeys

**14** Sketch illustrating indicative building heights, ROQ Framework Document.

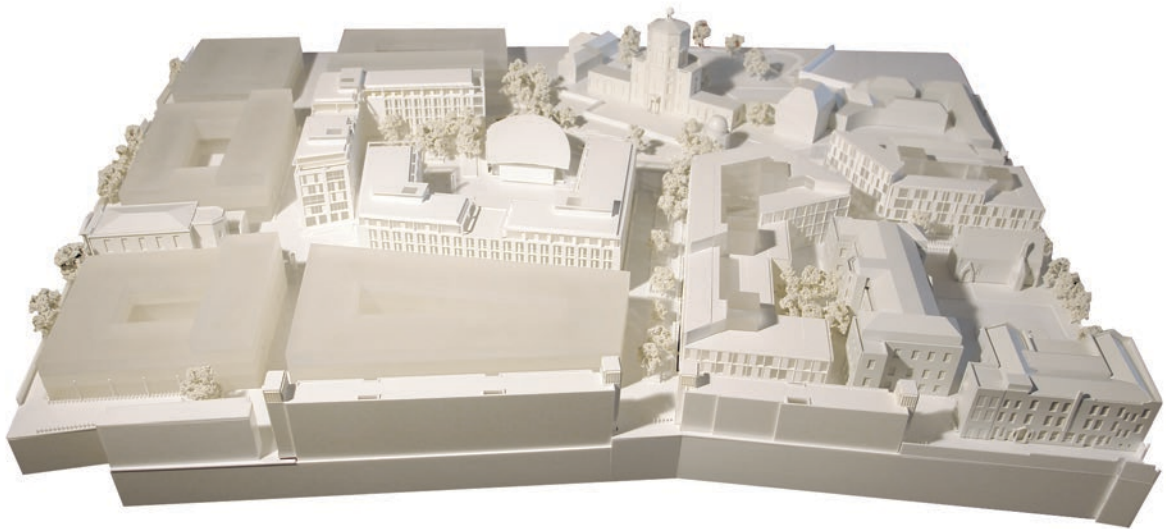


**15** Sketch with proposed gathering spaces highlighted, ROQ Framework Document.

Extensive and iterative drawing, model making and prototyping inform NMLA's design process. Pevsner's observations, especially his emphasis on the episodic structure, were translated into analytical drawings that followed the specificities of the ROQ site using long sight lines, visual connections between public and private spaces, turning points and other attractors of interest along the urban fabric. For the same purpose, long street models of the site were made. By lifting up models and looking obliquely from below, NMLA attempt to better understand street views (16-7).



16



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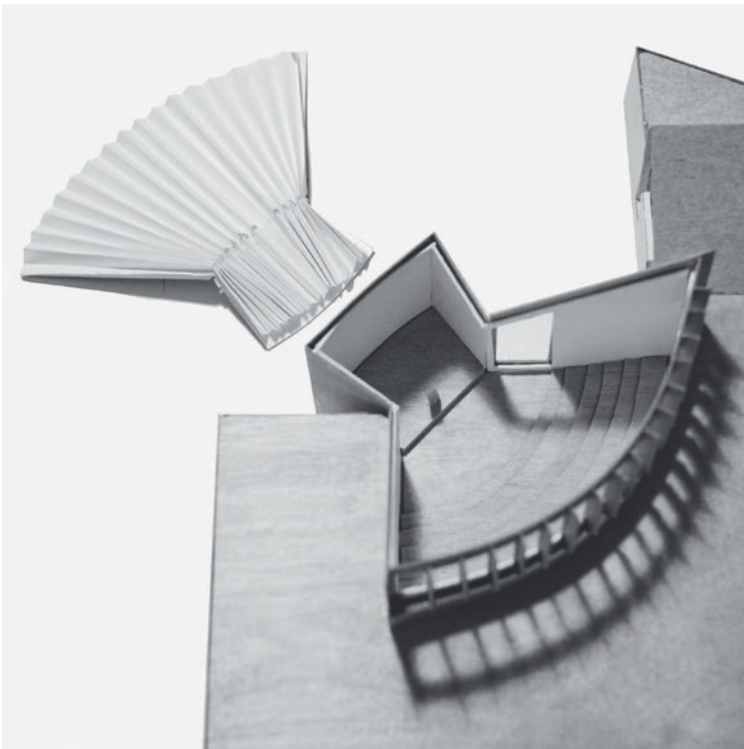
**16** Model of the 'East to West Route' in the ROQ masterplan. The East and West Buildings are not designed to stand alone but are site-specific, integrated parts of their broader urban realm.

**17** Overview of the ROQ masterplan.



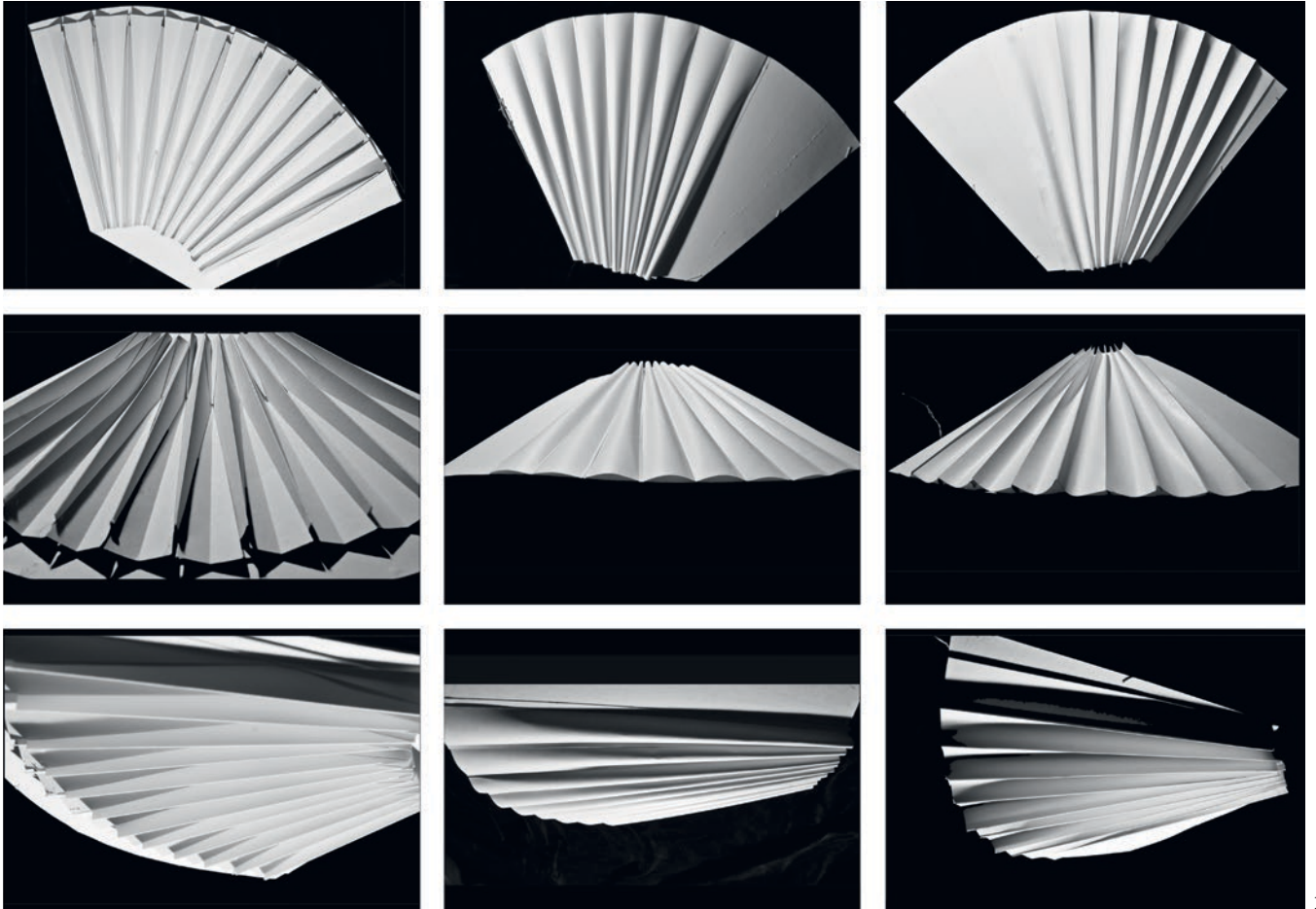
## Sultan Nazrin Shah Centre

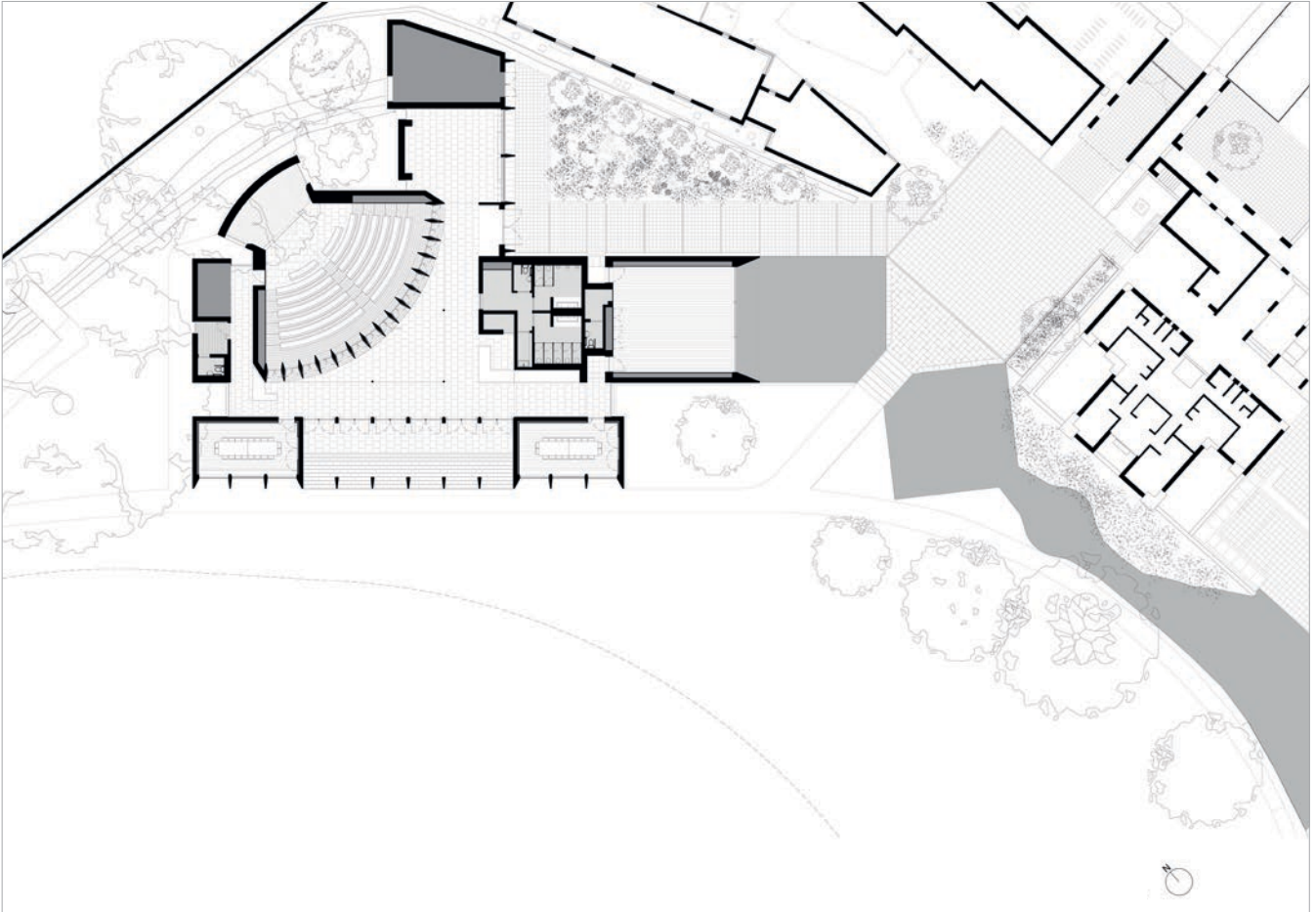
The Sultan Nazrin Shah Centre, completed in 2017, houses a lecture theatre, student learning space, seminar rooms and a dance studio. The project is not simply the provision of new facilities but is also the development and enhancement of the listed parkland setting. The building has been designed as a theatre in a garden and is raised on a podium. A curved-stone auditorium opens directly onto an oak-ceilinged foyer that extends out to pergolas and terraces overlooking a cricket pitch (28). The theatre is framed by a high stone screen that rises to allow clerestory light into the space and is surmounted by a pleated ceiling sweeping down to the stage (18-9). It can operate either as a fully enclosed, darkened environment or as a bright day-lit space surrounded by garden on all sides (29).



**18-9** Paper model of the pleated roof for the Sultan Nazrin Shah Centre.

18





20

**20** Ground floor plan,  
Sultan Nazrin Shah Centre.

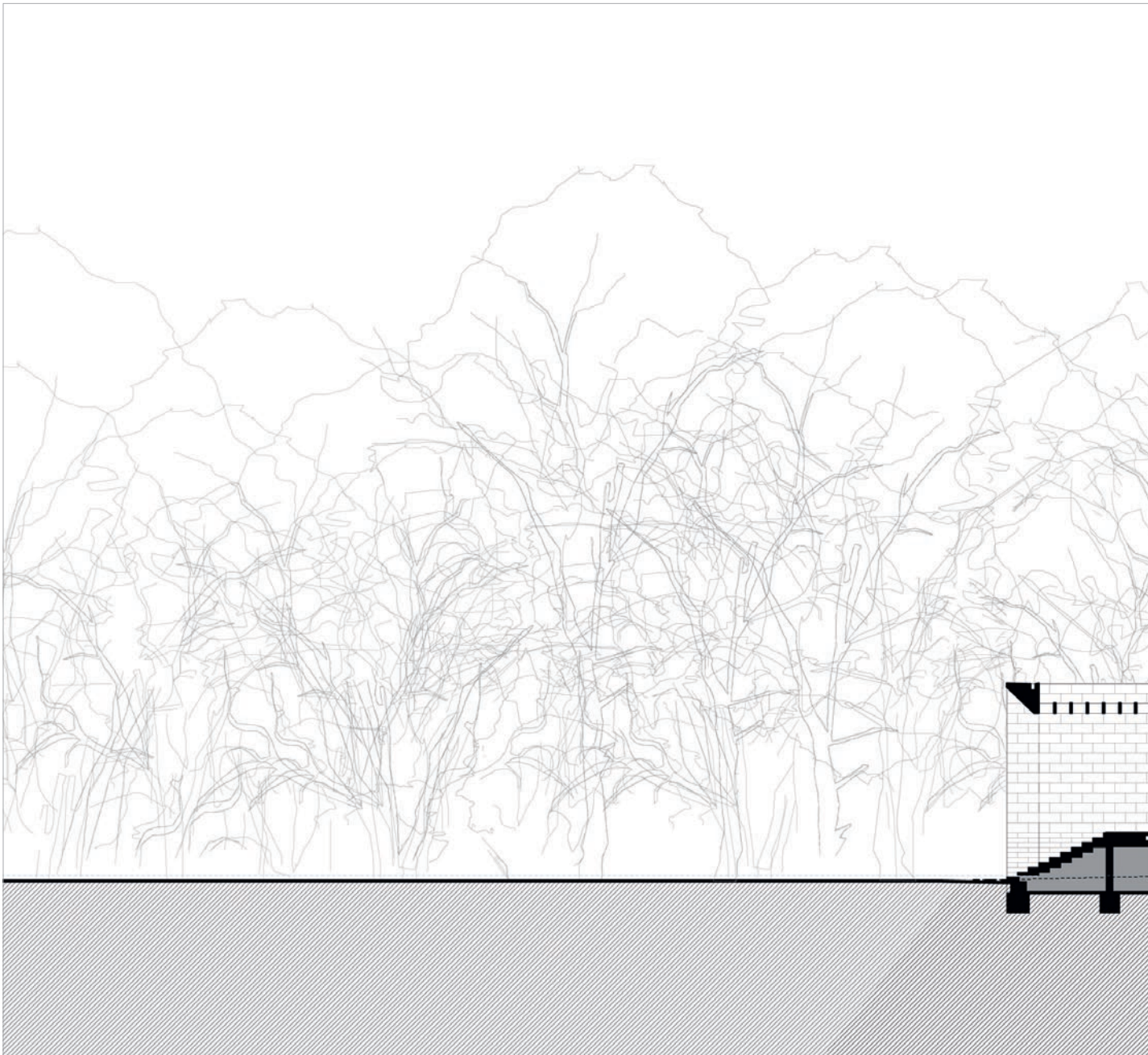


21

21 Location plan, Sultan Nazrin Shah Centre.



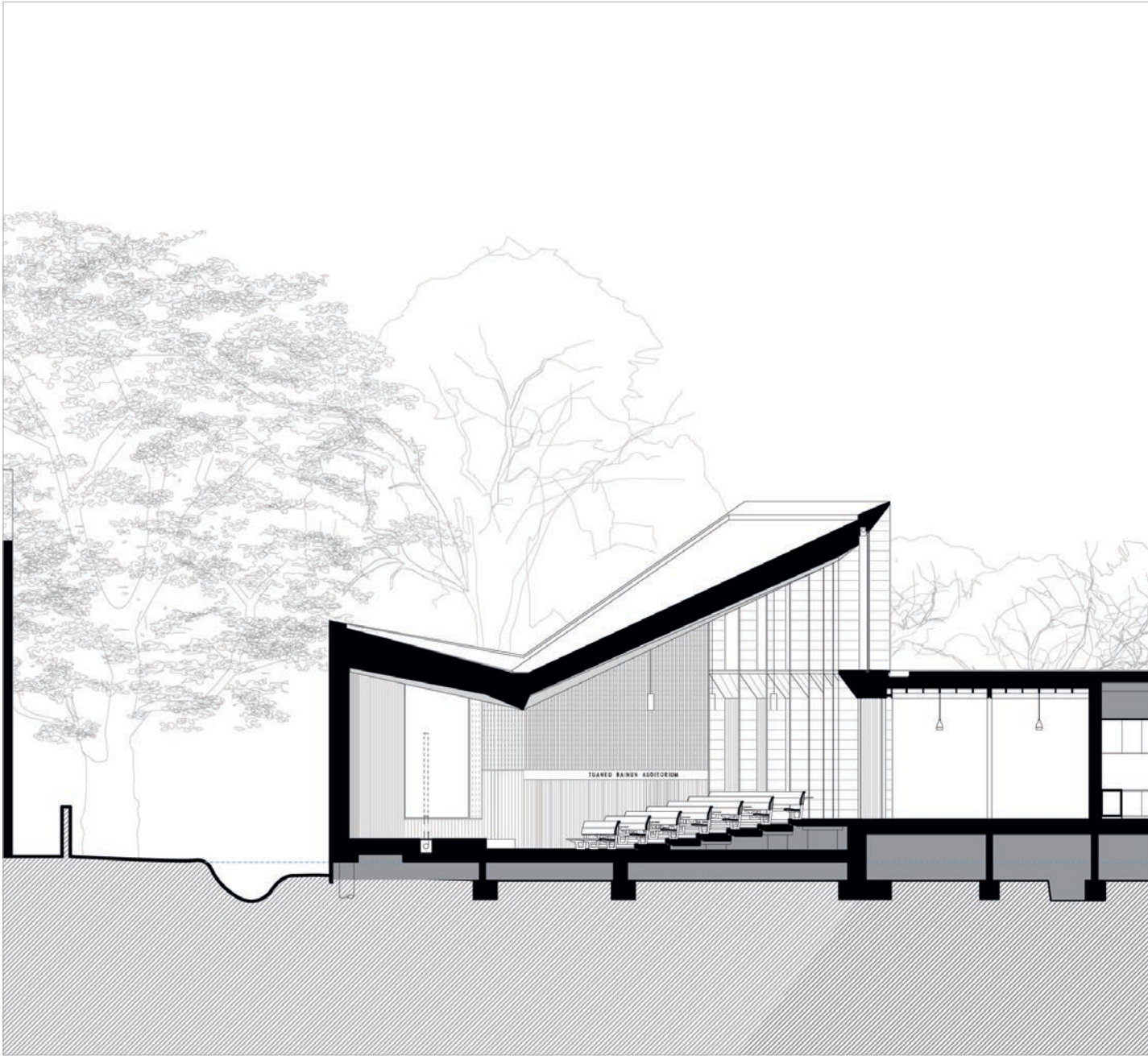
22 Site plan, Sultan Nazrin Shah Centre.





23

**23** Section A-A, Sultan Nazrin Shah Centre.

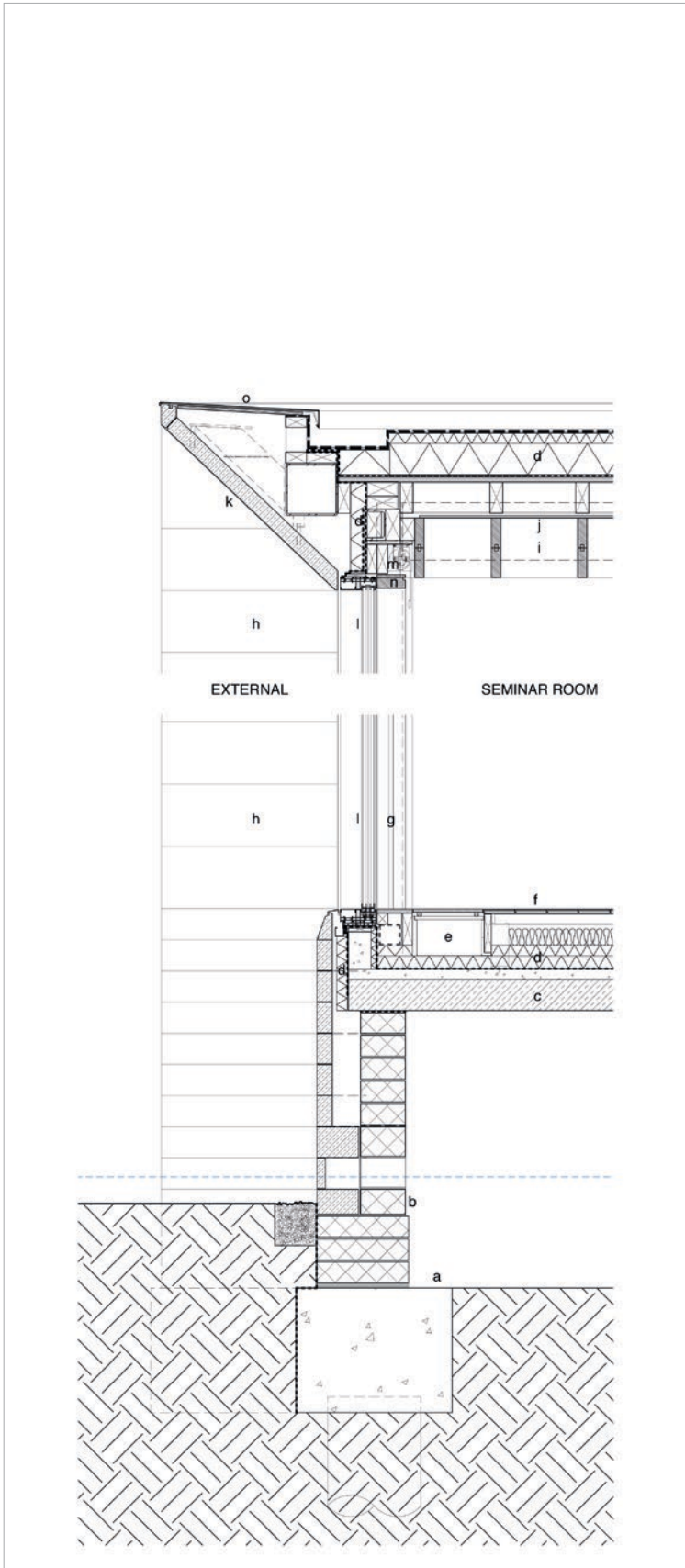






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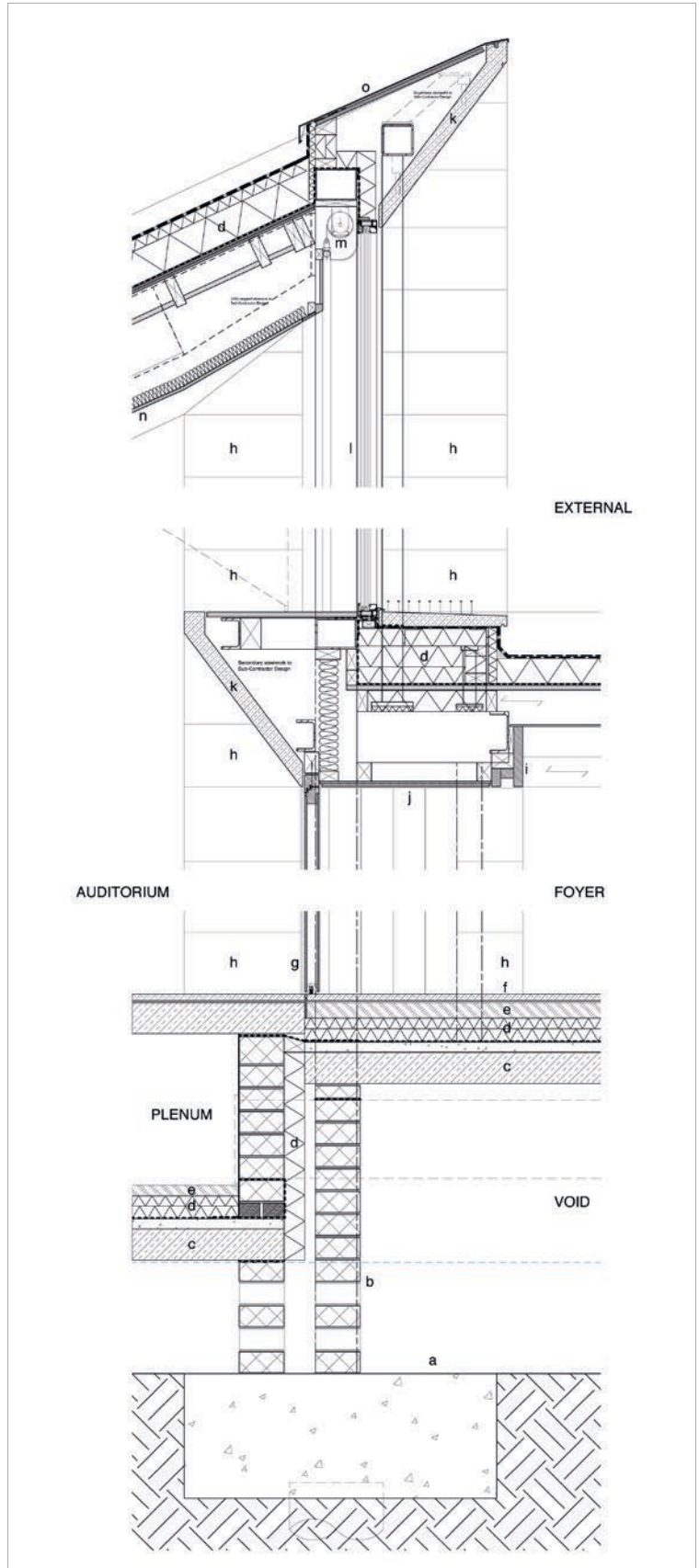
**24** Section B-B, Sultan Nazrin Shah Centre.



**25** Detailed section of seminar room, Sultan Nazrin Shah Centre.

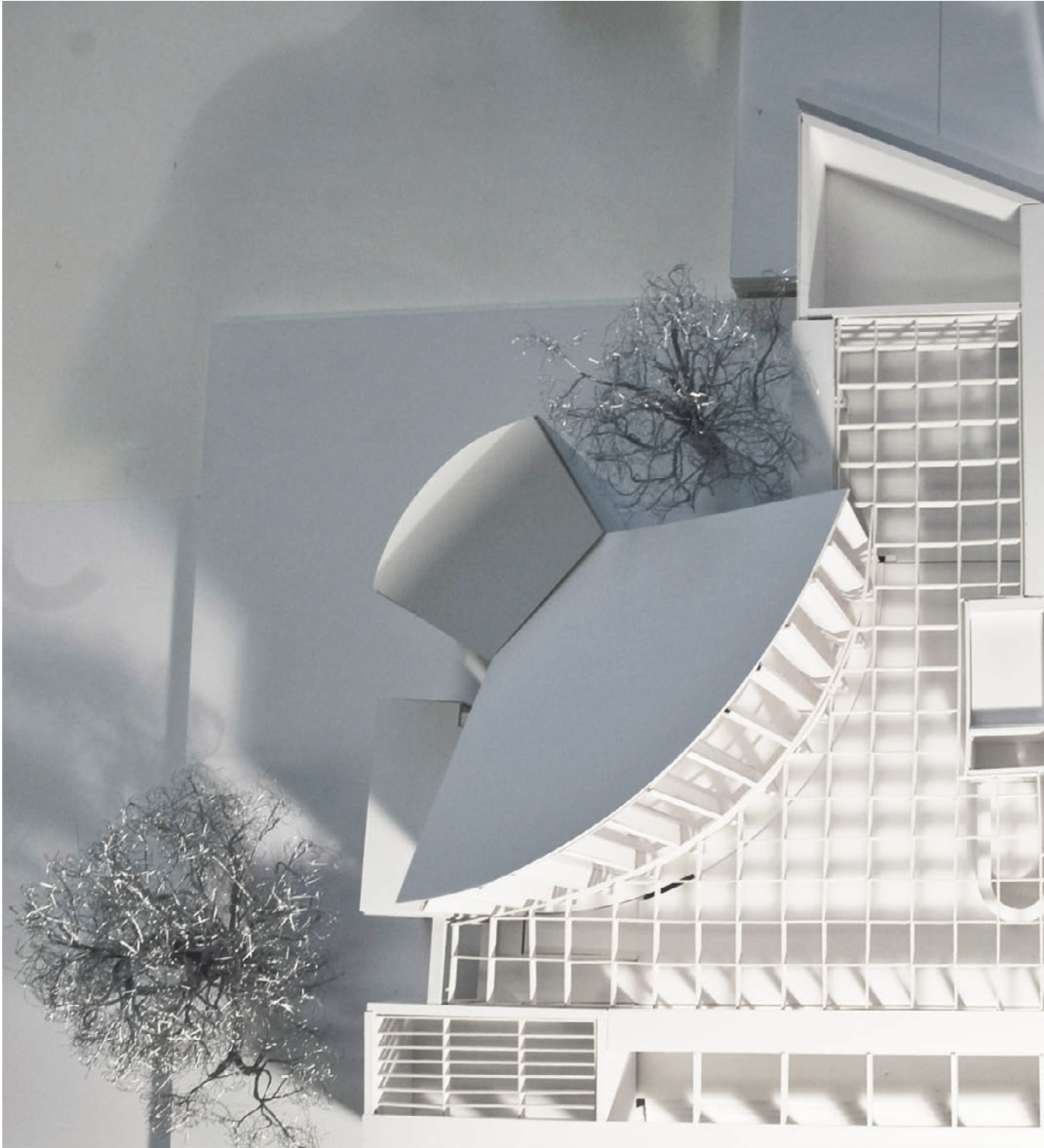
- a Ground beam
- b Masonry (with openings up to flood level)
- c Pre-cast concrete plank with concrete topping
- d Rigid insulation
- e Trench heater
- f Timber floor boards on support and batten system
- g Glazed balustrade
- h Clipsham Stone fin (in elevation)
- i Oak joist
- j Oak-faced plywood soffit
- k Clipsham Stone soffit
- l Sliding glazing with integral drainage
- m Roller blind
- n Oak framing to glazing
- o Aluminium capping

25



26 Detailed section of auditorium, Sultan Nazrin Shah Centre.

- a Ground beam
- b Masonry (with openings up to flood level)
- c Pre-cast concrete plank with concrete topping
- d Rigid insulation
- e Screed
- f Floor tiling
- g Acoustic doorset
- h Clipsham Stone fin (in elevation)
- i Oak joist
- j Oak-faced plywood soffit
- k Clipsham Stone soffit
- l Glazing
- m Roller blind
- n GRG ceiling
- o Aluminium capping





**27** Paper model, Sultan Nazrin Shah Centre.

**28 (overleaf)**  
View of the Sultan Nazrin Shah Centre from across the cricket pitch.











AUDITORIUM

DANIEL BAINBRIDGE





30

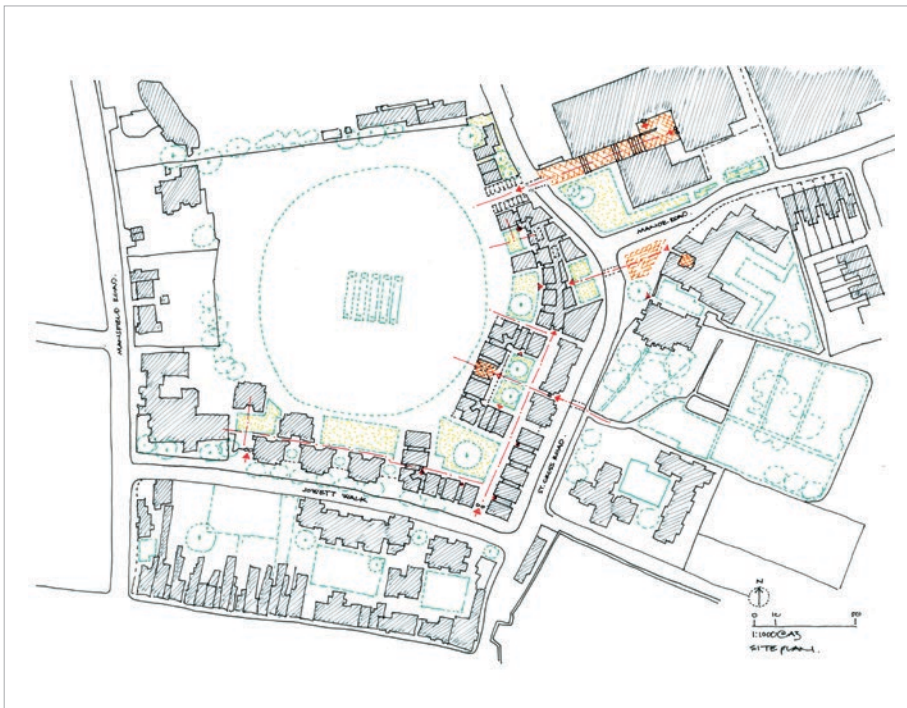
**29 (previous)**

Theatre with pleated ceiling, Sultan Nazrin Shah Centre.

**30** Dance studio, Sultan Nazrin Shah Centre.

## Master's Field Project

The generation of social spaces is a central concern in the Oxford Projects. For example, windows, bedrooms, toilets, kitchens and stairs aggregate together along the main corridors in student accommodation buildings to create more sociable spaces. Interspersed throughout, these spaces of connection facilitate accidental encounters as occupants walk to their rooms. Perceiving social gatherings as being at the centre of collegiate living, NMLA arranged the Master's Field study bedrooms in clusters around a central social space. As one of the primary spatial intentions of the scheme, this principle informs the arrangement of rooms, then buildings, then ensembles of blocks around the landscape quadrangles (31-8).

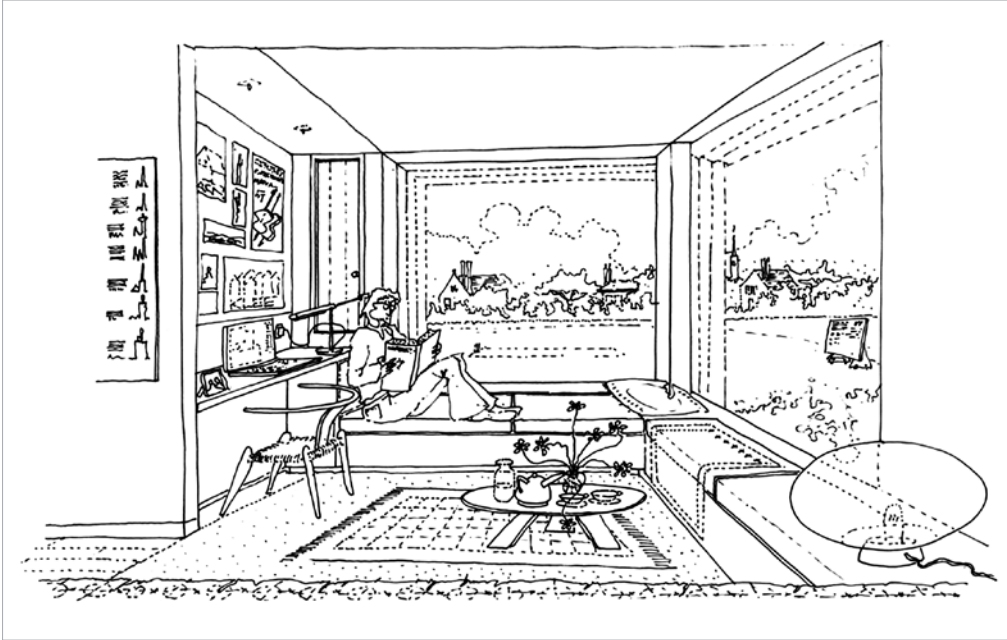


**31** Competition site-plan sketch, Master's Field Project.

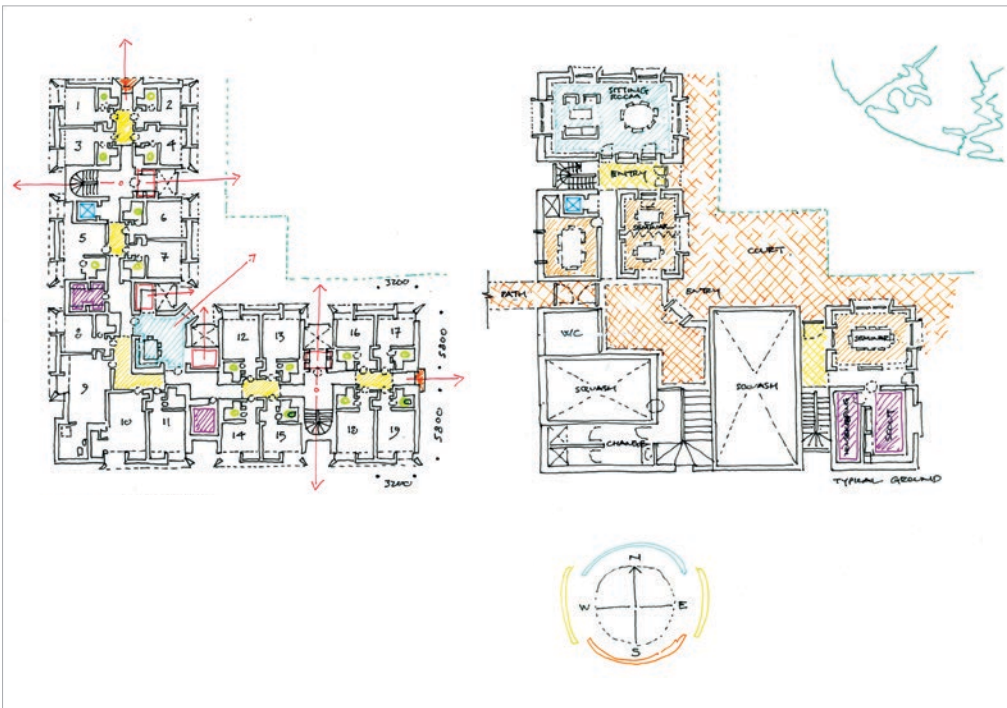
**32** Student-room sketch, Master's Field Project.

**33** Competition sketch of the rooms and circulation spaces, Master's Field Project. The 'Picturesque' episodic approach to designing movement across the site can be viewed in its organisation.

31



32



33



34

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #4CAF50; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Residential    | <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #D7CCC8; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Ancillary space      |
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #FFEB3B; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Common use     | <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #9E9E9E; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Internal circulation |
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #2196F3; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Academic use   | <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #FF9800; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Nursery              |
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #9C27B0; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Reception area | <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #424242; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Sub-station          |
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #C8E6C9; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Quiet space    | <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #795548; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Refuse store         |

**34-5** Rendered landscape plans, Master's Field Project.

METHODOLOGY



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36

**36** View from Manor Road towards the graduate terrace, Master's Field Project.



37

**37** Student room bay window, Master's Field Project.



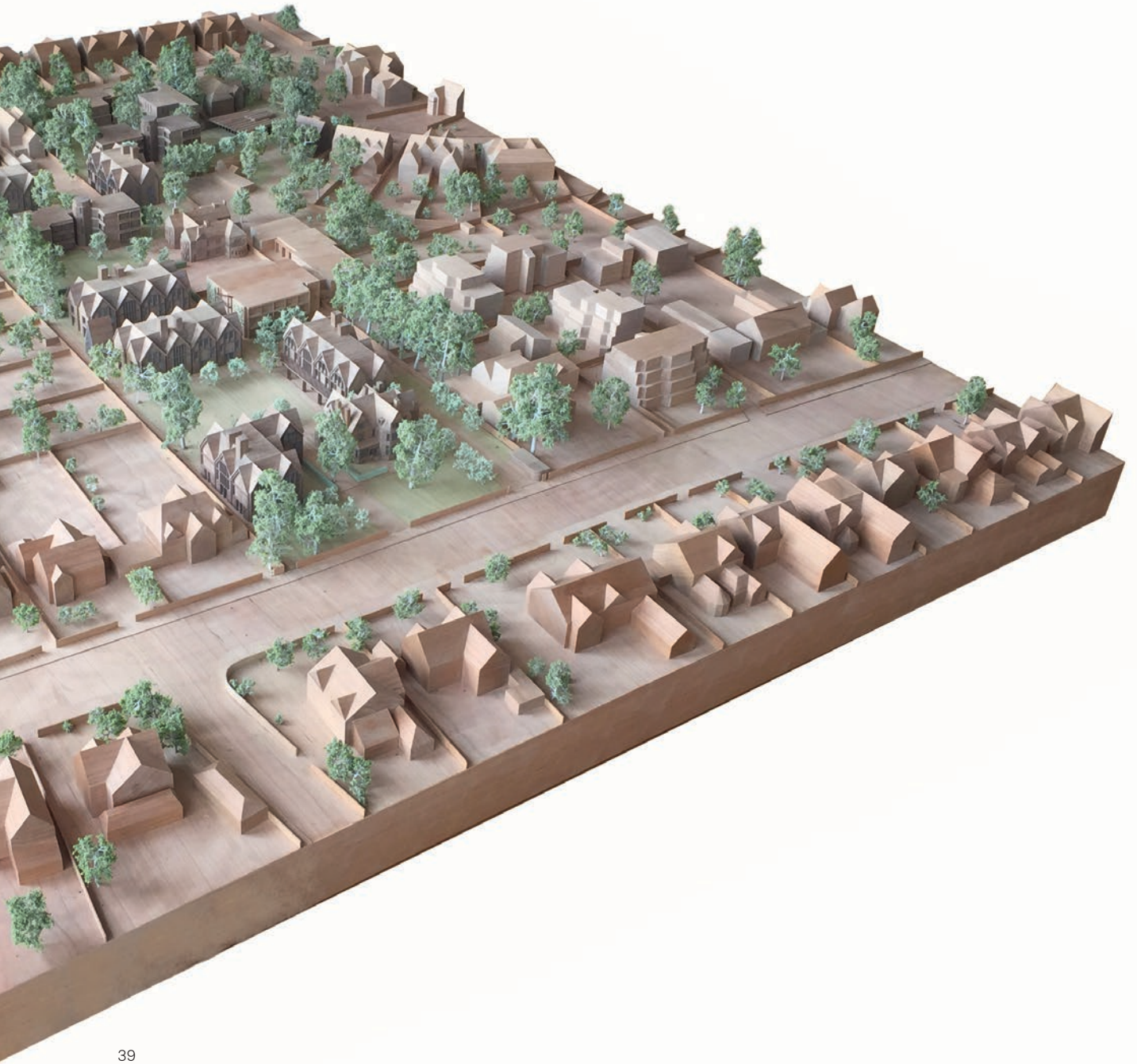
38

**38** Corner detail,  
Master's Field Project.

## University College Oxford

The latest project for University College Oxford has an intergenerational programme for an inclusive urban environment to be shared across the full age spectrum, from nursery children to older people in residential care. Principally student accommodation with ancillary facilities, including a nursery, it also hosts a residential home to provide exceptional care for elderly residents. Realising this programmatic social vision, NMLA's design rests on the principle that movement throughout the site is also movement through social spaces of intergenerational encounter. The design does not segregate the young students from older people in separate urban clusters, as it offers them multiple occasions for visual connection and social interaction through interlocking spaces of movement and rest. The architectural design also engages with the Victorian Gothic character of the suburb in which the college is situated. Alluding to the older architectural layers of the city, NMLA's modern architectural forms subtly reinforce the intergenerational aspirations of the project.









40

**40** View of the café across Walnut Lawn, University College Oxford.

## Dissemination

Níall McLaughlin has spoken about the Oxford Projects in the following presentations, seminars, talks and lectures:

- Investcorp Building, Oxford (2019)
- Oxford City Council (2019)
- Ecobuild, London (2017)
- Feilden Clegg Bradley Design Symposium, Oxford (2017)
- Somerville College, Oxford (2017)
- RIBA Oxford Preservation Trust (2016)
- Yale University, New Haven (2015)
- Architecture Foundation Australia, NSW (2014)
- Futuna Lecture Series, Auckland, Christchurch and Wellington (2014)
- International Architecture Forum, Hamburg (2014)

The Sultan Nazrin Shah Centre was presented in the following invited talks and lectures:

- RIBA, London (2019)
- St Vincent Street Church, Glasgow (2019)
- University of Cambridge (2018)
- The Pavilion at the Tower of London (2018)
- Rook Lane Chapel, Frome (2018)
- Galway International Arts Festival (2018)
- Academy of Architectural Culture, Hamburg (2018)
- RIBA Stirling Stories, York/London (2018)
- Bergen Architectural Association (2018)
- University of Bath (2018)
- Studio in the Woods, Wyre Forest (2017)
- AIA Colorado, Keystone (2017)
- The Architecture Centre, Bristol (2016)
- Architectural Association of Ireland, Dublin (2015)
- RIAI Annual Conference, Dublin (2015)

The Sultan Nazrin Shah Centre was part of Níall McLaughlin's *Presences* installation **(41)** at the 16th International Architecture Exhibition, La Biennale di Venezia (2018).

The ROQ Masterplan project has been positively reviewed and presented in *Con Arquitectura* (2014). The Sultan Nazrin Shah Centre has been positively reviewed and presented in the *Architects' Journal* (2018); *The Architect's Newspaper* (2018); *Building Design* (2017) and *The RIBA Journal* (2018).

Níall McLaughlin has written about the Oxford Projects in *Detail* (2019) and *The RIAI Journal* (2019).



## Project Highlights

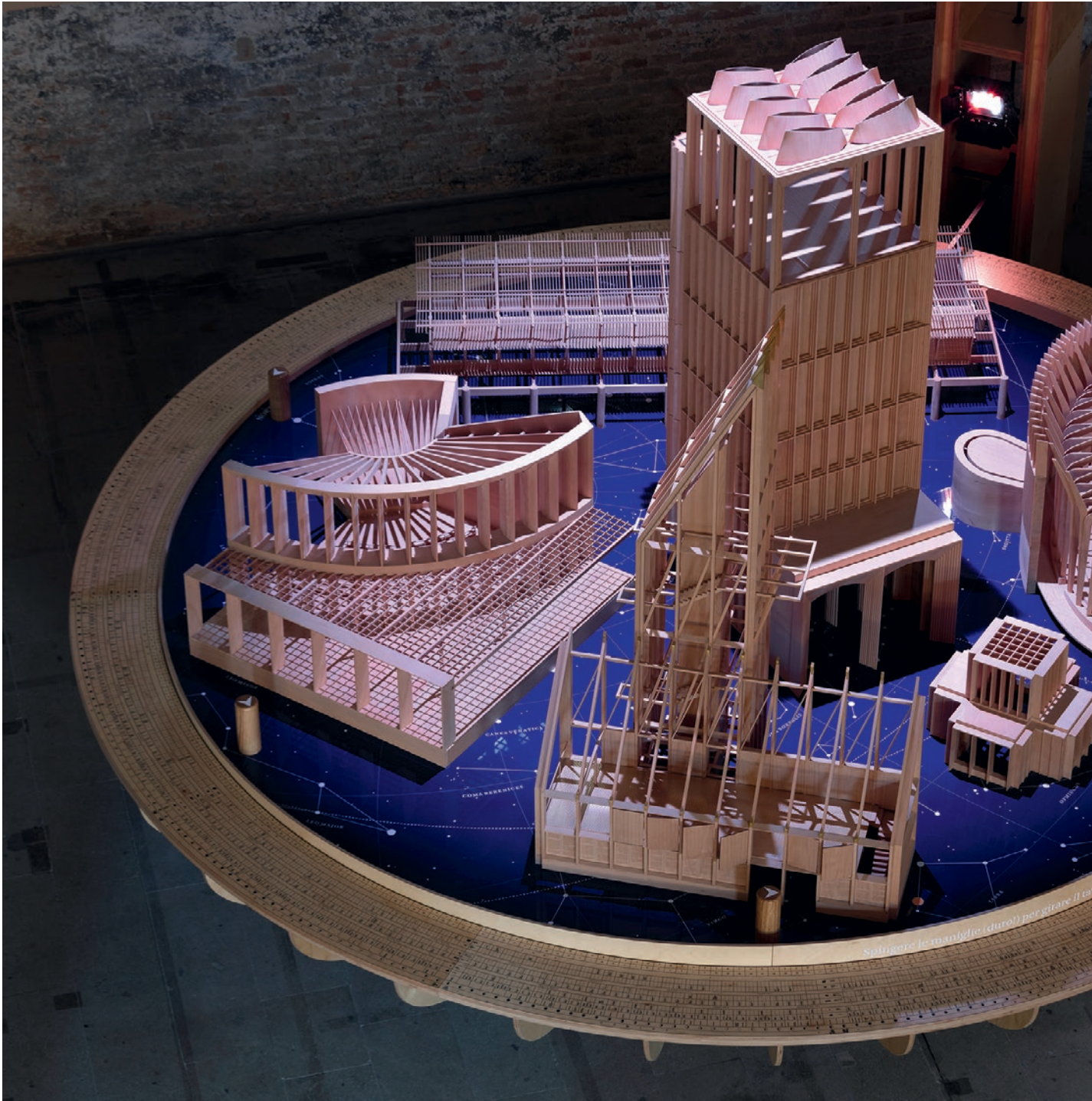
The intention for this decade-long series of projects in Oxford is that it forms a prototype for other architectural interventions in historic urban environments which can be applied to cities across the UK, both by NMLA and others engaged in this area. The knowledge accumulated throughout this research project has led to further building commissions for NMLA, including Jesus College, Magdalene College, Peterhouse and Trinity Hall, University of Cambridge. The Oxford Projects, therefore, constitute part of an ongoing field of research, as architectural intervention in historic urban environments becomes a critical issue in the context of increasing scales and regulations on cities and landscapes internationally.

The project has also been a catalyst for cross-faculty knowledge sharing within UCL. A dialogue with researchers in the Historic and Urban Environments department has developed to further explore how architecture contributes to the urban fabric of a historic environment and how that can be further analysed, interpreted and developed in a series of related disciplines, from planning to heritage studies.

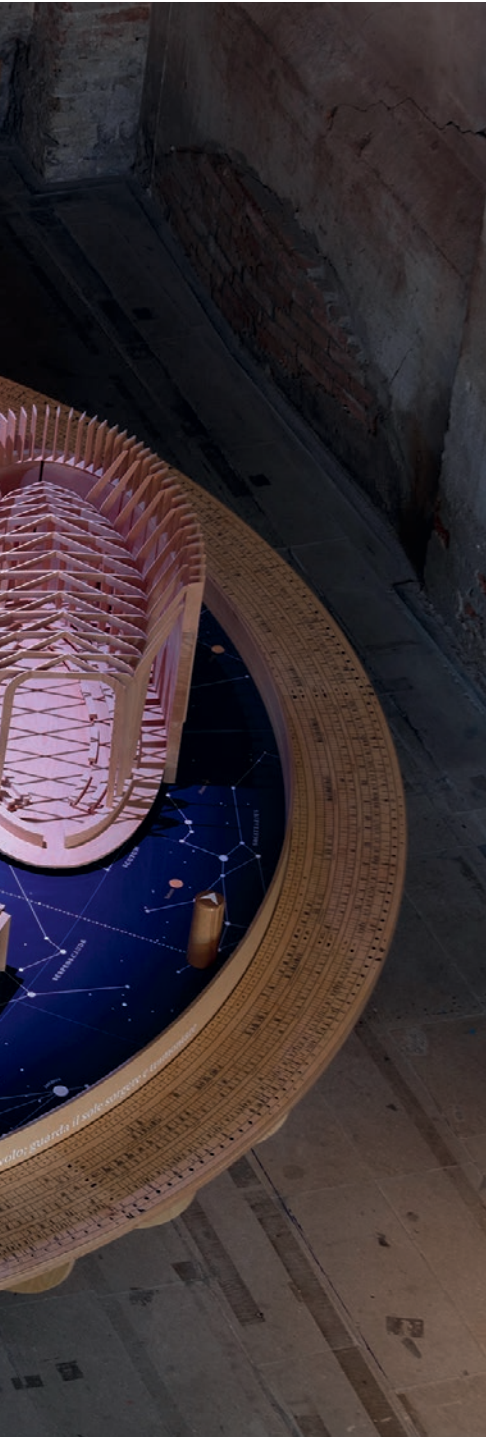
The Sultan Nazrin Shah Centre has won multiple awards:

- RIBA National Award (2018)
- RIBA Regional Award (2018)
- RIBA South Building of the Year Award (2018)
- RIBA Wood Award (2018)
- Oxford Preservation Trust Award (2017)
- Shortlisted for the RIBA Stirling Prize (2018)
- Nominated for the Mies Van der Rohe Award for European Architecture (2018)

The building was presented as part of Níall McLaughlin's installation for the 16th International Architecture Exhibition, La Biennale di Venezia (2018).



**41** Models on a rotating table as part of McLaughlin's installation at the 16th International Architecture Exhibition, La Biennale di Venezia.





41

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