

The client brief sought a new chapel for Ripon Theological College, to serve the two interconnected groups resident on the campus in Oxfordshire, the college community and the nuns of a small religious order, the Sisters of Begbroke. The chapel replaces the existing one, designed by George Edmund Street in the late nineteenth century, which had since proved to be too small for the current needs of the college. The brief asked for a chapel that would accommodate the range of worshipping needs of the two communities in a collegiate seating arrangement, and would be

suitable for both communal gatherings and personal prayer. In addition the brief envisioned a separate space for the Sisters to recite their offices, a spacious sacristy, and the necessary ancillary accommodation. Over and above these outline requirements, the brief set out the clients' aspirations for the chapel, foremost as 'a place of personal encounter with the numinous' that would enable the occupants to think creatively about the relationship between space and liturgy.

On the site is an enormous beech tree on the brow of the hill. Fac-

ing away from the beech and the college buildings behind, there is a ring of mature trees on high ground overlooking the valley that stretches away towards Garsington. The college's existing buildings are of considerable historical importance. The site is designated within the Green Belt in the South Oxfordshire Local Plan and is also visible from a considerable distance across the valley to the west. The immediate vicinity of the site is populated with mature trees and has a Tree Preservation Order applied to a group at the eastern boundary. The design needed to integrate with the

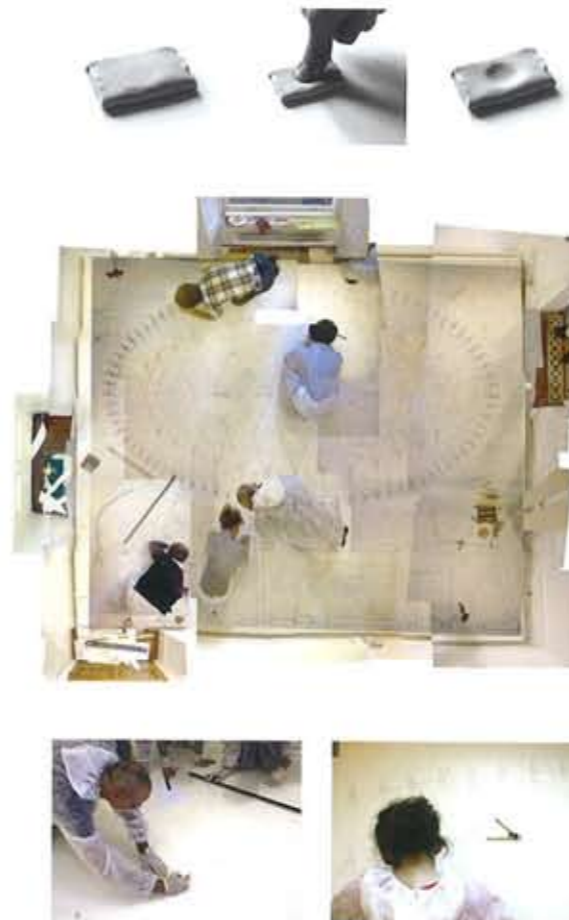
character of the panorama and preserve the setting of the college campus and the surrounding trees. The mediation of these interlocked planning sensitivities required extensive consultation with South Oxfordshire District Council, English Heritage and local residents.

The starting point for this project was the hidden word 'nave' at the centre of Seamus Heaney poem Lightenings viii. The word describes the central space of a church, but shares the same origin as 'navis', a ship, and can also mean the still centre of a turning wheel.

Bishop Edward King Chapel

Niall McLaughlin Architects



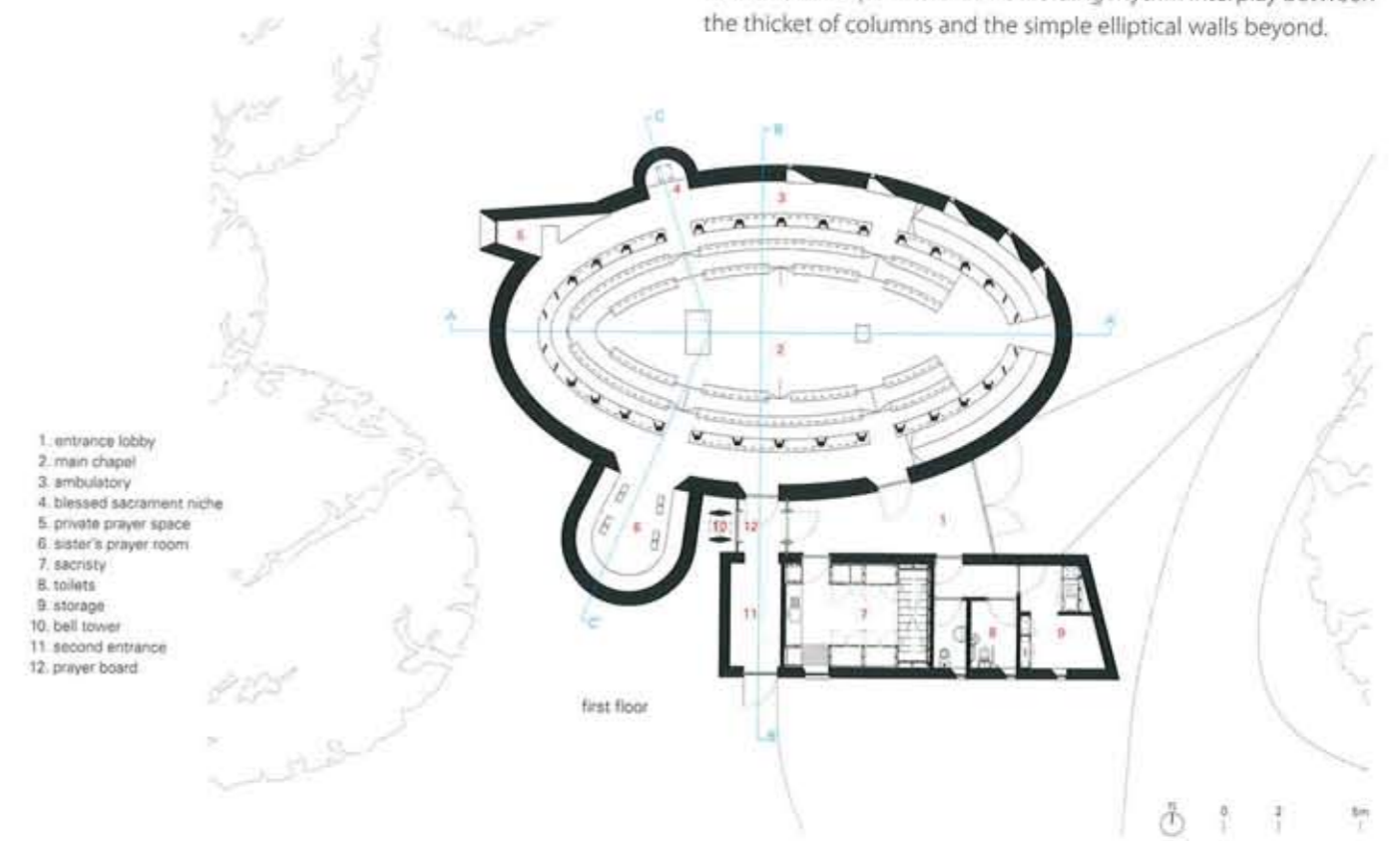


From these words, two architectural images emerged. The first is the hollow in the ground as the meeting place of the community, the still centre. The second is the delicate ship-like timber structure that floats above in the tree canopy, the gathering place for light and sound. The movement inherent in the geometry is expressed in the chapel through the perimeter ambulatory. It is possible to walk around the chapel, looking into the brighter space in the centre. The sense of looking into an illuminated clearing goes back to the earliest churches.

The chapel, seen from the outside, is a single stone enclosure. We have used Clipsham stone which is sympathetic, both in terms of texture and colouration, to the limestone of the existing college. The external walls are of insulated cavity construction, comprising of a curved reinforced blockwork internal leaf and dressed stone outer leaf. The chapel wall is surmounted by a halo of natural stone fins. The fins sit in front of high-performance double glazed units, mounted in concealed metal frames.

The roof of the main chapel and the ancillary block are both of warm deck construction. The chapel roof drains to concealed rainwater pipes running through the cavity of the external wall. Where exposed at clerestory level, the rainwater pipes are clad in aluminium sleeves with a bronze anodised finish and recessed into the stone fins. The roof and the internal frame are self-supporting and act independently from the external walls. A minimal junction between the roof and the walls expresses this.

The internal timber structure is constructed of prefabricated Glulam sections with steel fixings and fully concealed steel base plate connections. The Glulam sections are made up of visual grade spruce laminations treated with a two-part stain system, which gives a light white-washed finish. The structure of roof and columns express the geometrical construction of the ellipse itself, a ferrying between centre and edge with straight lines that reveals the two stable foci at either end, reflected in the collegiate layout below in the twin focus points of altar and lectern. As you move around the chapel there is an unfolding rhythm interplay between the thicket of columns and the simple elliptical walls beyond.





비숍 에드워드 킹 예배당

옥스퍼드 캠퍼스는 전 세계에 현존하는 대학 가운데 두 번째로 긴 역사를 자랑한다. 그만큼 캠퍼스는 오래된 중세 건물과 수목으로 가득하다. 마치 시간여행을 하는 듯한 느낌을 주는 이곳에 한 척의 배를 닮은 건물이 들어섰다. 바로 비숍 에드워드 킹 예배당이다.

19세기 말, 고대 건축 전문가인 조지 에드먼드 스트리트가 설계한 기존 건물은 현재 캠퍼스 내 학생과 수녀를 모두 수용하기에는 그 규모가 무척이나 협소했다. 따라서 이를 대신할 만한 새 예배당이 필요하게 되었다.

새 예배당에는 모든 이들이 예배를 드리는 공적 공간은 물론, 개인적으로 기도할 수 있는 사적 공간도 포함된다. 또한, 수녀를 위한 사무 공간과 제구와 제의를 보관하는 성구 보관실, 그리고 필요에 의해 보조 속도도 추가되었다. 예배당이 들어선 부지는 오래된 건물과 수목으로 그 역사적 가치를 인정받아 그린벨트 지역으로 지정된 곳이다. 이에 따라 자연히 예배당을 건설하는 데에는 엄격한 규제가 따를 수밖에 없었다. 주변 환경을 최대한 그대로 보존해야 하는 것은 물론, 주변 환경에 이질감 없이 흡수되어야 했다. 이 과정에는 옥스퍼드 지방 자치구를 비롯하여 영국 역사 건축물 및 기념물 관리 단체, 그리고 지역 주민 등 여러 단체의 대규모 협력이 이루어졌고, 지금의 예배당이 탄생하였다.

예배당은 '네이브'라는 단어에서부터 출발하였다. 이는 '배' 또는 '돌아가는 바퀴의 중심'이라는 의미의 라틴어 '나비스'에서 유래한 건축용어로, 실

제 건물의 형태에도 큰 영향을 미쳤다. 또한, 영어로는 '신도석'이라는 뜻도 가지고 있다.

예배당은 이 두 가지 의미를 모두 반영한다. 하나는 지상에 비어있는 공간을 만들어 집회 장소로 사용하고, 나머지 하나는 나무 캐노피 위에 우아하게 떠 있는 배와 같은 형태로 빛과 소리를 모은다.

열린 천장의 측면으로는 빛이 들어오는데, 누구든 빛을 따라 걷다 보면 자연스럽게 중앙 예배당에 다다르게 된다. 예배당을 둘러싸고 있는 통로 또한, 빛을 따라 예배당 주위를 거닐 수 있는 동선으로 인도한다.

여기에 따뜻한 느낌의 목재를 사용함으로써 예배당의 신성하고 경건한 분위기를 극대화한다. 밝은 흰색을 띠는 가문비나무로 이루어진 목구조는 예배당의 기둥이 되면서 천장 구조의 역할을 겸한다. 이는 사전에 조립하여 타원형의 기하학적 구조를 이룬다. 바라보는 각도에 따라 다양한 형태가 연출되는데, 이때 특히 천장 쪽은 지그재그, 다이아몬드의 형태를 띤다. 이를 통해 복잡하게 얽혀있는 곳에 빛이 더해지면서 경쾌한 리듬감을 만들어낸다. 이러한 목구조가 우리의 몸을 구성하는 뼈대라면, 예배당 외벽은 우리 몸을 보호하는 피부라고 볼 수 있다.

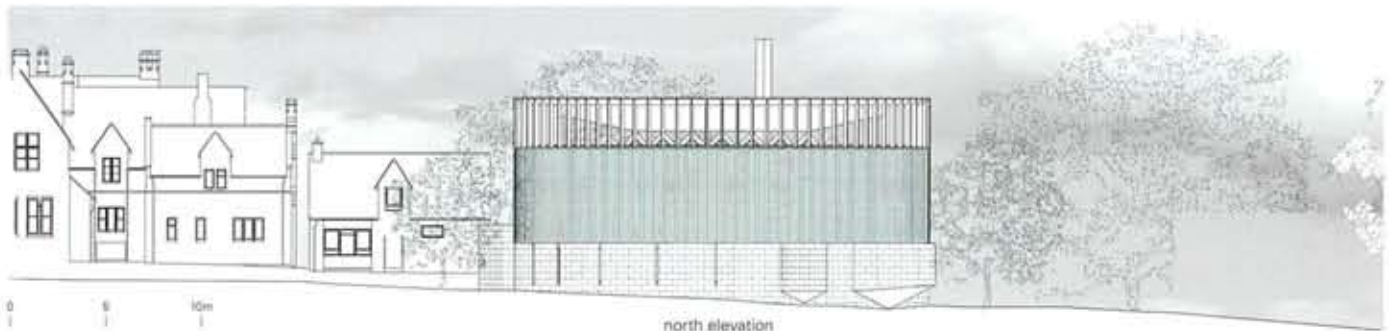
외벽에는 기존 건물에 쓰인 석회암을 고려하여 림립삼 석을 사용함으로써 여전히 차분하고 부드러운 느낌을 자아내며, 타원형 구조에 적합한 곡선 부분을 보강하는 블록과 가공되지 않은 듯한 느낌의 돌을 사용하여 이중 단열 시공을 하였다.



west elevation

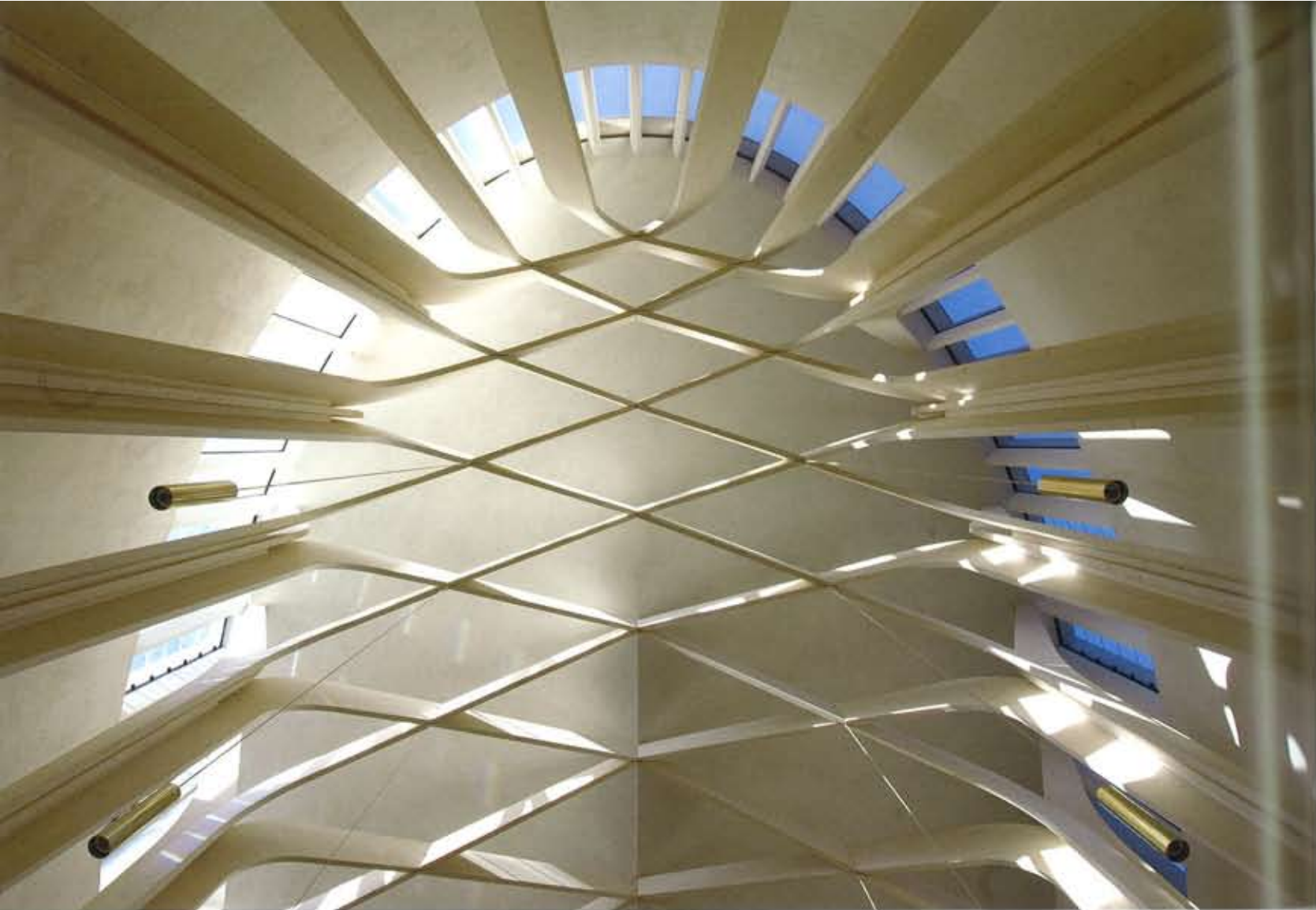


south elevation



north elevation





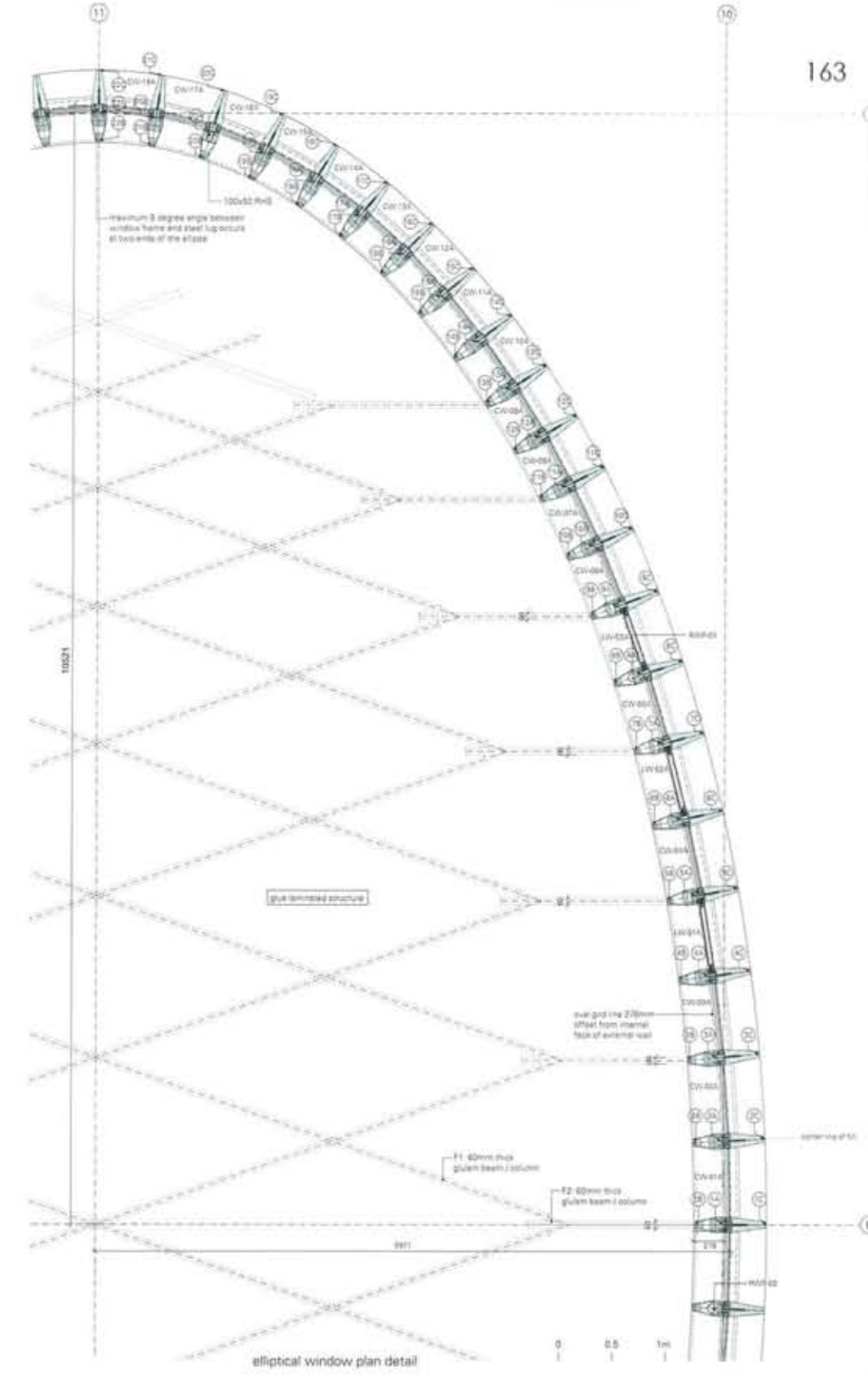
1. timber frame



2. frame supports timber roof

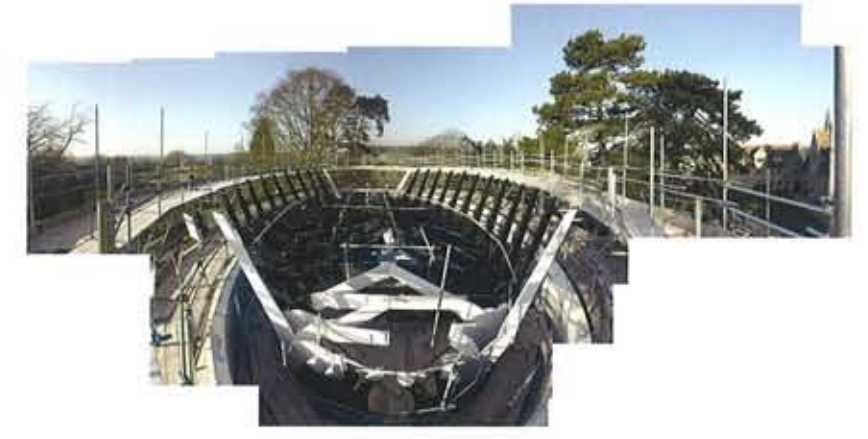


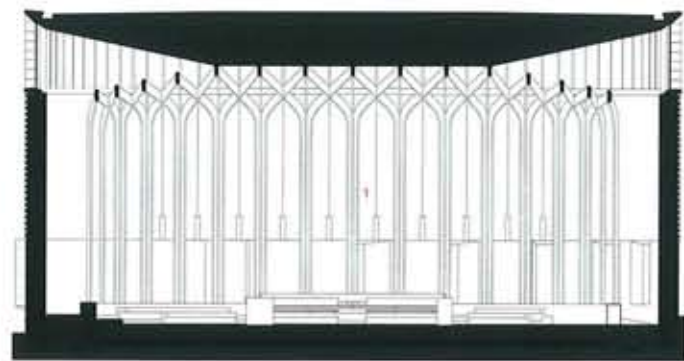
3. walls encircle frame erect



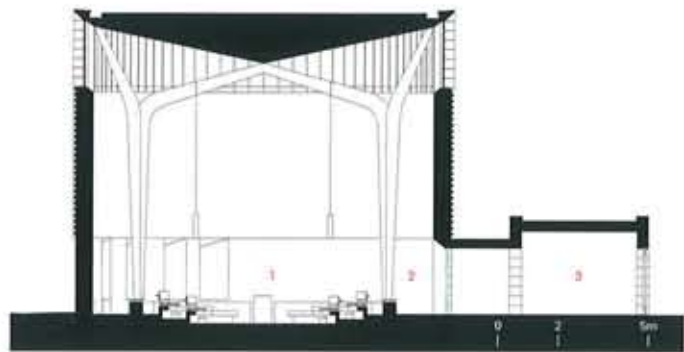
elliptical window plan detail

Project: Bishop Edward King Chapel
 Location: Oxford, England
 Architects: Niall McLaughlin Architects
 Building contractor: Beard Construction
 Structural engineer: Price and Myers
 M&E engineer: Synergy Consulting Engineers
 Acoustic engineer: Paul Gillieron Acoustic Design
 Quantity surveyor: Ridge and Partners LLP
 Stone consultant: Harrison Goldman
 Access consultant: Jane Toplis Associates
 Planning consultant: Nathaniel Lichfield and Partners
 CDM - Coordinator: HCD Management Limited
 Approved Building control Inspector: HCD Building Control
 Construction consultant: Richard Bayfield
 Client: Ripon College and Community of St John the Baptist
 Gross floor area: 280m²
 Competition: 2009.7 / Planning: 2010.6
 Construction: 2011.7 / Completion: 2013.2
 Photograph:
 courtesy of the architect - p.156, p.162, p.164, p.165
 ©Nick Kane - p.154-155, p.158, p.160-161

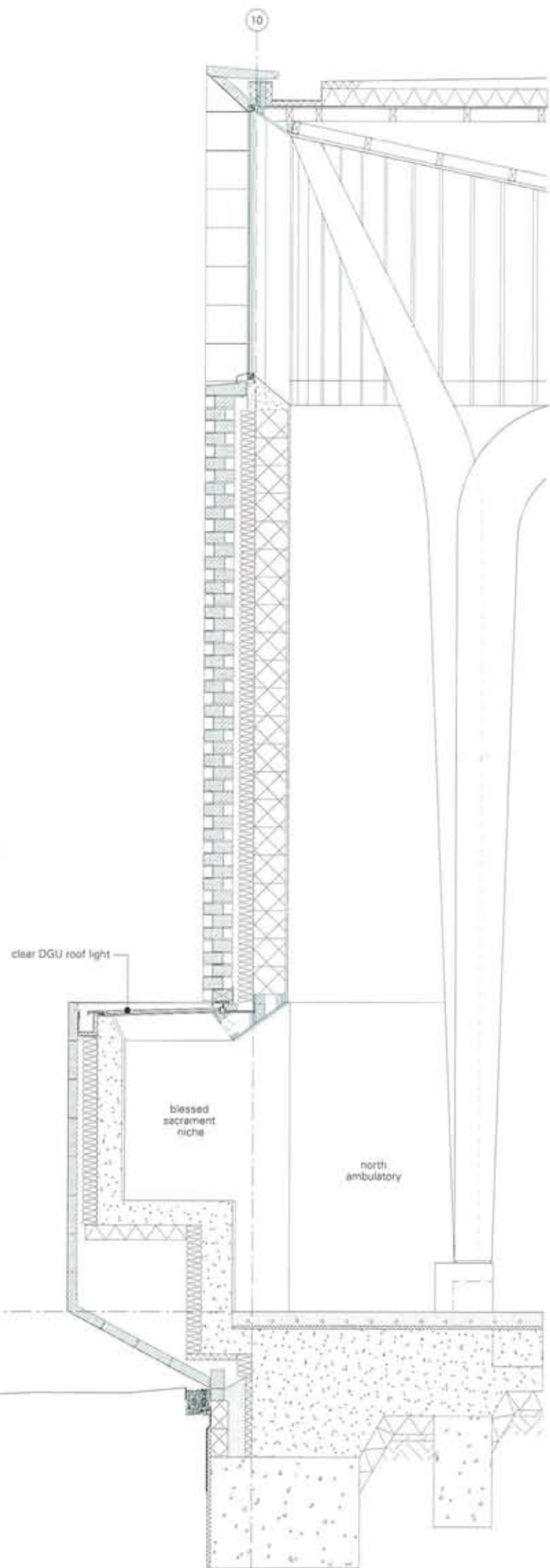




1. main chapel section A-A'



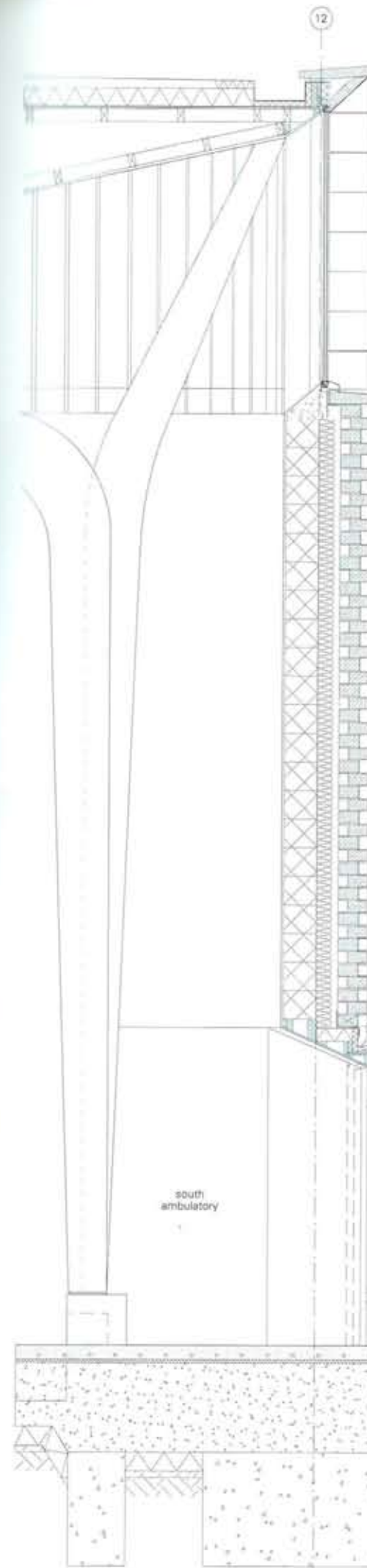
1. main chapel 2. ambulatory 3. entrance section B-B'



clear DGU roof light

blessed sacrament niche

north ambulatory



south ambulatory

sisters' prayer room

section C-C'



continuous horseshoe roof light

concealed gutter

0 0.5 1m