

# Woolmanhill Student Accommodation, Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen

(For Derek Lovejoy Scotland)

Woolmanhill is an existing development close to Aberdeen city centre. The brief was to examine how an existing, low budget, students accommodation site could be enhanced, improving the general environment and the users total experience.

The existing design and arrangement of the site offered considerable potential for improvement. The design concepts drew from the industrial nature of Aberdeen and the best of the immediate surrounding architecture and environment, developing a vocabulary of 'industrial chic'. This would inform each design element throughout the whole site.

The existing site layout in relation to the surrounding buildings suggested a considerable 'gateway' to the entrance of the development. The idea of 'gateway' was developed with a combination of repainting to the existing gables, a solar clad wall, vertical landscaping and feature lighting columns, all proposed suggesting a metaphor for RGU's move towards a more sustainable campus.

The courtyard spaces to the centre of the existing development were rationalised and pocket parks proposed. A focal structure and a focal semi mature tree to the centres of the pocket parks would aim to provide meeting places. Proposals for porch canopies were developed to provide both shelter and visual punctuation to existing communal building entrances. New opening and accesses were suggested which would help the buildings to work more easily with balconettes proposed for a limited number of flats.

A simple, site wide soft landscaping treatment was recommended. Easily maintained, robust landscape at ground level with feature vertical landscaping would be used to help to reduce some of the visual bulk to large and dominating gable ends and soften the otherwise currently hard external spaces.

## Client

Robert Gordon University

## Date

2000-2001

## Project Value



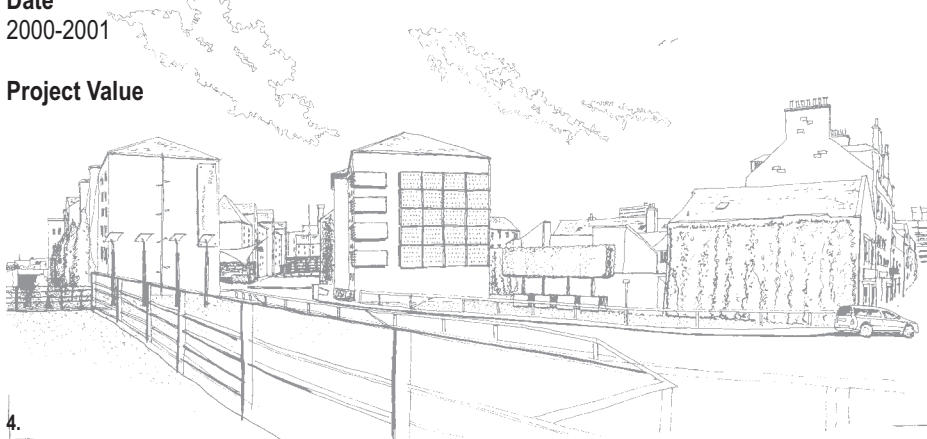
1.



2.



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4.

1. Site analysis
2. Soft landscape concept
3. Colour visualisation and hard landscaping
4. Sketch perspectives