Architecture Design Competition
2018/19

Fitzwilliam is one of Cambridge University’s most architecturally diverse and interesting colleges. It is famous for the contrast between the old and the new, and draws architecture students from around the world to study its buildings.

We are pleased to invite you to participate in Fitzwilliam College’s Architectural Design Competition. This is an exciting opportunity for secondary school students to analytically approach a design problem and creatively develop architectural design solutions. Students will design and communicate their design solutions through drawings and a design narrative.

Entries must be received by midnight on 20 May.

Design Challenge Brief
You are challenged to design a new building somewhere on the Fitzwilliam College site. This building will serve as a hub for interaction between teaching Fellows and students, where they can share and explore ideas.

During the design process, you will need to think about what programmes or activities need to be accommodated in the new building. You must also consider possible locations for the new building within the College site, taking into consideration the other College buildings in your design.

You are required to submit:

- **Project Title** that best describes your design intention and final design solution

- **Design Narrative** of 500 words that concisely explains your design inspiration, design objective, and final design strategy developed to meet your design objective.

- **Drawings** that show
  (1) floor plan(s) of your building
(2) one elevation and/or one building section of your building that best describes main features of your design solution
(3) one site plan that indicates the location of the building in relation to existing buildings in the college site
(4) one perspective drawing of your building that highlights your design intention and shows the placement of a new building in relation to existing college buildings nearby

A chance to view Fitzwilliam College
At the College Open Day on 27 April, Dr Eric Martin, Director of Studies in Architecture, will give an architectural tour of the College to competition entrants and other attendees interested in architecture. Further details will be released closer to the time.

Fitzwilliam College Site Information
The Fitzwilliam College is structured around four courts, each of which is bordered by buildings containing student accommodation. Key buildings within the College include The Grove, Hall Building, Auditorium and Chapel. You may find other images on the college website and the Instagram accounts fitzwilliamcoll and sara_s_owen.

Below are some images of different areas of the College, and a map showing its layout. Fellows’ Court, Tree Court, and the Hall Building were completed between 1961 and 1966 according to the initial Lasdun Masterplan. The choice of a dark-brown brick and the exposed horizontal bands of the concrete floors which delineate the three storeys of the elevations imparts a more austere appearance to the perimeter ranges than the warm red brick façades of older colleges.

In both scale and detail the Hall Building makes a much stronger statement. The highly individualistic tall clerestory windows framed by hooded parabolic pods, lighting the dining hall, tower over and dominate the College.

New Court was completed between 1983 and 1986 to expand south of Fellows’ Court for student accommodation. New Court’s design took its cue from Lasdun’s perimeter ranges in its three-storey elevation, use of dark brick with horizontal concrete string-courses and the mix of narrow and wide windows, with many differences in detail.
**Wilson Court** was completed between 1991-94 for a new study and accommodation block. This was to be erected east of Lime Tree Avenue, which leads from Storey’s Way towards the Grove. The winning design is on the same axis as the south wing of New Court and respects its scale and use of dark brick while offering a variation on the stepped-bay elevation.

**Gatehouse Court** was added to the site in 2003 for additional office and residential accommodation. The L-shaped range abuts New Court, and the imposing entrance is signalled by the top-lit glass lantern, a contemporary interpretation of the traditional college gatehouse which provides a welcoming ambience. Continuity with the earlier buildings is maintained by the use of dark brick and pale horizontal banding, but a distinctive feature is the zinc and Douglas fir cladding to the window bays.

**The Auditorium** opened in 2004 and is a building of very different character from Gatehouse Court. The identity of the Auditorium is defined on the one hand by the Grove, with its buff Cambridge vernacular brickwork, and on the other by the eye-catching stainless-steel cladding at the west end.

**The Olisa Library** is the latest addition to the College’s stock of buildings. The round tower (part of the library) emulates the existing chapel and functions as a monumental endpoint to Lasdun’s building. Between this tower and a smaller turret is the stepped main façade, with its distinctive white-oak cladding blending with the brickwork of The Grove.

**The Grove** is a Grade II listed house which lies at the centre of the College and dates from the Napoleonic Wars. It is built from gault brick, with a slate roof.

**For further information about the competition or the Architecture course, please contact:**
Dr Eric Martin, Director of Studies in Architecture, Fitzwilliam College
Email: eric@dm-architects.co.uk
Map of the College
The Auditorium from New Court

The Grove from Gatehouse Court (Auditorium on left)
The Hall Building from O staircase

The Olisa Library (left) and the Grove (right) from Tree Court
The Chapel from New Court