WHERE WE ARE IN THE PROJECT?

**FOCUS**
- 'Kickoff meeting' with the UOM team
- Obtain and review existing information / insights
- Hypothesis development session with the UOM team
- Finalise recruitment specifications & screener

**EXPLORE**
- Recruit community members
- Commence student precinct online community
- Understand their world & experiences

**CREATE & CONFIRM**
- 'Strawman' concept development session
- Assess and refine aesthetics and amenities
- Understand their ideal student experience & how this informs their ideal student precinct.

**GUIDE**
- Presentation of key findings
- Ongoing engagement with the UOM team and design agencies as required
- Ongoing engagement with the UOM team and design agencies as required
- Option for ongoing engagement with students

**ONGOING COMMUNITY ACTIVITY**
WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE PROJECT?

DURING THE ‘CREATE & CONFIRM’ PHASE, WE RECEIVED 1,092 INDIVIDUAL POSTS.

- 312 ACTIVE ONLINE COMMUNITY MEMBERS
- 49 FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANTS
- 2,273 UNIQUE POSTS IN THE ONLINE COMMUNITY
- 7 AVERAGE NUMBER OF POSTS PER COMMUNITY MEMBER
FOLLOWING THE ‘EXPLORE’ PHASE WE DEVELOPED A FRAMEWORK...

CONNECTION UNDERPINNED WHAT STUDENTS WANT FROM THEIR IDEAL UNIVERSITY EXPERIENCE.

- **CONNECT TO THE SELF**
  - Achieving balance
  - Taking time out to relax and unwind
  - Reflecting on personal achievements

- **CONNECT TO THE FUTURE**
  - Shaping the future
  - Having access to the latest technology
  - Pursuing new ideas and collaborations

- **CONNECT TO OTHERS**
  - Making friends
  - Broadening your perspective
  - Collaborating with others

- **CONNECT TO THE PAST**
  - Being a part of the university’s history
  - Learning about past achievements
  - Discovering stories, myths and legends
THIS FRAMEWORK GAVE RISE TO EIGHT CONCEPTS THAT WE SHARED WITH STUDENTS TO CO-CREATE IDEAS FOR THEIR STUDENT PRECINCT.
I totally agree. A sense of connection leads to a sense of belonging and community. The University has a really good opportunity to develop this idea within the new Student Precinct.

“I love the idea of the new Student Precinct being a place for everyone to go and connect, take part in something regardless of whether they’re part of a particular club or society.”

“In order to live a full and satisfying University life, you need all four of these quadrants…”

THE FRAMEWORK ITSELF HAS BEEN VALIDATED

HEATMAPPING SHOWS THAT ALL FOUR SPACES ARE CONSIDERED IMPORTANT BY STUDENTS…

BUT ‘CONNECT TO THE FUTURE’ (THEIR OWN FUTURE) AND ‘CONNECT TO OTHERS’ WERE PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT AREAS.
When it comes to the precinct, students gave us clear direction on our role.

Our role becomes more focused on the individual student, rather than broader connections to the university and world.
STUDENT NEEDS INFORM WHAT THE PRECINCT NEEDS TO DELIVER; THESE NEEDS CLUSTER UNDER THREE PILLARS

A NUMBER OF ‘SUB-NEEDS’ EXIST UNDER EACH PILLAR. THESE CAME FROM STUDENTS’ DESCRIPTION OF THEIR IDEAL EXPERIENCE AND ELEMENTS OF THE DESIGN CONCEPTS THAT RESONATED.

- **TAKE TIME OUT**
  - Kick back and relax
  - Find balance
  - Reflect on who I am

- **USE MY TIME WELL**
  - Get things done
  - Experience something new
  - Gain life skills
  - Express myself creatively

- **CROSS PATHS WITH OTHERS**
  - Make friends
  - Collaborate on projects
  - Be part of a community
  - Get a new perspective
SO WHAT SHOULD WE CREATE?
ALL EIGHT CONCEPTS HAD APPEAL AND IMPACT, WITH NO SINGLE CONCEPT TICKING EVERY BOX
AESTHETICALLY THERE WAS A SINGLE CONCEPT THAT DOMINATED APPEAL

THE CLEAREST SENSE OF CONSENSUS WAS IN THE AESTHETICS DESIGN WHERE THE ‘NATURAL HARMONY’ MOOD BOARD WAS THE MOST APPEALING AND RESONANT IDEA.

This was for a number of reasons...

It counteracted students’ current experience of Union House, but also resonated for deeper reasons around a space to disconnect from lectures/study and be at ease.

The sense of light, air and nature was seen as good for their minds and bodies, and that there were not many internal spaces that delivered on this at present.

“I love the natural light, high ceilings, gardens, open areas... Somewhere to escape, meet friends, impress an outsider.”

“This one is my favourite! I am a big fan of having the green indoors and would love to see more sustainable buildings! Make this one happen!!”

“We need natural light and nature integrated. It’s really important for my mental health.”
1. AESTHETIC GUIDANCE
As a leading global university we need to show we're sustainable. Natural elements like this are a great feature. Water features are the best and very calming. Natural light makes the room look bigger. It also helps lighten the mind as it has a positive mental effect. Greenery inside buildings is so important and I would love to see it everywhere! Green walls are definitely amazing, bringing the outside world in and making the space feel alive. "As a leading global university we need to show we're sustainable." "Natural elements like this are a great feature. Water features are the best and very calming." "Very bright and spacious, has a modern feel and gives off good study vibes with a positive environment."
But the ideal aesthetic was naturalness, with elements of history and comfort.

Respect for existing buildings and our heritage.

Students are proud of the university’s academic, social and cultural history.

However, this is not enough on its own – it doesn’t feel ‘ownable’.

NATURAL ELEMENTS CAN’T GO AS FAR AS MINIMALISM.

There is a strong desire to feel comfortable, at home and relaxed in the space.

Therefore, some degree of comfort and colour are needed to make the space feel social and inviting.

‘NATURAL HARMONY’
AESTHETIC DESIGN PRINCIPLES

NATURAL
“The buildings wouldn’t be shut off from the outside environment. It should be easy to connect with nature... rooftops and balconies would also be activated.”

LIGHT & OPEN
“You want something that’s light-filled, spacious and earthy.”

FLOWING
“You always know where to go next. There would be clear directions – signs and marks on the ground - and a cohesive flow throughout the buildings.”

DE-CLUTTERED
“You want to be able to move around the space without too many things getting in the way... not jam packed like Union House.”

RESPPECTFUL OF HISTORY
“They should maintain the heritage elements and make architectural additions externally... It’s possible to keep the ‘prestige’ feeling of the campus but also make significant upgrades.”

WARM & COMFORTABLE
“The Precinct should be a place where everyone feels welcome... with warm, relaxed options for public and private existence.”

VIBRANT
“Some areas will be colourful, with public art, murals... Variety and atmosphere make for a better Student Precinct.”
OUR AESTHETIC DIRECTION BECOMES...

NATURAL
LIGHT & OPEN
FLOWING
DE-CLUTTERED
RESPECTFUL OF HISTORY
WARM & COMFORTABLE
VIBRANT
2. FUNCTIONAL PRINCIPLES
A number of big themes emerged around the use of spaces, revealing some of the tensions of the space:

- **Remove points of friction**: Quick fixes to enhance the student experience. Things that make everyday life a little bit easier and more pleasurable. (Includes less overcrowding / queuing, more spaces to eat and relax in, more transparency around ‘what’s on’, better maintenance of facilities e.g. microwaves etc.)

- **Fair access**: Spaces that can be accessed by all students. They’re not monopolised by a particular group, or for a particular purpose.

- **Clear social conventions**: Spaces that can be preserved to meet specific needs. Their use isn’t dictated, but social convention is clear to guide students’ behaviour.

- **Student hours**: Spaces that provided extended access and support a range of academic and social activities. Certain spaces are available ‘out for hours’ i.e. much earlier / later.

- **Flexibility & ownership**: Spaces that can adapt to meet student needs. Students have ownership of the spaces – ultimately, they decide how they are used. (At the moment, there is friction between clubs / societies that want their ‘own’ space and unaffiliated students who believe that spaces should be multi-purpose all of the time - there is a balance to be struck.)

- **Permission to play**: Spaces that are dynamic and vibrant. They encourage students to talk to one another. They give students a reason to detach from work.

- **Always maintained**: Spaces that are looked after by the University. They’re respected by students, but also overseen by the University so that they’re always in tact.
3. AMENITIES & SPACES
## THERE ARE SOME BASIC NECESSITIES ALL STUDENTS NEED FROM CAMPUS LIFE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STORAGE</th>
<th>KITCHEN FACILITIES</th>
<th>POWER OUTLETS</th>
<th>‘LIFE ADMIN’</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&quot;More lockers, and bigger lockers, would be awesome.&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;There should be working microwaves, sinks, plates, glasses, dining tables, kettles etc. These should be checked regularly to check that they work properly.&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;Power outlets are a must! Charging mats are also a great idea - they should be everywhere in campus.&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;There should be a small shop, a bank, a chemist, a post office with actual staff, a barber’s shop / hairdresser with lower fees.&quot;</td>
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<td>[EXISTING FRUSTRATION]</td>
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HOWEVER 9 FEATURES STOOD OUT AS THE TOP THINGS STUDENTS WANT MOST

**RELAXATION ROOM OR ‘CHILL OUT’ SPACE**

“It’s a great idea to have somewhere relaxing… Sometimes I just want to rest between lectures.”

**ROOFTOP SOCIAL SPACE**

“This would be awesome. We can hang out on rooftops everywhere else in the city, but not on campus.”

**COMMUNAL EATING SPACE**

“We need an open space where we can eat and hang out with friends. Union House is super dark and busy.”

**STUDENT BAR**

“I think a student bar is a must (or a rooftop bar)! You always make friends there.”

**THINGS THAT KEEP YOU UP-TO-DATE**

“A website or digital board to explore events would be mega helpful… I can actually see what’s on everyday.”

**THINGS TO SOCIALISE OVER**

“Outdoor BBQs would be great. They allow students to get together and connect”

**PERFORMANCE OR COLLABORATIVE SPACE**

“We need places to showcase the talent of students around the campus!”

**COMMUNITY GARDEN**

“I love the community garden. You can have fun without having to be affiliated with a club.”

**HEALTHIER MORE DIVERSE FOOD OPTIONS**

“A nutrition bar and café would be the best… There aren’t a whole lot of healthy alternatives currently.”
WE CAN SEE HOW THESE FEATURES MEET STUDENT NEEDS

A SPACE THAT...
ALLOWS ME TO TAKE TIME OUT
RELAXATION ROOM OR ‘CHILL OUT’ SPACE

A SPACE THAT...
EMPOWERS ME TO USE MY TIME WELL
THINGS THAT KEEP YOU UP-TO-DATE
HEALTHIER, AND MORE DIVERSE, FOOD OPTIONS

A SPACE THAT...
PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES TO CROSS PATHS WITH OTHERS
ROOFTOP SOCIAL SPACE
STUDENT BAR / LOUNGE
COMMUNITY GARDEN
COMMUNAL EATING SPACE
PERFORMANCE OR COLLABORATION SPACE

THINGS TO SOCIALISE OVER
HEALTHIER, AND MORE DIVERSE, FOOD OPTIONS