

# The John Cunningham Student Centre

The former Stevenson Library is being upgraded to create the new John Cunningham Student Centre delivering essential student amenities and learning spaces with a focus on learning support, student counselling, academic research and professional learning.



Artist's impression of the new John Cunningham Student Centre

## Why is the building being upgraded?

The Stevenson Library building and facilities have aged, requiring ongoing maintenance and offering limited functionality for contemporary teaching and learning practices. This pivotal space is in need of an upgrade to make it a more suitable facility for teaching and learning in the 21st Century, with a particular focus on learning support, student counselling, academic research and professional learning.

The former library building was completed in 1988 and is imposing, block-like, flat-roofed, and without features or a main entrance. It was an institutional building not well suited to a contemporary education experience and no longer fit for purpose.

This project prioritises the delivery of essential student amenities and learning spaces as well as bringing the building in line with NSW Government disability inclusion guidelines.





# The vision

Located at the heart of our senior school campus, the new John Cunningham Student Centre will not only deliver a state-of-the-art educational facility but also act as a physical embodiment of the College's Scottish heritage.

We have used an architectural style which reflects both the heritage of the College and the purpose of the building. The vision for the exterior of the John Cunningham Student Centre is a true representation of the Scottish Baronial style of the 16th Century and as revived in the 19th Century.

To ensure the exterior concept remained true to its heritage, the College engaged Dr Alistair Disley, a globally recognised expert in Scottish architecture. Dr Disley provided an extensive report and recommendations which were incorporated to ensure the design concept is representative of the style.

While the exterior is an authentic representation of the Scottish Baronial style, the internal fit-out would incorporate the latest research creating optimal learning environments. The College engaged design firm The Invisible Lab, an interdisciplinary design team, to inform the creation of our new learning spaces.



**Architect's impression of the new John Cunningham Student Centre viewed from the quadrangle**



**Oval Perspective – Current**



**Oval Perspective – Proposed**

The College buildings skirting the oval are largely correlated either in scale, detailing or texture. Except for the old Stevenson Library building, all face the oval and provide a pathway of travel within the College grounds in a north-south direction. The Library building interrupted pedestrian flows requiring students to exit College grounds and use the footpath on Victoria Road to move between buildings.



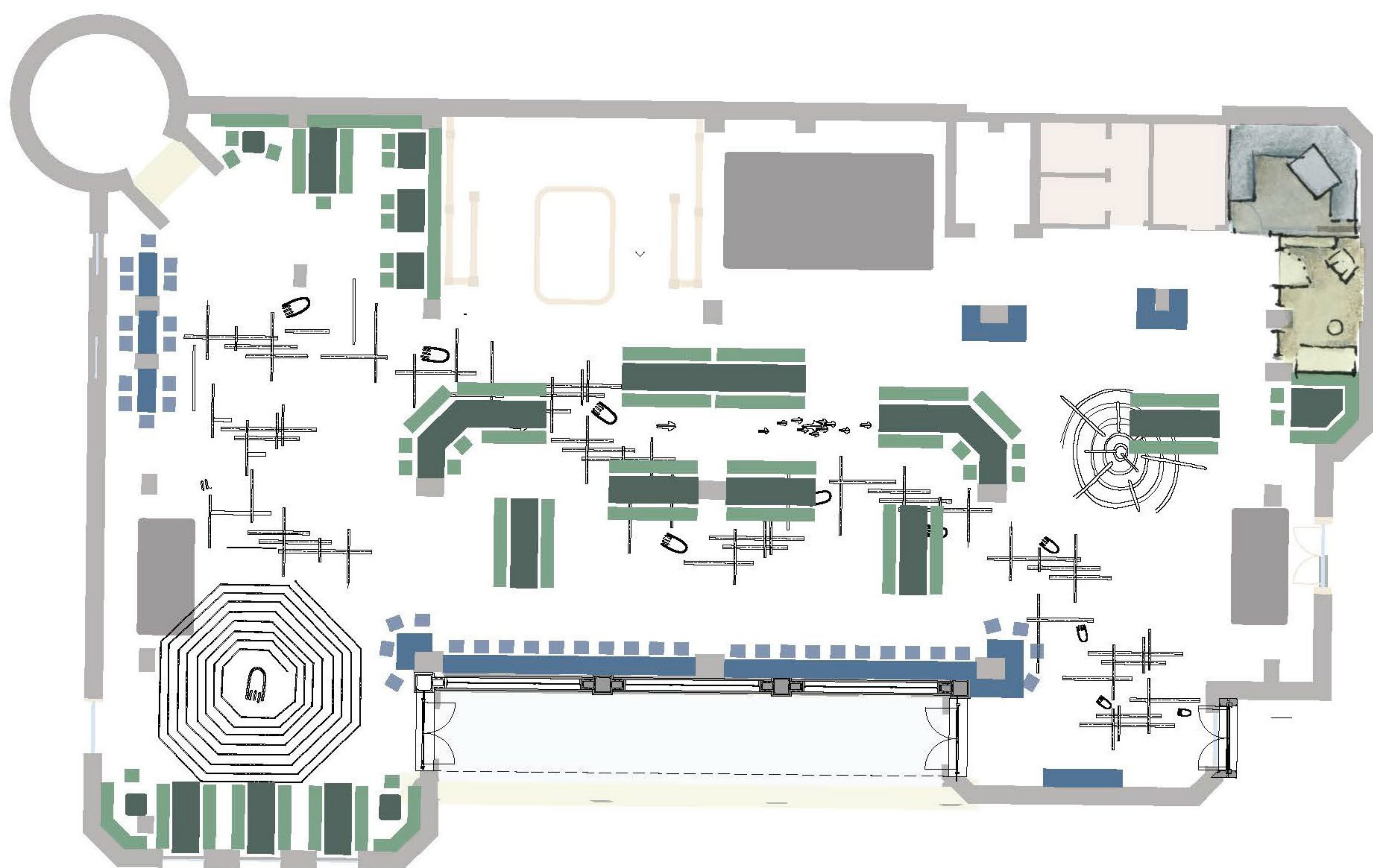


# The key benefits

**The new John Cunningham Student Centre will deliver a number of key benefits to students, staff and the broader community, including:**

- improved counselling, learning enrichment, academic research and study facilities
- new multi-functional learning spaces
- new catering facilities for day students
- additional toilet facilities
- improved accessibility for disabled students and staff through the introduction of lifts
- a new north-south access route, improving pedestrian flow throughout the College and allowing students to move between buildings, reducing the use of external public footpaths
- dedicated pastoral care and counselling facilities for students
- new multi-functional debating, communication, networking, and study spaces.

## GROUND FLOOR PRELIMINARY SKETCH – INDICATIVE ONLY



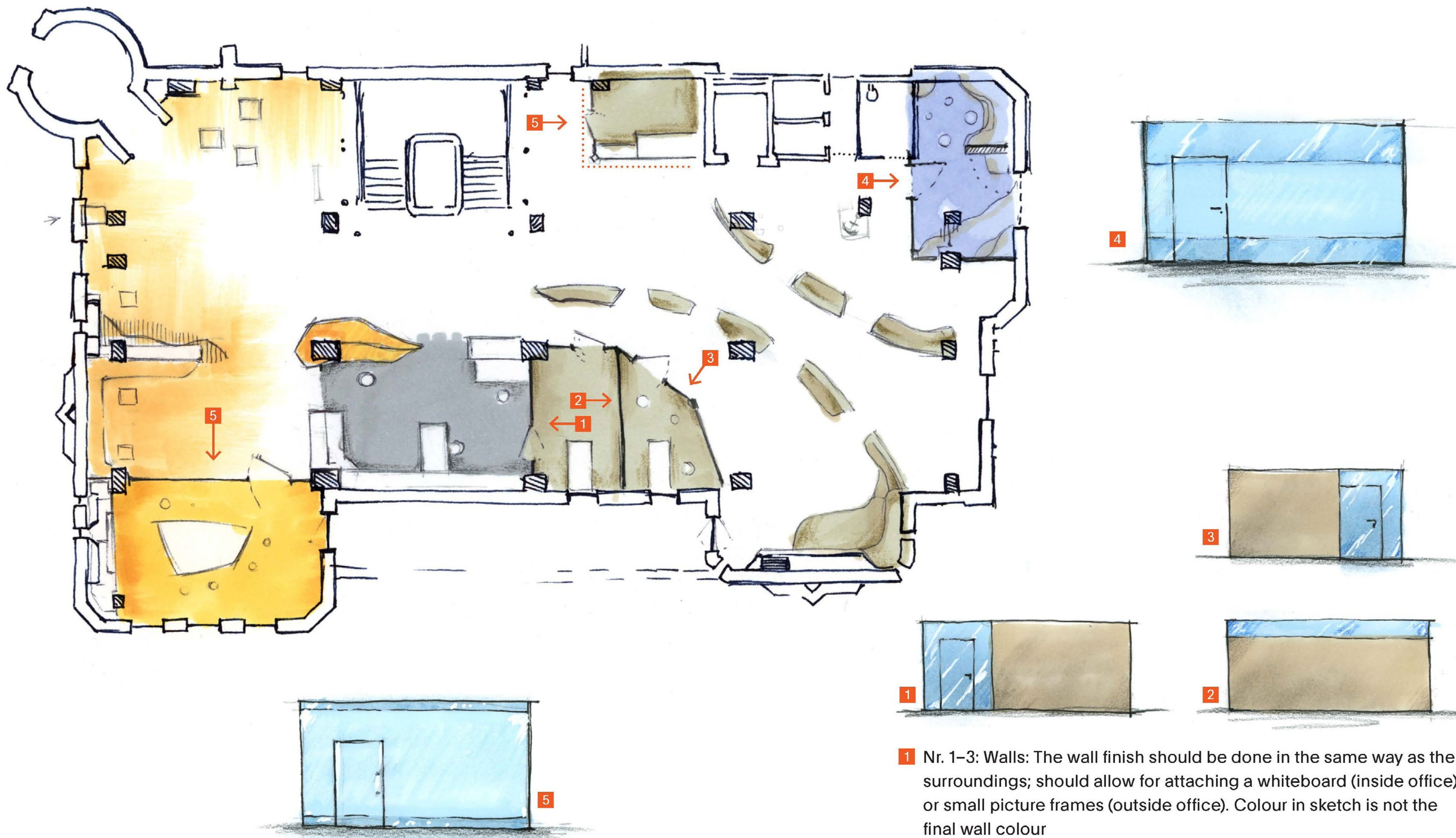
Prelim sketches GF Ground floor - Black Watch Cafe - preliminary sketch





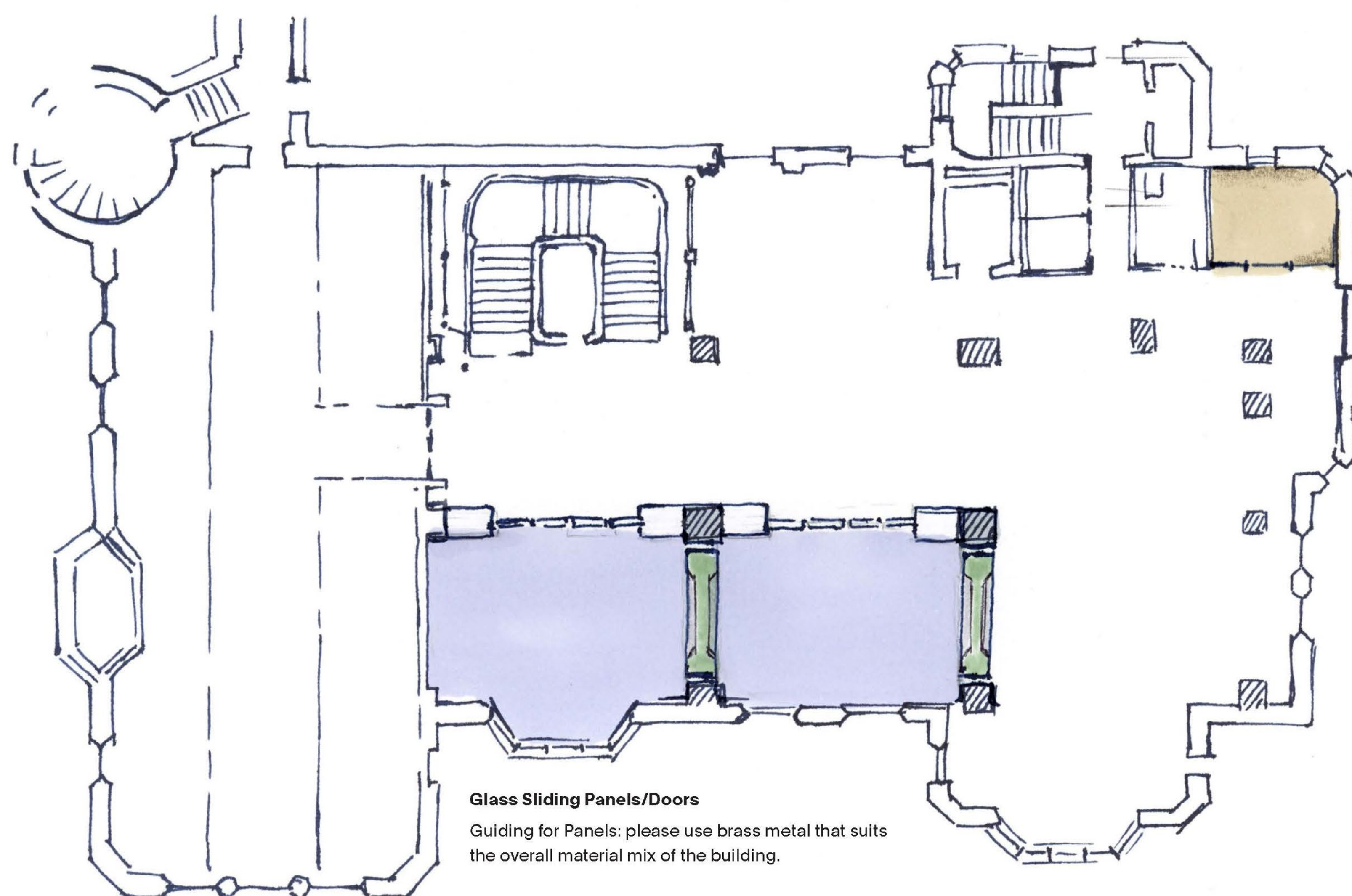
# The key benefits

## FIRST FLOOR PRELIMINARY SKETCHES – INDICATIVE ONLY



First floor includes Reception, Counselling and Learning Enrichment spaces - preliminary sketch only

## SECOND FLOOR PRELIMINARY SKETCH – INDICATIVE ONLY



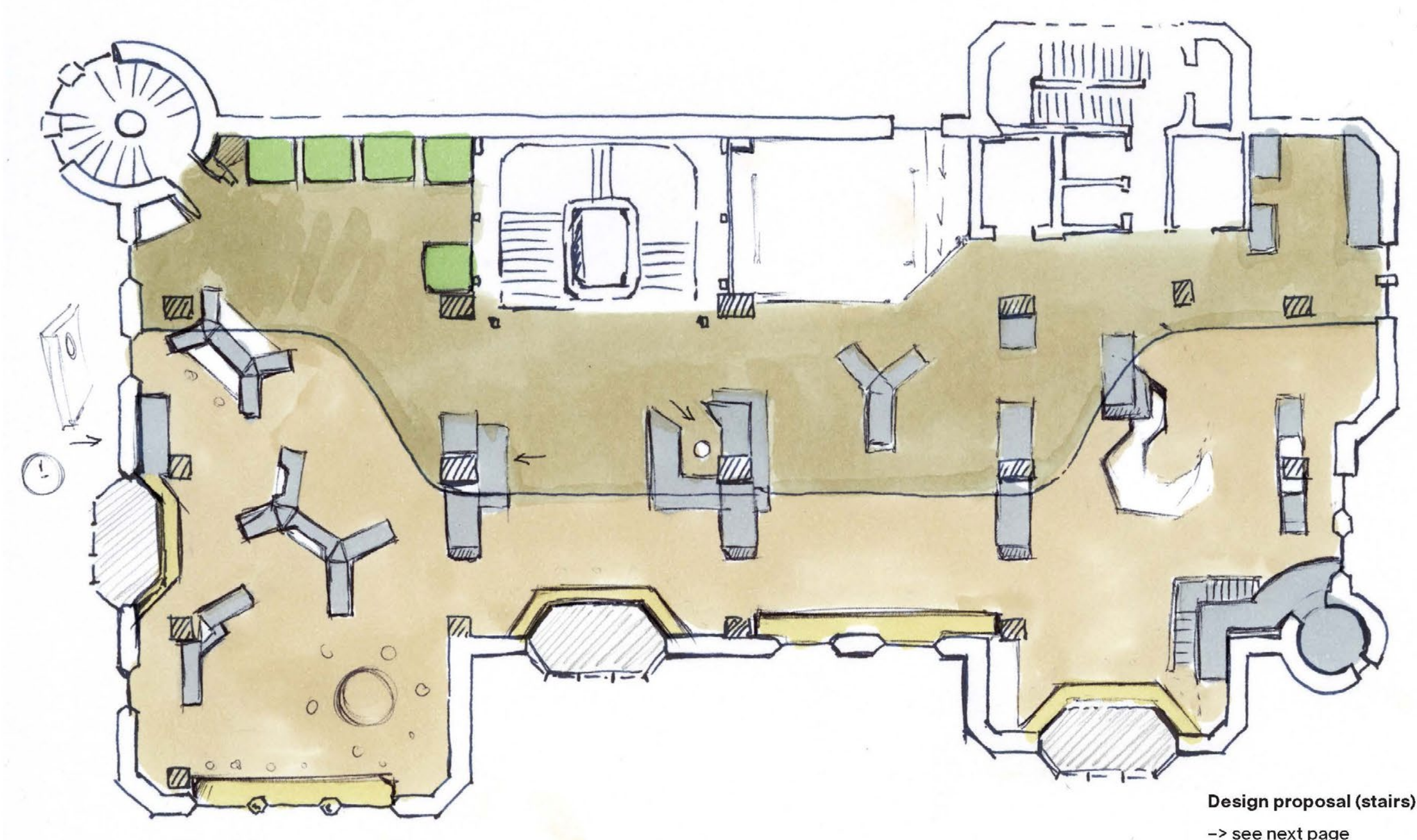
Second floor - Multi-functional learning spaces





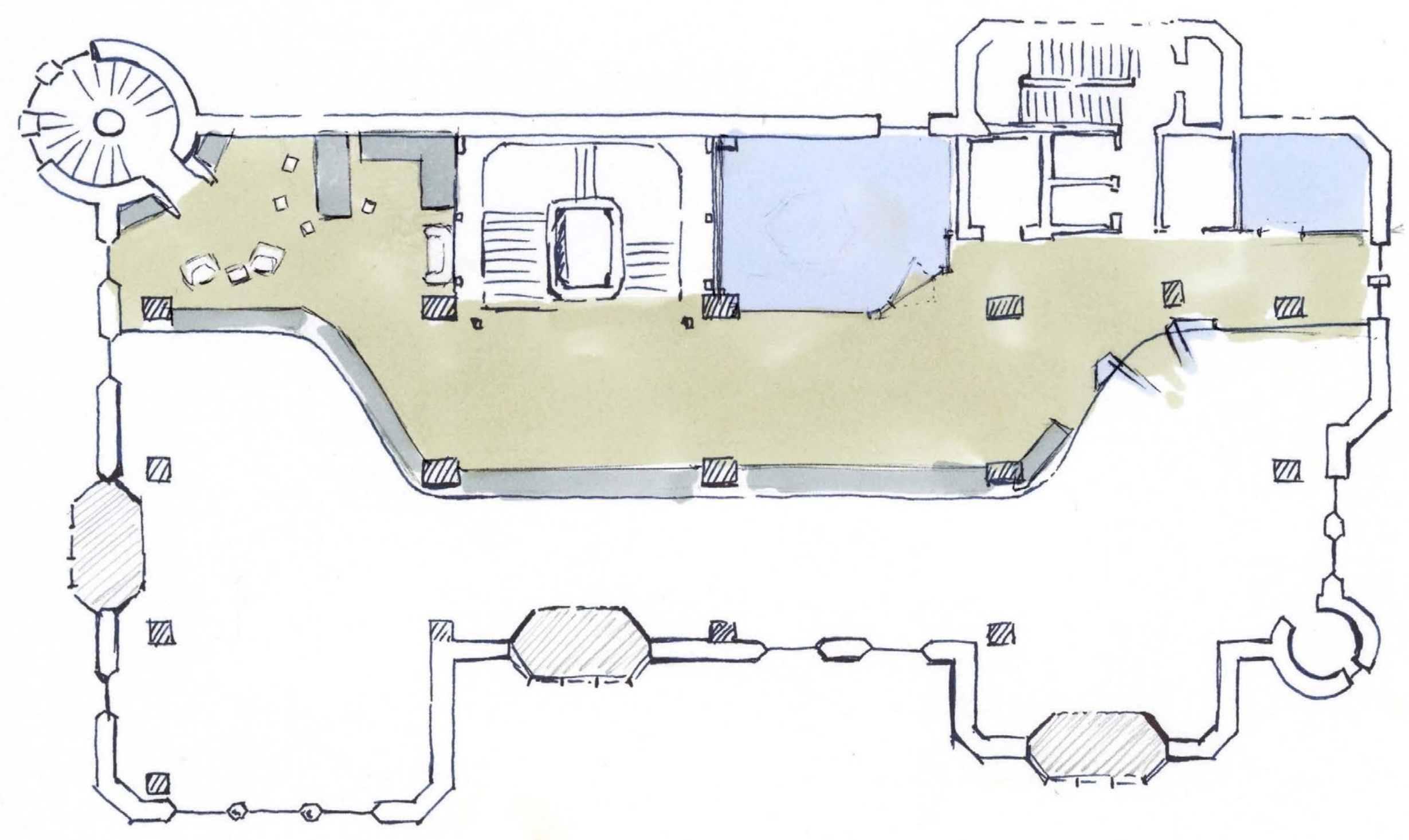
# The key benefits

## THIRD FLOOR PRELIMINARY SKETCH – INDICATIVE ONLY



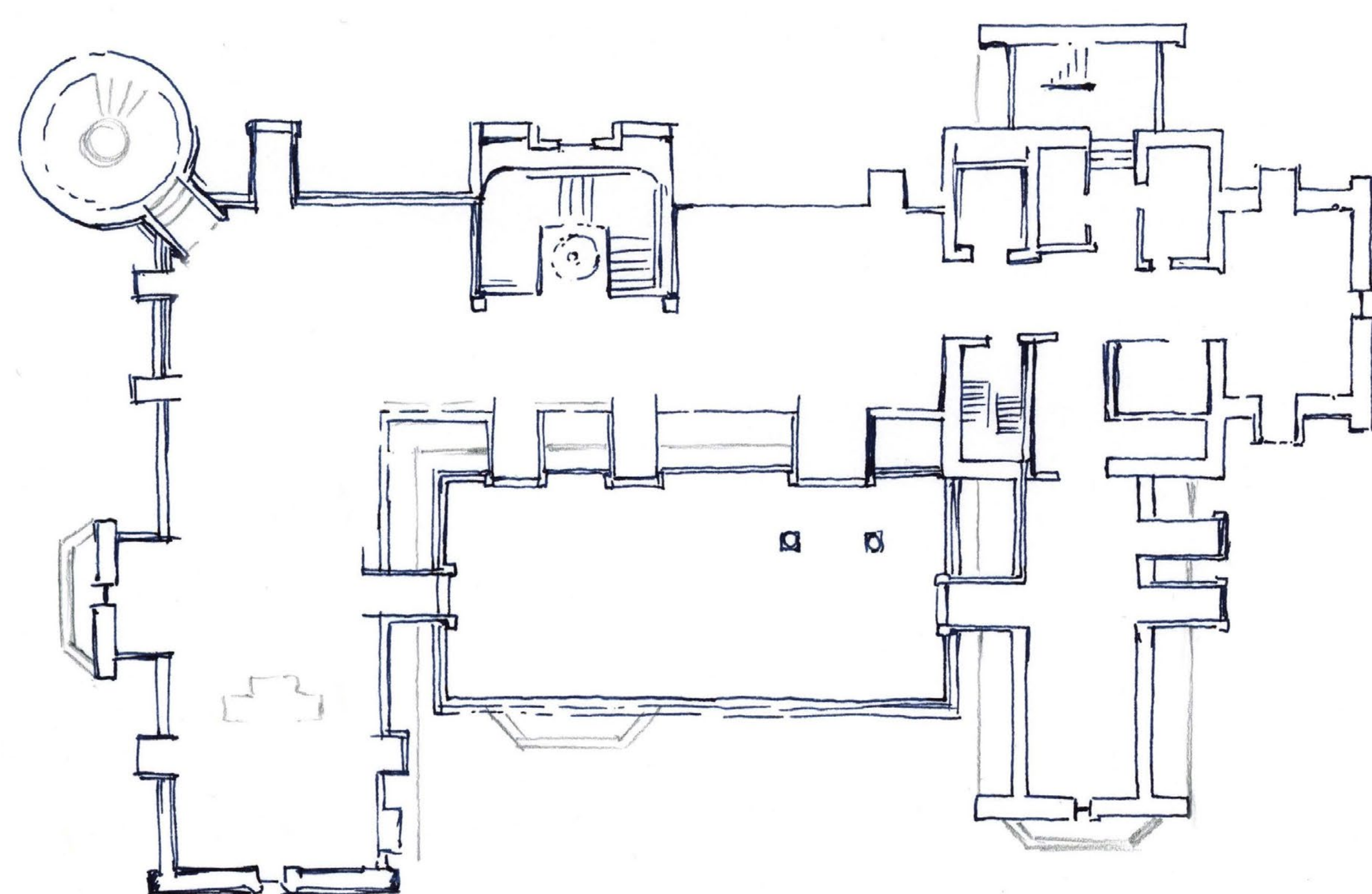
Third floor - College Library

## FOURTH FLOOR PRELIMINARY SKETCH – INDICATIVE ONLY



Fourth floor - Mezzanine

## FIFTH FLOOR PRELIMINARY SKETCH – INDICATIVE ONLY



Fifth floor – Rooftop





# The vision



Architect's impression of the new John Cunningham Student Centre viewed from the quadrangle



Architect's impression of new John Cunningham Student Centre viewed from the oval





# FAQs



## How long will construction take?

Following approval by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment on-site work commenced on 8 December 2019.

The planning approval process commenced in October 2017 with a request to the Department of Planning and Environment to issue a Statement of Environmental Assessment Requirements for the project.

The planning and assessment process included public exhibition of the State Significant Development Application for comment and response to submissions received.

It is estimated that construction will take 36 months however, there will be times with no on-site work with tendering and construction management planning being undertaken.

## Will construction impact the local community?

The retention of the existing structure within the building significantly reduces construction impacts on the local community with less demolition and associated truck movements.

The building is also stepped back from the campus boundary resulting in a lower construction impact. Having said this, every construction project has some impact on the community.

The College is committed to consulting with the community throughout construction to minimise impacts of work.

## Why has the College elected to upgrade the Stevenson Library before adding 'community-friendly' features such as on-site parking or pick-up/drop-off zones?

The delivery of the new John Cunningham Student Centre will bring information, pastoral care and student support services into one accessible location.

It will add significant capacity in flexible space, as well as new dining and toilet facilities needed to accommodate students.

Importantly, this project prioritises the wellbeing of our students and addresses issues such as poor pedestrian flow, access and amenities.

When complete, the facilities in the new John Cunningham Student Centre will allow the college to continue to operate during future construction of on-site parking or pick-up and drop-off zones.

Changes to the building will also create a new north-south access route through the school, allowing students to move between facilities within College grounds, rather than via Victoria Road footpaths.

## Is the upgrade related to a plan to increase student numbers?

No increase in current student numbers is being proposed as part of the Stevenson Library upgrade.

## How is the project being funded?

The Scots College receives no government funding for capital work and therefore building work must be funded from either donations or bank loans.

As a not-for-profit entity there is limited capacity for bank lending and therefore the College would fund the majority of the upgrade through fundraising and donations.

## Is this part of a masterplan?

The Stevenson Library upgrade is part of the 2013-2023 masterplan. The College has commenced a process of revisiting its 2013 masterplan and this will be part of a separate design and planning process including further community consultation.

The College is committed to keeping the community informed and will provide regular updates about any future plans.



Work underway Feb 2023





# What to expect during construction

On-site work to prepare the site for construction commenced in December 2019 and demolition and piling works through to March 2021.

Construction started in June 2021 and is expected to be completed by mid 2023. Specialist construction group, Taylor is making good progress as the building continues to take shape. Brickwork completed in 2022 has provided a sense of the emerging structure. With concrete slab installation underway since November 2022 the next key milestone is the roof structures with work commencing in February. A Community Communications Plan covering site preparation and construction has been prepared and can be viewed on the College website.

A Construction Environmental Management Plan and Construction Traffic Management Plan have been prepared in accordance with the conditions of approval. The plans approved by the Department of Planning and Environment are being implemented throughout construction and can be viewed on the College website.

The hours of work and construction vehicle access during construction remain almost the same as during site preparation works.

## Hours of work

Monday to Friday 7:00am – 6:00pm  
Saturdays 8:00am – 1:00pm  
No work will be carried out on Sundays and Public Holidays

## Construction vehicle access

Construction vehicle access to the site is via Cranbrook Lane. All vehicles make their way to the site from the West via New South Head Road, turning right into Victoria Road, left into Cranbrook Road and left again into Cranbrook Lane. Vehicles leaving the site use the same route in reverse.

Traffic controllers will be in place when necessary at the Cranbrook Road/Cranbrook Lane intersection and the Cranbrook Lane access gate.

## Find out more and keep up to date

- Visit the College website [scots.college](https://scots.college)
- Email us at [jcsc@scots.college](mailto:jcsc@scots.college)
- Call us on **02 9391 7600**

We will provide community updates including information sessions throughout construction.

## The project team who will plan and deliver this project include:

- Project Coordination:** TSC Director of Operations and Infrastructure
- Project Management:** EPM Projects
- Architectural Design:** JCA Architects
- Interior Design:** The Invisible Lab & Five Spaces Design
- Town Planning:** BBC Consulting Planners
- Traffic Planning:** PT Consultants
- Community Consultation:** WSP formerly Elton Consulting

## Construction timeline

**December 2019 – March 2021:**  
Site preparation including demolition and piling

**June 2021:**  
Construction commenced

**June 2021 - July 2023:**  
Main construction works and fitout

**WE  
ARE  
HERE**

**Mid 2023:**  
Construction completed

**End 2023:**  
John Cunningham Student Centre opens



Work underway Feb 2023

