UoY Student Centre

Building Context & Design Brief

Encapsulating ‘York-ness’

In the early design stages influence was taken from iconic landmark buildings in York, in particular studying the forms and repetition present in the facade of York Minster and roof of York Train Station, pictured below.

York Railway Station is a perfect example of nineteenth century prefabrication. The beauty in the rhythm of its repetitive elements was a source of inspiration for our team’s design.

York Minster is impressive for the spatial relationship of the recessed entrance porch with the surrounding civic space, and its integration with the urban realm. An interesting visual detail is the repetition of triangular elements at varying scales on the elevation, giving rhythm and variety to the façade composition. The Student Centre façade geometry and material is inspired by the patterns of York Minster.

“York’s bustling streets are filled with visitors… within its medieval walls you will find the iconic Gothic Minster, Clifford’s Tower and the Shambles… a vast range... from the modern to the medieval”

The triangular element extracted from York Minster has featured in early sketches of the scheme, and later in the developed elevations. The triangulation also translates across into the landscaping to the East and West of the Student Centre.

Project Drivers

During the design competition, the University of York set out a series of project drivers which they deemed essential to the success of the project for both the University and its wider context, visible on the diagram to the left. Many of these key features have driven the design and will continue to be at the heart of the Student Centre once it is in full operation.