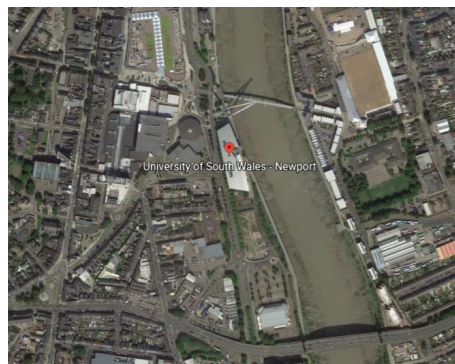


USW NEWPORT CITY CAMPUS REFURBISHMENT, NEWPORT, SOUTH WALES

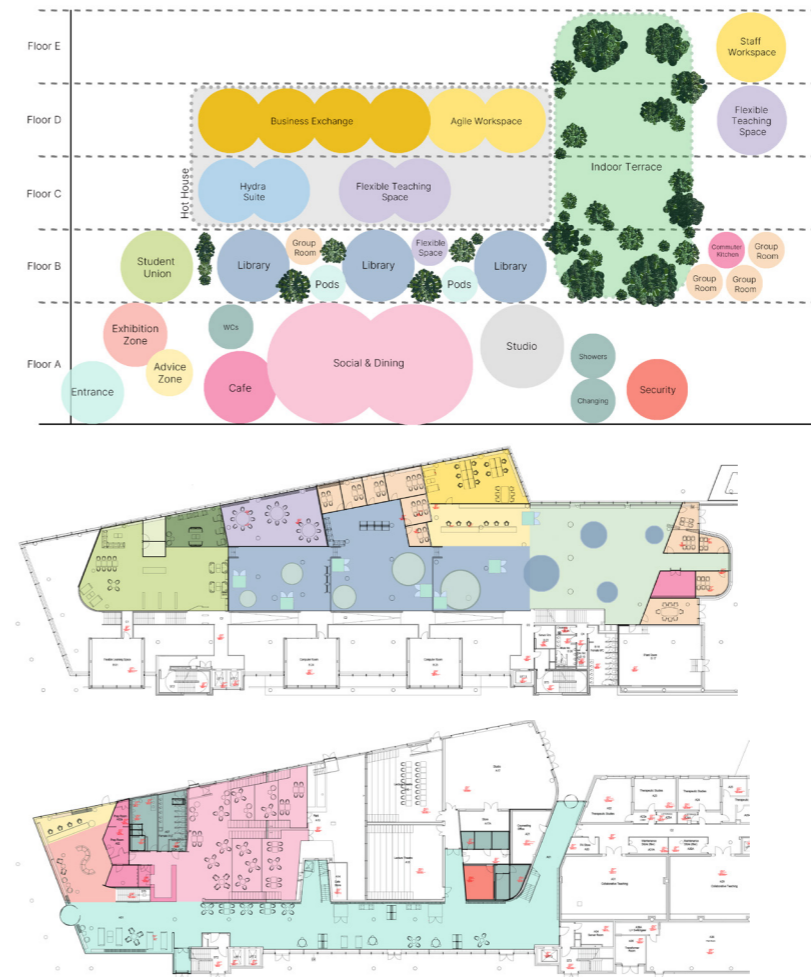


LOCATION: NEWPORT
CLIENT: UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH WALES
COMPLETION: 2024
SERVICE: INTERIOR DESIGN
SECTOR: EDUCATION
SERVICES: HYDROCK
CONTRACTOR: TBC

Austin-Smith:Lord has been appointed by the University of South Wales to provide Interior Design services for phased refurbishment works at their Newport Campus. The scheme agenda is to shift the focus of the campus more to collaboration and social learning spaces, introduce specialist Hydra facilities, reimagine catering amenities, change to more agile staff workspace and improve staff & student wellbeing. There is also a desire to increase engagement with the local community and businesses through reimagining facilities within the scheme. Post pandemic building use requirements have substantially changed, and the brief requirements have been collated by A-S:L through an extensive and successful consultation process with staff and students. The project is due for phased completion during 2023 & 2024.



Early adjacency options exploration diagrams



Eight existing zones across all five floors of the building have been identified for refurbishment, which combined constitute approximately half of the building area. These include the entrance and main ground floor circulation route, the existing cafe, the disused refectory space, tiered lecture halls, the existing staff workspaces, teacher training facilities, the business exchange and hub and the dance studio.

Following extensive consultation A-S:L have explored and evaluated several adjacency options for relocating, introducing, expanding, contracting and reimagining the extensive list of facilities within the brief. Acoustic requirements and privacies are an important consideration.

A-S:L are advocating exploring the use of biophilic design to increase the wellbeing of all building users, introducing green garden zones.

The tiered lecture halls are now surplus to timetabling requirements, whereas there is a lack of collaboration space, one to one rooms,

group working and social learning space. The raked seating sits over the main plant room of the building, making it cost prohibitive to omit the rake. A-S:L are exploring innovative ways of terracing the tiers and opening them out from private spaces to engaging open collaboration zones connecting the ground floor to views of the river.

The existing yellow clad hub zone within the building has its own individual architectural identity visible within the main atrium space. Rather than it being used for private offices as it is currently, we are exploring the potential for this to be an exciting destination for collaboration within the scheme, opening it to all building users.

In line with the University's wider scheme to revolutionise their staff workspace. A-S:L will be designing agile work space for staff and business hub users, using a variety of space types from private working to interaction and meeting spaces.

Staff and student satisfaction and wellbeing are the priority drivers for the project.

