St John's Anglican Cathedral Parramatta

Concept Landscape Master Plan May 2018 | Rev C



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1. Public Realm Study

1.1 Site Context

Project Background

This Concept Landscape Master Plan supports the St John's Anglican Cathedral Parramatta Urban Design Report produced by Architectus. Aspect Studios has been engaged by the Anglican Church Property Trust and the Trust Endowment (St John's) to develop a master plan for the future of the St John's Anglican Cathedral site.

Site context

The St John's Anglican Cathedral site is located approximately 23km west of the Sydney CBD and within 200m from Parramatta Railway Station. With an overall area of some 10,575m² St John's site occupies a prominent location in the heart of Parramatta city. The cathedral is of state heritage significance and is the oldest church site and continuous place of Christian worship in Australia dating back to 1803. St John's redevelopment will form part of a network of future developments that aim to improve quality of the public realm in Parramatta. Such project's include Parramatta Square, Civic Link, Riverbank Square and the recently completed Centenary Square.



Figure 1 | Aerial photo Nearmaps 2017



Figure 2 | Site Map | 1:2000 @ A3 🏠

1.2 Public Space

Existing Public Spaces

Analysis of Parramatta's CBD reveals a lack of vegetated space and that the urban tree canopy is under-performing at a low 9%. As a major employment centre for western Sydney, high numbers of workers' enter the city daily creating additional pressure on the need for public space. Parramatta's CBD also is hotter than surrounding areas in the LGA due to urban heat island effect, and a hot CBD has great implications on health and liveability of users.

EXISTING PUBLIC SPACES



PROPOSED PUBLIC SPACES



Area: 3000m² Uses: Civic & retail

Area: 7000m²

Uses: Civic & retail



Uses: Passive recreation

Proposed Public Spaces

Justice Precinct

3

Area: 1900m²

Uses: Civic & congregation

Over the next 20 years, The City of Parramatta proposes to deliver three major public spaces; Civic Link, Parramatta Square and Riverbank Square. Together, these revitalisation projects will transform the Parramatta's CBD into a world class city, as well as catalyse development and investment. St John's Cathedral Square will compliment these proposed public space's and offer an uniquely historical place in the city.



Area: 1100m² Uses: Historical garden



Area: 4800m² Uses: Cultural & connective with river Uses: Connective, retail & civic





Area: 1200m² Uses: Cultural and historical



Figure 3 | Public Spaces in Parramatta CBD | 1:3000 @ A3

Area: 11000m²

1.3 Public Character

Existing Character

Analysis of Parramatta's CBD finds a lively and diverse public realm character as supported by Parramatta Civic Link Draft Framework Plan, October 2016. Church Street has a strong identity as the traditional 'eat street', with a range of retail and hospitality offerings. Centenary Square pedestrian promenade acts as the civic centre of the city catering for daily life and markets and community events. Comparative to other LGA's in western Sydney, Parramatta has low provisions social infrastructure in the form community

LARGE SCALE EVENTS



Iconic events up to 10,000 people



Community / Sponsored events up to 3000 people

Church Street

Community / Sponsored events up to 500 people

events up to 500 people

Centres and halls. This context creates a compelling case for providing outdoor public spaces that are multi-use and allow for community operations and events. The proposed Riverbank Square and Parramatta Square are positioned to act as major event spaces hosting iconic events. While Civic Link aims to be the green active link between two event spaces, St John's Square proposed role in the city will be to host ceremonious events and small **Centenary Square** 4 10 RSD



SMALL SCALE EVENTS



Pedestrianised street, catering for small events up to 100 people



'Eat Street' mixed grain food and beverage spill out small events up to 50 people

06 St John's Anglican Cathedral Parramatta | Concept Landscape Master Plan

Proposed Events Spaces

tailored community events.

St John's Square

3

Community markets / Sponsored

1.4 Pedestrian Volumes

Project Summary

The City of Parramatta recent Draft Parramatta CBD Pedestrian Strategy demonstrates the city's commitment to active and sustainable transport. The core aim of the strategy;

"... is planning for walk-able heart of a vibrant healthy city... Pedestrians will be able to enjoy the streets and public spaces to meet, wait, watch and play. Those on foot or using a mobility aid will be prioritised and therefore safer in the CBD, enjoying stronger community connections and opportunities to be healthy and active..."

St John's Cathedral site is located in a central position within the CBD and has a great opportunity to improve the future of the pedestrian network. The current pedestrian volumes on a Thursday PM peak shown in Figure 9, reveals the majority of the movement is on the eastern side of the site on Centenary Square promenade. A common path detected are people walking from Hunter Street, through either a goat track within St John's gardens or through the Queensland Arcade towards Parramatta Station.

The future pedestrian volumes shown in Figure 10 predict that in 2056 the site's pedestrian movements will greatly increase from 201-500 people over three hours to 1001-2,000. This increase in pedestrian volumes will have a significant effect on the operations of the site and presents the opportunity to prioritise inclusive active transport.

The pedestrian data in Figure 9 and 10 was sourced from the Parramatta CBD Pedestrian Strategy and the pedestrian count survey was conducted by Cardno in March to April 2016.



Figure 5 & 6 | Pedestrian volumes from Hunter Street



Figure 7 | Pedestrian volumes cut through the Queensland Arcade



Figure 8 | Pedestrian volumes on Centenary Square Promenade

Legend					
Pedestrian Volumes					
1 to 100					
101 to 200					
201 to 500					
501 to 1,000					
1,001 to 2,000					
2001 to 3,000					
3001, to 5,000					



Figure 9 | Pedestrian Data | 1:5000 @ A3 🏠



Figure 10 | Pedestrian Data | 1:5000 (a) A3

1.5 Existing Site

Current Use

The current condition of the St John's Cathedral challenges the current and future aspirations for the Anglican Church Property Trust and local parishioner's. The redevelopment of the site has a great opportunity to provide St John's Church a more avid role in the public life in Parramatta CBD.

Today the site is largely fragmented and there is scope to, better connect pedestrian movement, separate vehicle use on site and to purchase a proportion of council owned Hunter Street in order to accommodate large ceremonious days. Further opportunities included to improved the aesthetics of the site, enhancing the presentation of the western entry of the cathedral, updating existing street furniture and adding vibrancy to the planting palette.

The site also includes a number of significant valued and mature trees which produce a dense shade and cooling, all of these should be preserved where possible and assessed by an arborist. The significant trees include one *Jacaranda mimosifolia, commonly know as Blue Jacaranda,* a *Liquidambar styraciflua* commonly know as American Sweetgum next to the Verger's cottage and two *Quercus robur,* commonly know as Common Oak next too the St John's Parish Hall.

Heritage Considerations

The key considerations regarding the heritage are too maintain exceptional view lines of the cathedral. In Figure 14 the four key views. While view one taken from Church Street Promenade is deemed high. Planting tree small to medium size tree is recommended, as to preserve the exceptional view of the cathedral. Considerations on how respectful integrate St John's Royal Gate in the future design is recommended, as to preserve the local sacrifice of Parramatta's sailors, nurses and soldiers who forth in World War II. Additionally the preservation of Verger's Cottage and fence line should be considered.



Figure 11 | View 3 From Centenary Square





Figure 12 | View 4 From Hunter Street

Legend

Existing tree retained Existing tree removed • Existing turf -Existing garden bed Existing sandstone paving Existing brick paving ETE Existing concrete paving Existing stone paving Existing Verger Cottage







Figure 14 | Existing Site| 1:750 @ A3

2. Design principles

2.1 Connectivity to the City

The proposed design of St John's Cathedral site should prioritise a flexible public realm that helps accommodate the strategic role of Parramatta in western Sydney. The site requires the function of servicing daily public life; connectivity and respite, as well as fluidly transform into event or ceremonial mode. Integrated power, water and drainage infrastructure to accommodate potential events is essential. Furthermore, a de-cluttered design will maximise connectivity, passive surveillance and flexibility of activity.

St John's location in the city at the termination of the Parramatta and Centenary Squares provides an opportunity for the site to respond and integrate the two civic spaces together. The design of St John's public realm has great agency in connecting and grounding the St John's Towers' to Parramatta's civic life.





Figure 17 | Connectivity to the city | 1:750 @ A3 🌔

2.2 Stitching into the Urban Fabric

The proposed design St John's should respect and celebrate the sites heritage and then stitch this history into the public realm in a contemporary way. Prominence should be given to The Royal Gate to the east of the cathedral and defining the spatial arrangement of paths and garden.

As Parramatta's CBD population increases, enhancing connectivity within the site is vital. Pedestrian paths should be maintain universal access for all and be legible for users. The key visual and pedestrian movement corridors will be strengthened through considered design.

Vehicle access in the proposed design should be managed operationally and used for ceremonious purposes, this will strengthen welcoming pedestrian site.



Figure 18 | The Royal Gate 1980



Figure 19 | The Royal Gate 2017



Figure 20 | Edge Centenary Square and St John's



Figure 21 | Urban Design | 1:750 @ A3 🌔

2.3 Reinterpreting the Historical Garden

The proposed design should reinterpret St John's historical garden not only an aesthetic setting for the cathedral, but as for the ecological services the garden can provide. Historical records and photography from the early 1900s shows St John's within a garden setting.

The contemporary garden within the site has a vital role in increasing the urban tree canopy of Parramatta's CBD and provide cool and shade for users. Reducing the amount impervious surfaces with lawn and garden beds and trees can also contribute to the reduction of the urban heat island. Preservation of all mature trees on site is critical, as to preserve aesthetic and ecological functions. As Parramatta CBD is prone to flooding, water sensitive urban design and water treatment should be considered within the proposed design.

A contemporary garden can also encourage daytime use for small groups to gather within a lush, comfortable and invigorating setting.



Figure 22 | Pitt Street Mall, Sydney



Figure 24| View from Church Street 1926

Figure 25 | View towards Church Street 1910

Figure 26 | View towards Church Street 1980

Figure 23 | Ostengen Bergo Schandorffsplass, Norway

Figure 27 | Green Square Zetland

2.4 Places for People

The proposed design should have a human centred approach paying close attention to scale, variety and comfort. The design should aim to provide people with respite from the city, creating places for congregation, spaces for informal recreation activities, as well intimate areas in the garden for people to sit and recharge.

The existing turf on the north of the cathedral is well used and loved part of public open space by the Parramatta community and should be preserved. This edge should be considered as an important visual connector between Church Street Promenade and the cathedral. The intent is to maintain an comparative area of turf to that of the existing as a formal 'forecourt' to the Cathedral.



Figure 28 | UTS Alumni Green, Sydney

Figure 29 | Sketch



Figure 30 | La Trobe University Bundoora Campus, Victoria



Figure 31 | Sourthern view of St Johns



Figure 32 | Central Park, Chippendale

3. Concept Landscape Master Plan

ASPECT Studios

3.1 Concept Landscape Master Plan

- 1 Raised central lawn with generous seating edge facing Church Street Promenade
- 2 Intimate garden zones with existing trees retained and decorative planting incorporated with passive seating
- 3 Formal St John's Square accommodating events and ceremonies. Seating provided to edges of square under feature trees. Hunter Street will be acquired and street will align with St Johns Lane. Managed operational vehicles will be permitted within in the square and access will be fronted with retractable bollards.
- 4

5

- Heritage Royal Gate retained
- Generous paved connection linking St John's Square with Centennial Square with seating under a cluster of trees to service users from St John's Tower
- St John's Lane way catering for small scale retail and pedestrian access

Legend

6

- Existin
 Existin
- Existing tree retained Existing tree removed Existing turf Existing garden bed Existing sandstone paving Existing brick paving Existing concrete paving Existing stone paving Existing Verger Cottage Existing white concrete seat Existing park bench Existing park bench Existing drain Existing sandstone fence Existing sandstone edge





3.2 Circulation Comparison

- 1 St Johns Square is new space created through a reclaimed portion of Hunter Street from Council.
- 2 St John's Lawn is like for like in square meter rate for lawn as this is a great assets to the community. Additional timber deck and edge treatment are included.
- 3 Existing trees are retained and garden rooms are order around new pathways.
- 4 St John's Lane way is a new addition to the pedestrian network

Existing condition



Proposed Landscape

3.3 St John's Square

Historical Square

The St John's Cathedral Square will have a unique and site specific pavement treatment to the ground plane. This treatment will enhance the entrance to the cathedral and frame the space for ceremonial events. The design will create two rows of trees at the edge of the square carefully sited to maintain clear view lines to cathedral. The mass planting and furniture will be located under the shade of the trees, creating comfortable spaces to gather. The design will

reference to the site's historical context through interpretative in-ground inlays and integration into the furniture.

In order to make the square form, land in the road reserve on Hunter Street will need to be acquired. In future, a long term solution would be to gradually remove road access on Hunter Street until Marsden Street. Subjected to operational, management and ownership issues.



Figure 37 | Joseph Venne Plaza, Montreal Canada





Figure 39 | St Plechleness Square, Netherlands





Figure 40 | Sovereign Square, Leeds UK

Figure 41 | St Patrick Square's, New Zealand, Boffa Miskell



Figure 42 | Bulletin Place, Sydney, ASPECT studios



Figure 43| Darling Square, Sydney, ASPECT studios



Figure 44 | Pitt Street Mall, Sydney, Tony Caro Architecture



3.4 St John's Lawn

The Active Lawn

The St John's Lawn proposes a raised edge creating activation on the Church Street Promenade side, while angling and sloping to meet flush on the cathedral edge. The raised turf will formalise the lawn space and prevent further wear. The design retains current amount of turf space and there are two areas of turf creating a consistent edge treatment to Church Street Promenade. Additionally a raised timber platform is sited at the interfaces between

Centenary Square and St Johns Cathedral, this feature can function as an event stage and strengthen the connection between the two sites.



Figure 46 | Wesley Quarter, Perth, Hassell

Figure 48 | La Trobe University,

Bundoora Victoria



Figure 47 | Section C | 1:100 @ A3



Figure 49 | Hyde Park Noodle Market

Figure 50 | UTS Alumni Green, Sydney, ASPECT



Figure 51 | The University of Sydney, Sydney



3.5 St John's Garden

The Historical Garden Reinterpreted

The proposed St John's garden has integrated and retained all of the existing trees, utilising the trees' shade and ecological values. The garden caters for a range of small scale seating opportunities suitable for groups and individuals. Bounding the gardens is a continuous raised seating edge. The paving in the seating areas will have a fine grain pavement to de-mark the space.

The paving of the central path through to Parramatta Station will be consistent with the main body paving on site which will be a high quality paving. The aesthetic of planting palette will be lush, colourful and scented. While the functions of the garden will reduce temperatures of Parramatta's CBD and assist in cleaning storm water on site.



Figure 53 | Stevenedge Town Centre, UK



Figure 54 |UTS Alumni Green, Sydney, ASPECT studios



Figure 55 | Section D | 1:200 @ A3



Figure 56 | Sovereign Square, Leeds UK



Figure 57 |Boras Textile Fashion Centre, Figure 58 | Stevenedge Town Centre, UK Sweden



Figure 59 | Garden | NTS @ A3



3.6 St John's Lane way

Fine Grain Activation

St John's Lane is proposed to be a pedestrian lane way connecting Macquarie Street and Hunter street through the north west part of the site. The lane way is proposed to host small retail and there is potential for the area to have unique lighting such as cantenary light or art treatment. The lane way should also allow for clear pedestrian movement and have shade tolerant plants in pots.



Figure 60 | Devgraves Street,

Melbourne



Figure 61 | Steam Mill Lane, Sydney



Figure 62 | Spice Alley, Central Park, Chippendale



Figure 63 | Angel Place, Sydney,





Figure 65 | St John's Lane | 1:250 @ A3 🌔

3.7 Existing Planting

Existing Planting on site

The significant trees within the grounds of the St John's Cathedral include; one *Jacaranda mimosifolia* commonly know as Blue Jacaranda on the south side of the Cathedral, eight *Lopohstemon confertus* commonly known as Queensland Brush Box along the southern boundary of the Cathedral's gardens, and one mature *Lagunaria patersonii* commonly known as Norfolk Island Hibiscus located to the Cathedral's southeast.

On the north side of the Cathedral are two mature *Quercus robur* commonly know as Common Oak and a large mature *Lopohstemon confertus* commonly known as Queensland Brush Box set amongst lawn and within Centenary Square to the north of the Cathedral a line of *Platanus x hybrida* commonly known as London Plane follows the former kerb line of Church Street.

Legend





3.8 Indicative Planting List

Planting design intent for St John's Cathedral requires detailed design. The indicative planting list below is provided as a guide to the design intent and character of planting that will be provided.

Botanic Name	Common Name	Туре	Origin			
St John's Square						
Liriodendron tulipifera	Tulip Tree	Deciduous Tree, 12m (h)	exotic			
Liquidambar styraciflua	Liquidambar	Deciduous Tree, 12m (h)	exotic			
Nyssa sylvatica	Black Tupelo	Deciduous Tree, 8m (h)	exotic			
Pittosporun 'Miss Muffet'	Dwarf Pittosporum	Hedging shrub, 1m (h)	exotic			
Lomandra 'Tanika'	Fine leaf Mat Rush	Native grass, 0.5m (h)	native			
Hymenocallis speciosa	Spiderlily	Perennial, 1m (h)	exotic			
Trachelospermum jasminoides	Star Jasmine	Scrambling shrub, 1m (h)	exotic			
St John's Garden/ External spillout zone						
Harpulia pendula	Tulipwood	Evergreen Tree, 10m (h)	native			
Pistacia chinensis	Chinese Pistachio	Deciduous Tree, 12m (h)	exotic			
Elaeocarpus reticulatus	Blueberry Ash	Evergreen Tree, 10m (h)	native			
Westringia fruticosa	Native rosemary	Shrub, 1m (h)	native			
Arthropodum cirratum	New Zealand Rock Lily	Perennial, 0.6m (h)	exotic			
Lavendula augustifolia	English Lavender	Flowering plant, 0.8m (h)	exotic			
Rosmarinum officinalis	Rosemary	Perennial herb, 1m (h)	exotic			
St John's Lane						
Hymenosporum flavum	Native frangipani	Evergreen Tree, 10m (h)	native			
Fycus lyrata	Fiddle Fig	Evergreen Tree, 8m (h)	exotic			
Elaeocarpus reticulatus	Blueberry Ash	Evergreen Tree, 10m (h)	native			
Dianella caerulea	Flax Lily	Native grass, 0.5m (h)	native			
Viola hederacea	Native Violet	Groundcover, 0.3m (h)	native			
Philodendron xanadu	Dwarf Philodendron	Shrub, 0.8m (h)	exotic			
Tulbaghia violacea	Society Garlic	Perennial, 0.3m (h)	exotic			

St John's Square

Planting design intent for St John's Square is for small to medium scaled deciduous trees that maintain view lines to the Cathedral, offer seasonal variation and winter sun, with an ornate exotic and native under-story planting mix.







Nyssa sylvatica Liriodendron tulipifera

Liquidambar styraciflua

Pittosporum 'Miss Muffet'

St John's Garden/ External Spillout zone

Planting design intent for St John's Garden/ External building spill-out zone is to build on the existing tree palette of ornamental flowering paired with native canopy trees, within a floral under-story mix that offers seasonal variation and sensory delight.







Pistacia chinensis

Harpulia pendula Elaeocarpus reticulatus

Westringia fruticosa

St John's Lane

Planting design intent for St John's Lane is to provide a hardy mix of shade tolerant species that are appropriate for planting in pots along the lane way.



Ficus lyrata



Hymenosporum flavum

Elaeocarpus reticulatus

Viola hederacea





Lomandra 'Tanika'



Hymenocallis speciosa Trachelospermun



jasminoides





Arthropodium cirratum



Lavendula angustifolia



Rosmarinus officinalis







Philodendron xanadu



Tulbaghia violacea



3.9 Material Palette

Existing Materiality





Figure 67 | St John's Cathedral geometric pattern sandstone

Figure 68 | St John's Cathedral decorative archway



Figure 69 | St John's Cathedral brick pattern

St John's Square

Material intent for St John's Square is to create a high quality public realm with lasting materials, bronze finishes and artistic historical representation.





thus the stand out

High quality stone body paving unit, with texture variation

High quality stone feature paving unit, with texture and colour variation

Historical interpretation

St John's Garden/ Lawn / External Spillout zone

Material intent for St John's lawn, garden and spill out zones is to create a textural and smaller scale palete. The materials will help stitch in the surrounding public realm and pay tribute to the historical context.





High quality stone body paving unit, with texture variation

High quality stone feature paving unit, with texture variation

Granitic sand

St John's Lane

Material intent for St John's Lane is to provide a unique urban character, promoting art and supporting Parramatta's cafe culture.







High quality stone paving of High quality pot plants a small unit

Art representation





High quality seating with timber

Bronze drains and feature





Hardwood timber decking



High quality seating edging





Catenary Lighting



Loose furniture

