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EDWARD WILLIAMS ARCHITECTS

This month we are looking at the **future**, at times through the lens of the bigger picture of masterplans, at others though projects that are thinking strategically in terms of sustainability and new technologies. We are sharing two of our recently completed masterplans that focus on the future of critical regeneration areas in Birmingham, UK, and are centred around two substantial and adjacent new hospitals sites - the Midland Metropolitan University Hospital site and the City Hospital site.

And in London three projects: the Grafton Way Proton Beam Therapy Building which has finally opened its doors. It is a fabulous new addition to the future of London and UK healthcare facilities. Our roof level densification and greening project in Tower Hamlets, London, is to date the only scheme to obtain Permitted Development in the Borough since the new legislation came to life, in August 2020, adding much needed new residential units in the area and helping to green the city. And finally we are also nearing completion on our urban infill development at Stratford, adding residential units while regenerating the area.

At the end of last year the whole Studio took part in our first retreat to brainstorm about our future as individuals and where we want to be as a practice in the next 10 years; we discovered a real confluence of thought by the end with an alignment of personal and Studio goals!

Wider MMUH and City Hospital Masterplan



MMUH and City Hospital Masterplan _ phase 1

For the wider Midland Metropolitan University Hospital (MMUH) site we developed an ambitious, urban neighbourhood centred vision for the two hospital sites and the areas that surround them. The NHS is the largest employer in the area. This image shows the MMUH site which is approximately 500m away from the City Hospital site, within 10-15 minutes from Birmingham City centre, and close to major road, rail and canal networks. The hospital, when completed in 2023, will provide for 5000+ staff and visitors, and is one of the biggest new hospitals in the UK.

The vision for the MMUH site can be summarised as follows:

Green development - tree lined spaces and green roofs to improve air quality and reduce heat island effect and rain water run-off;

Connectivity - re-opening canal routes, improved public transport strategy, new major bike lanes, and improved links between Midland Metropolitan Hospital site, City Hospital site and Birmingham City Centre;

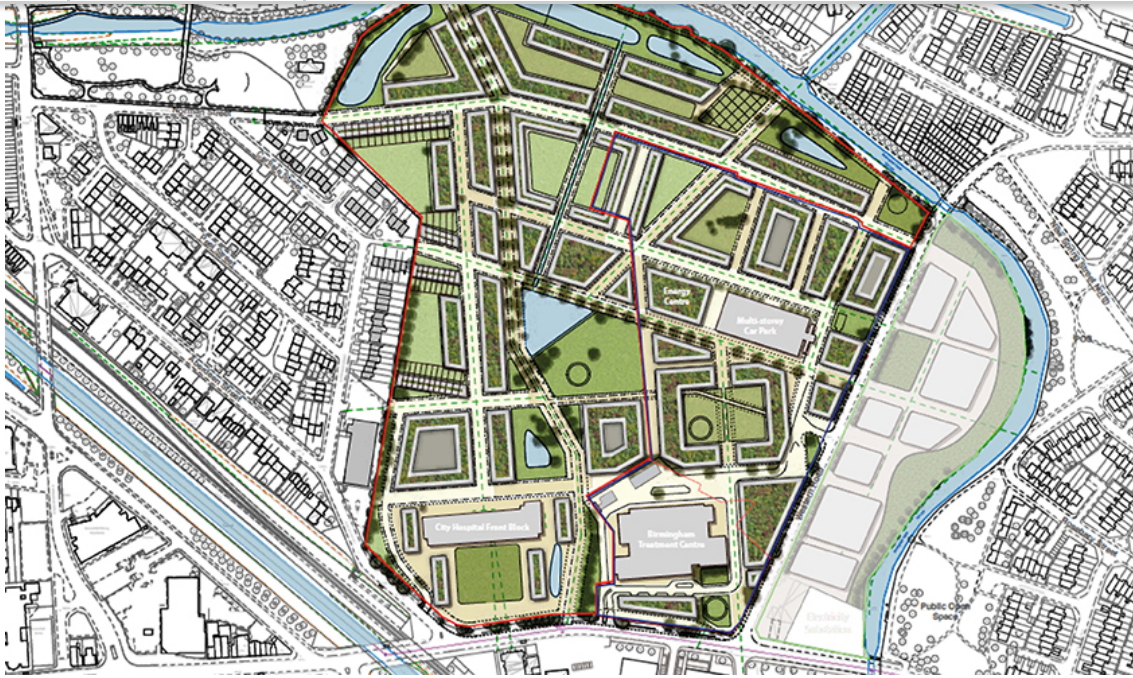
Public Space - the provision of major public space as the core of the development, and the improvement of communal and social interaction, resulting in a stronger sense of community;

Economic Regeneration - a mixed-use scheme encouraging commercial activity within the development, and a higher density that encourages social, commercial and academic interchange within the development and attracts other organisations;

Health Improvement - strategic transport links that encourage an active lifestyle. Increased employment opportunities and green development that improves air quality and encourages physical activity.

Read more about the masterplan [here](#).

City Hospital Masterplan



City Hospital and Homes England masterplan _ phase 2

As part of a first stage master planning exercise we were appointed to develop a master plan for both the wider Midland Metropolitan University Site and the City Hospital Site. The City Hospital site initial master plan focused on the part of the site retained by The Trust. As a result of the success of this first phase master plan, a broader master plan project looking at the wider site was commissioned by The Hospital Trust and Homes England. A new strategic master plan looking at maximising value across the whole site.

The master plan delivers a strategic vision for the site, including new residential development alongside the retained NHS uses to create a new mixed use community, a retained focused healthcare quarter with additional development plots for new healthcare functions, and a site wide sustainability strategy including sustainable urban drainage, energy and transport and access. All buildings are set around a green heart to the site, with good access restored along the perimeter canal and to other nearby developments. Heat mapping to establish maximum development heights and densities created a balance between value generation in terms of maximum developable area while at the same time being sensitive to the urban grain, existing buildings and communities and the creation of a positive public realm. Concepts such as the 15 minute city informed the development of the design.

Read more about the masterplan [here](#).

First patient being treated at the proton beam centre in Grafton Way in London



The Grafton Way UCLH building photographed from Tottenham Court Road, London.

The UCLH Proton Beam Therapy Centre in the Grafton Way Building, designed in association with Scott Tallon Walker is finally open. We are excited to share that the building completion has been widely covered in the press last week including Building Design, Building, Healthcare Estate Journal, Infrastructure Intelligence and PBC Today.

A video scrolling through the articles and stills and links to the articles can be found [here](#).

Permitted development consent for Tower Hamlet block in London



View of the new roof extension.

Permitted Development consent was obtained last month on a site of approx 0.3ha occupied by a 2010 built 4-storey residential block connected to a 5-storey block, comprising of 69 apartments of which 14 are affordable apartments. The proposal adds a floor on the unused flat grey roof, providing six new apartments with green terraces at level and an extensive green roof above.

The existing building's unused flat roof offered the opportunity to add some spectacular high level accommodation, in view of the developments that are being built all around the site. To keep with the proportions of the building we have limited the extension to one additional floor recessed from the main building as the level below, recessing even further in the locations that are daylight/sunlight sensitive for the surrounding properties.

The flat roof element of the new roof will accommodate a green roof to improve urban ecology. The new fifth floor façade will match the floor below with windows of similar proportions and materials. The structure will be lightweight metal or cross laminated timber. These systems are light and quick to erect minimising the disruption to the neighbours during construction.

The proposal carries out intensification of housing at this site since the site does not make efficient use of the roofs at present. The overall bulk and massing of our scheme is designed to complement the existing building and complete it in a positive and appropriate way for the area.

Infill regeneration project in Stratford nearing completion



Aerial rendered view of the project

The new buildings, nearing completion at Stratford, London, complete the back yards of an earlier development and make two small connected and intimate mews. The project is a fully comprehensive regeneration plan that improves and rationalises the landscaping of the back yards and the reduced car parking, by providing green barriers for privacy and significant trees are planted together with protected pedestrian walkways and a covered cycle park. Watch out for the finished buildings photographs early this spring.

Learn more about the project [here](#).

A collaborative vision for the Studio's future

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At the end of last year the studio went to Braintree, on a two day retreat to refresh our vision for the future. Cooking, eating, playing, talking, walking, thinking, and drinking together was hugely enjoyable, challenging and enlightening, and the team emerged better and stronger following this period of reflection and common purpose.

After a busy year it was the perfect opportunity to step back, to review where we have been and to consider where we want to be, what we want to do, and how we want to do it in the years ahead.

We came away united in our vision which can be summed up as maintaining a varied portfolio in terms of scale, sector and location, continuing our relentless focus on quality, material selection and detail, and delivering truly sustainable and greenhouse gas free projects for our clients and the planet.



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