

Description of Scheme

My scheme was developed for a leather worker that specialises in micro sculpting on leather like the artist Mark Evens. My scheme had to include a personal workshop and a teaching workshop that can accommodate 5 students at a time as well as meet the rest of the requirements for our altered brief.

After analysing the site a few attributes became very important for how I designed on the site these are as follows.

- The views of the tower from around the site, this became important because I wanted to take advantage of the best approach onto the site which I found to be the north-western side and I also wanted to give the private residence the best possible view of the tower.
- How light and shadows fall on the site, this was a major influence to the positioning of the buildings.
- The material qualities of the site including the exposed stone on the tower and the exposed redbrick in the classical building.
- The sense of enclosure from the surrounding bushes that make up the boundary of the site.

Stating with my conservation approach to developing the site, I gained a respect for how the tower house and classical building are at present, I feel that with their current aesthetic they have a certain mystical quality and I think how time tells a story on these old buildings is quite beautiful. With this approach I decided to develop an architectural language that inserts into the existing fabric of the classical building and wraps around to follow the agricultural building, in doing this I decided to leave the tower alone to be used as a space where people could visit and get the same magical feeling I got when I visited the tower first. This approach conserves the aesthetics of the tower and I think more importantly lets it continue its story with time.

The layout of my scheme

Entering the site from the northwest the viewer will be directed to the building towards the east which is closest to the tower this side of the site is the public side of the site with the entrance directly north of the tower, upon entering in the lobby there is a large double height space that uses a style of timber structure influenced by shigeru ban (examples on section and technology page) this structure supports the roof throughout and I have used it to pay tribute to how nature takes over old buildings. To the left is the teaching workshops designed to be a modular space where the space can be used for other activities. Above this on the first floor there are rooms sitting on the timber structure that provide space for a lecture room, office and lunch area. Straight through from the main entrance is the gallery area where the leather worker will exhibit their artwork and sell them, this part of the design is inserted into the classical building and connected through the gable wall this was to be a light structure that almost used the existing fabric as a skin and to contrast the old building.

On the east side of this site I have situated the leatherworkers personal workshop that is connected to the main teaching workshop through a first floor walk way on to a mezzanine that overlooks his personal space, this is where the students can see him at work. Directly south from this building there is a carport that will fit two cars and is built on pillars to almost look like one floating horizontal plane. Further south adjacent to the tower is the personal residence which I have situated here to take advantage of the best view of the tower on the site where I can be appreciated from the comforts of a modern home. This home on the ground floor has a large open plan living space and a spare bedroom and office and on the first floor the main bedroom and second bedroom overlook the sitting area below and share the same large window with a view of the tower.

The grounds are then left to be used as garden and external workshop areas when needed inside this courtyard space which was designed to contribute to the sense of enclosure the site offers.

