

3.2 ACTIVE FRONTAGES - THE PERMEABLE CAMPUS

As an urban campus embedded in the heart and grain of Sydney's inner city, UTS lacks the boundaries, fences and formal gateways of a more traditional garden or suburban university campus.

UTS has an urban character that should be built on and accentuated. As a major landholder in the city, UTS has a responsibility to contribute to both the physical and cultural life of the city.

This principle also allows the philosophies of UTS as an educational environment to be reflected in the built environment of its campus. Aspiring graduates look forward to a working career based on diversity and integration, free of borders. UTS has the opportunity to offer a built fabric that reinforces these fundamental principles.

Engage the City Streets

The campus should engage with the streets of the city and not turn its back on them. Currently, a number of the University's existing street frontages open successfully to the public domain, whilst others provide a fortress like presence. For example, UTS Building 5 (Library, Business and Law at the Haymarket Precinct) has an open and successful frontage to both Quay Street and Ultimo Road, whereas Building 4, the newly extended Science Building, has little engagement with Harris Street or Thomas Street either in the size of its public entries, or with any retail presence at street level.

There are opportunities, both in minor amendments to existing buildings and in the design of new buildings with significant street frontages, to develop a campus with excellent urban engagement and activated edges.

Existing building street frontages:

- Develop the existing retail/public facility opportunity in Building 4 at the corner of Thomas Street and Harris Street, either in a refurbishment of the current acupuncture clinic shopfront, or in a café/retail opportunity.
- Open a new direct ground level connection into Building 6 from the UPN.
- Develop retail opportunities at the entrance to and along Turner Lane, associated with more visible and prominent entrances to Buildings 1 and 3.

New building street frontages:

- Thomas Street building - provide a café and gallery at the corner of Jones Street.
- Broadway building - locate key retail on the Jones Street corner and along the Broadway street frontage.
- Building 1 Podium Extension - create a grand and wide entrance, with a striking screened garden. Provide a laneway/ pedestrian connection to the new cinema and existing Loft Bar, and a new retail tenancy fronting Broadway.
- Building 2 - provide retail frontage onto Jones Street, and open up visibility into the building from Jones Street, Broadway and Alumni Green.
- Open Alumni Green to engage with Jones Street.

Many Entrances

New and existing buildings should be permeable with many and varied entrances, as opposed to a single front door.

Existing Buildings

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|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| • Building 1 | Permeable edges, especially at the food court and bar                             |
| • Building 2 | New entrances off Jones Street and Alumni Green                                   |
| • Building 3 | Increased visibility of entrance from Turner Lane through active retail frontages |
| • Building 6 | New ground level entrance from the UPN and connection to Level 3.                 |

New Buildings

- |                             |                                                                                     |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| • Broadway building         | Entrances along its length via pedestrian connections/laneways through the building |
| • Thomas Street building    | Entrances at each end and access to Alumni Green                                    |
| • Podium Extension building | Multiple entrances off Broadway                                                     |

The Connected Campus

UTS is not an 'island' campus in the suburbs, but is connected to the Chinatown–Broadway–Glebe–Newtown retail and restaurant belt. Thus, while the campus should provide some retail and food outlets, it does not require the same level of facilities as may be required at a suburban campus. At UTS there should be greater reliance on what the city already provides.

At the same time, UTS should give back to the city by encouraging its neighbours to use the retail facilities provided on the campus edges. This will not only invigorate the campus but will allow the retail businesses to be more viable and offer a greater range of services.

Locating retail facilities on the campus edges will also encourage campus life after hours and add to the security of students and staff through having increased activity and illumination into the evening and the night.

The new Union food court on Alumni Green could operate during the traditional daytime and early evening hours, with the new retail hubs operating into the late evening and night. The latter might include the new Thomas Street corner retail/gallery facility, the new Broadway building street frontage and the new cinema hub.

The food court should not try to provide everything and be so large that it loses intimacy. It is often the small, intimate spaces in the city that are the best for city – and campus – life.