Precinct Village Green



Part 3A Application Landscape Design Proposals Scale 1:250 @ A1











The original siting of the Sanitarium in a natural setting, and with generous estate grounds with orchards and produce gardens reflected the Church values of a holistic doctrine of health care through healthy environment, exercise, and good living . The 'Village Green' as a space was formed in the initial site planning of the 'Sanitarium' as opened in 1903. A long, central lawn and gardens were defined by the two straight arms of a formal 'circular' driveway that defined a long wedge form, finishing with a broad curve at the front of the building. It was a 'Romantic' type garden setting, with the roadway establishing the 'view point' for distant views up the long 'rolling lawns', with foreground and flanking trees framing the view to the building. Postcards, photos and aerial photographs contained in the Graham Brooks & Associates 'Interpretation Stategy' show this layout, which accentuates a 'grand perspective' of a country estate type building upon entering the site.

The length of the lawn is now reduced, and convergence of the two 'arms' of roadway eliminated by the current main entry road cutting off part of the original layout. Despite general evolution of roadways, and replacement of the original building with the current 'Main Building', the layout and even many of the original plantings are still in evidence in the current Village Green shape and plantings.

The Brief

The use of the broad lawn area has evolved over the years to provide an area of general recreation and respite for patients, staff and visitors of the hospital. In addition to providing general passive recreation, the space is used as a location for staging of events such as carol-singing, and even an annual fair involving the partial closing of the main entry road, and installation of a stage. These functions are proposed to continue in the space, with expansion of it's role possible with the proposed removal of 'ring road' access. The canopy above the new Concourse central access spine through the hospital will provide a modern focal element in the view, with this element visually resolving on the new Chapel building to site adjacent a new terrace space extending from the Concourse. The overall Brief is to enlarge the lawn area and improve the amenity of the area. More detailed considerations are reflected in the plans, including:

- Maintaining the function of the access roadway along the southern edge, but generally downgrading this road to a 'shareway' so as to maximize the sense of open space, and discontinue the function and appearance of this as the main site arrival and entry point;
- To improve the relationship of the space to the San Clinic building to the north;
- To continue the pedestrian link towards the east from the San Clinic pedestrian bridge, and create a plaza / breakout space at that lower lower mid-level of the Concourse.

This provides a synopsis only of the detailed Brief, with the landscape design proposals reflecting a range of more detailed aspects of the client requirements.

Landscape Design Proposals

Generally, the brief of expressing the holistic values of providing health care in a wholesome setting is to be continued. Retaining the original layout and enhancing this to suit the new building forms maintains a direct link back to the original Sanitarium intent and heritage. The shape of the lawn and flanking paths and trees on the adjacent design drawing closely reflects and even reinstates the initial lawn and garden shape, and enlarging of the lawn adjusts the scale of the space to be suitable to the larger building fabric.

The existing 'Village Green' has been transformed into a multi-functional space that addresses key issues of access, visual linkages, amenity, provision for open space and adheres to its cultural heritage.

The 'Village Green' area has been enlarged as a result of the removal of the road, and improved to provide for the on-going passive recreation and community event functions. The new design is seen to be sympathetic with the architecture and harmonizes built form with the landscape to significantly improve the open space identity and

The proposed concourse provides a wide paved piazza area that is bordered by the new landscape emerging from the ground level below.

A contemplation garden has been incorporated into the design to create a passive space for users to congregate, pray and reflect in a more intimate environment. The access route from the entry of Fox Valley Road is to express a 'shareway' zone with pedestrian priority, that extends the open space qualities of the 'village green' whilst also allowing for vehicle access to the emergency ward.

The bus shelter, pedestrian entries and pedestrian crossings have been reconfigured to improve visual clarity, safety and amenity and create a clear continuity throughout the site.

Existing Site Impacts

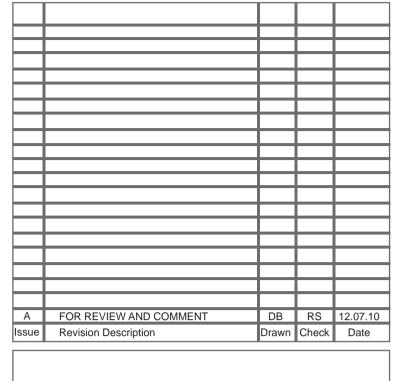
The loop road up to the existing entry is to be removed as part of the change of the main entry to the Hospital to the new location to the north. A new broad terrace area adjacent the building is to provide a significant civic space as an external annex to the large civic spine that is being created along a north-south axis, linking to the new north entry. A number of tree plantings in the lawn are aging and unhealthy and require removal, many appearing to not be part of, or consistent with, the initial planting strategy. Key focal trees appear to either be from the initial scheme, or at least replanting consistent with that initial intent, and these are shown retained. Regrading of the lawn area is proposed to assist in creating a uniform quality consistent with the original layout. Further changes are indicated in the plan, including raising the levels close to the San Clinic Building.

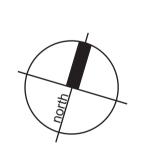
Conclusion

The design proposals build closely upon the original layouts of the front lawns and gardens, with changes to respond to the functional and aesthetic requirements for expanded space and it's adjusted setting. The proposals have taken considerable care to reflect the original and on-going values of the Hospital and Church, and are believed to be consistent with the actual needs of the hospital and community. The modernized 'Village Green' is believed to provide a substantial improvement to the existing open space in response to the Brief, whilst protecting the historic layout and intent of the original space.

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The contractor shall check and verify all work on site (including work by others) before commencing the landscape installation. Any discrepancies are to be reported to the Project Manager or Landscape Architect prior to commencing work. Do not scale this drawing. Any required dimensions not shown shall be referred to the Landscape Architect for confirmation.





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PRECINCT PLAN

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