



Blueprint for the future: Creating a space master plan for visionary library spaces

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UCC Library

**A TRADITION OF
INDEPENDENT
THINKING**



University College Cork, Ireland
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh

University College Cork

Culture/Organisation/Context Setting

- Queens College Cork, now University College Cork, established in 1845 with 115 students enrolling in 1849.
- University College Cork for academic year ending September 2022 had 21,335 FTE students.
- UCC is ranked 8th in the world for impact (Times Higher Impact THE) and ranked 9th globally in the UI Green Metric World University Ranking of sustainable universities, the first educational establishment in the world to achieve ISO 50001 certification for energy management.
- Public sector organisation funded by the state and by research income.



UCC Library - Boole

- UCC Library is primarily located within the Boole building, opened in 1983. Original building is four-storey over basement in a striking precast concrete in the brutalist style. The Boole completes the southern side of the historic Quadrangle. No substantive improvements or upgrades made to the original building since built.
- A new Eastern Wing clad in copper and glass was completed in 2007 bringing the footprint of Boole to 18,000 m².
- The Boole Library is one of the busiest buildings on campus with an average of 5,000 daily visits during busy semester times and 1.5 million visits during a typical year.



UCC Library - Boole

- Boole open to users 7 days over 51 weeks and has the longest opening hours of any Higher Education Institute in Ireland.
- UCC Library nominated as a runner-up for the 4th IFLA Green Library Award 2019 [IFLA Green Library Award 2019 Winners Announced – IFLA](#)

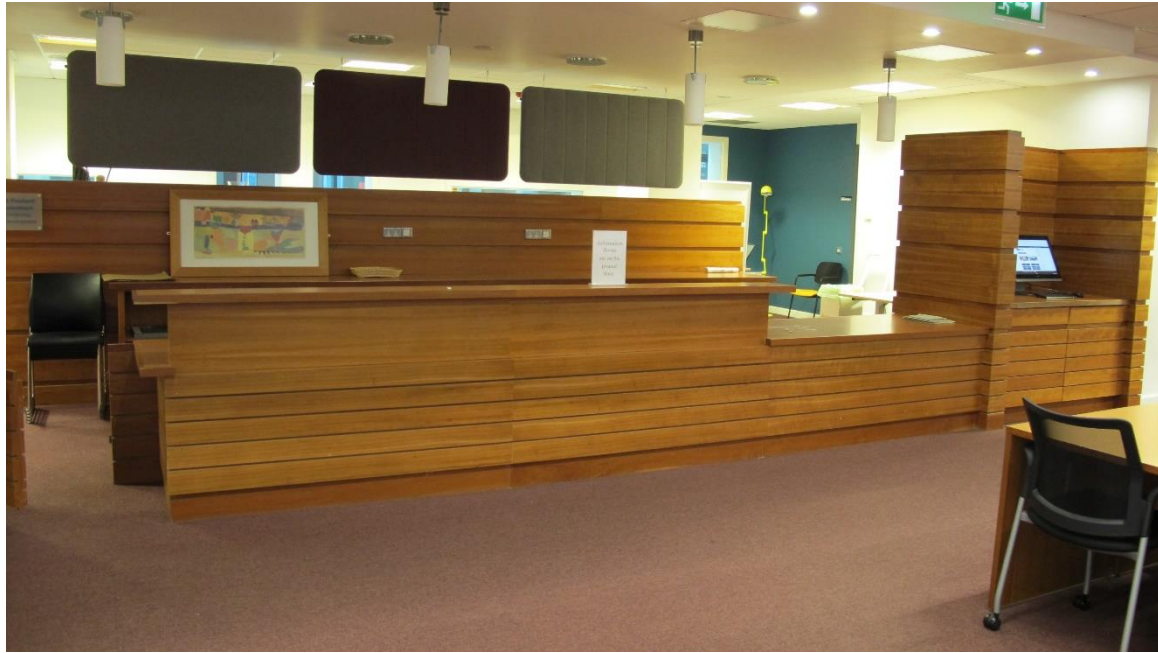


IFLA GREEN LIBRARY AWARD

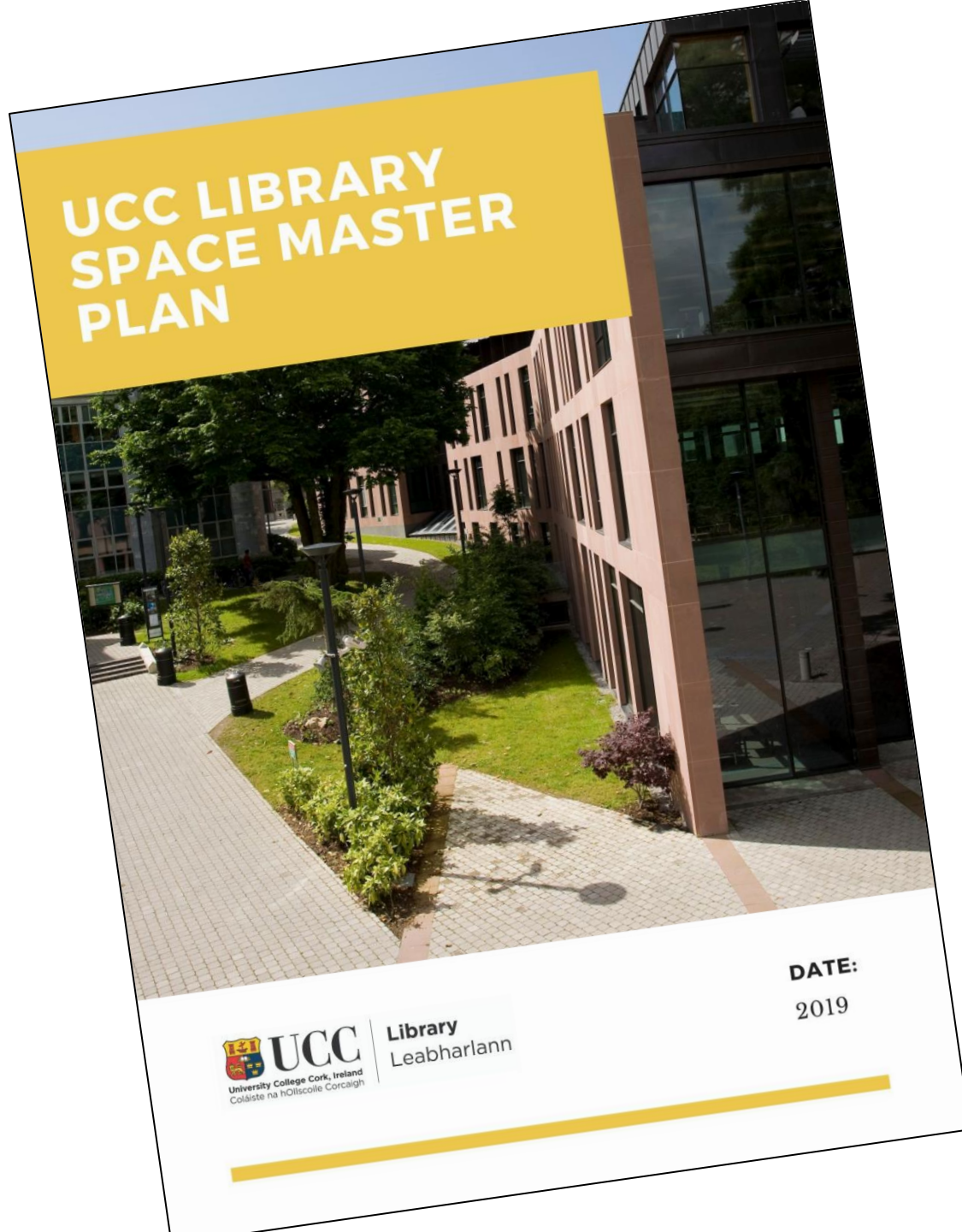
Boole Library – photo study



Boole Library – photo study



UCC Library Space Master Plan



libguides.ucc.ie/masterplan

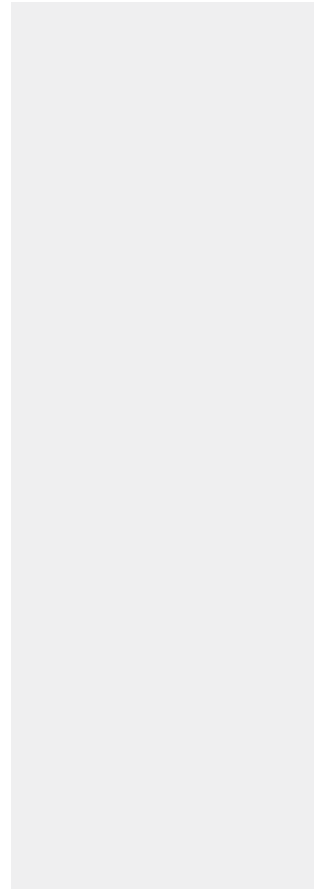
4 Dimensions

- Ground Floor redesign & UCC Library Treasures Gallery
- Technology-rich Spaces
- Collections & Storage Facilities
- Expanded University Footprint

Guiding Principles

- Library as a Community Space
 - Opening up the ground floor as a central destination for all.
- Interdisciplinary Collaboration
 - Providing opportunities for new forms of scholarship and collaboration.
- Print Collections
 - Balancing our role as custodians of the print collection and the demand for smarter space usage.
- Knowledge Creation
- New Types of Space
- The Expanding University

Ground Floor Redesign & UCC Library Treasures Gallery





Publicly-accessible space containing:

- Signature Treasures Gallery
- Performance/event space
- Expanded Exhibition Space
- Collaborative Student learning zone
- Cork University Press Bookstore
- Café/Refreshments
- Open, bright meeting space



UNIVERSITY
TREASURES
GALLERY

CAPE 60AT
1/1/89

I almost
but would have
the stones of Silence.

s of silence. I am the artful voyeur of our brains exposed

of your brain's exposed
and darkened courts,
your muscles' webbing
and all your numbered bones:

I who have stood dumb
when your betraying sisters
called in far,
wept by the railings

who would connive
in civilized outrage
yet understand the exact
and tribal, intimate revenge.

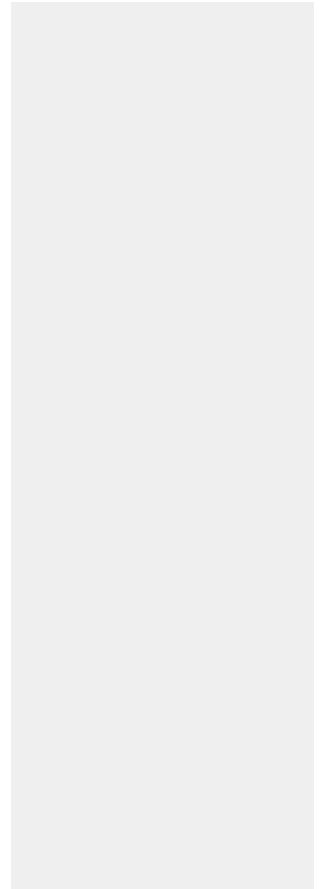
written out on June 11th 1989, on
the evening of the 50/60 reading with friend
Seamus Heaney.







Technology-rich Learning Spaces





Repurposed First Floor Footprint to include:

Relocation of printing collections for repurposed learning space provision.

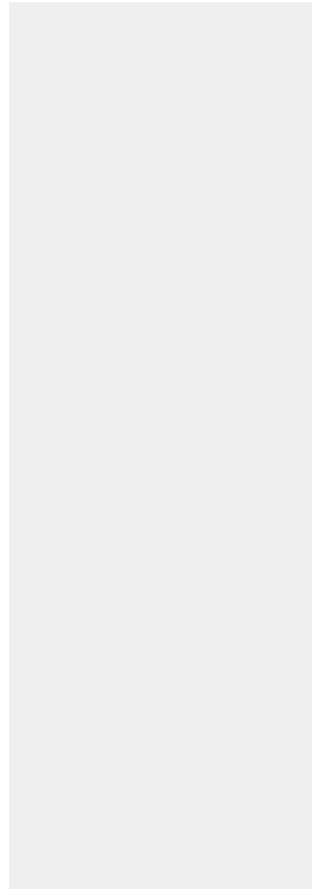
Introduction of technology-rich learning spaces:

- Maker Space,
- Digital Media Production labs,
- Immersive technologies (VR/AR/XR)
- Technology-enabled collaborative spaces

Collections & Storage Facilities

Fit-for-purpose off-site repository for long-term preservation of collections, and facilities to enable modern, rapid collection retrieval and document supply services.

Expanded University Footprint



First images of UCC's new €106m city centre business school

To be located on the former Brooks Haughton site on Cork's Copley Street

Catherine Shanahan Deputy Property Editor



University College Cork (UCC) has applied for planning permission for the development of a world class business school in the centre of Cork City. The proposed new building will be home to Cork University Business School (CUBS). Credit: G-Net 3D

THE first images of what the new €106m Cork University Business School (CUBS) will look like if cleared by city planners shows a stunning, heavily glazed



Proposed UCC dental school and innovation hub set to benefit patients and local industry

Children and adults requiring special care dentistry whose needs have not been met in the past will be among those to benefit when Cork University Dental School and Hospital opens its doors in 2023.





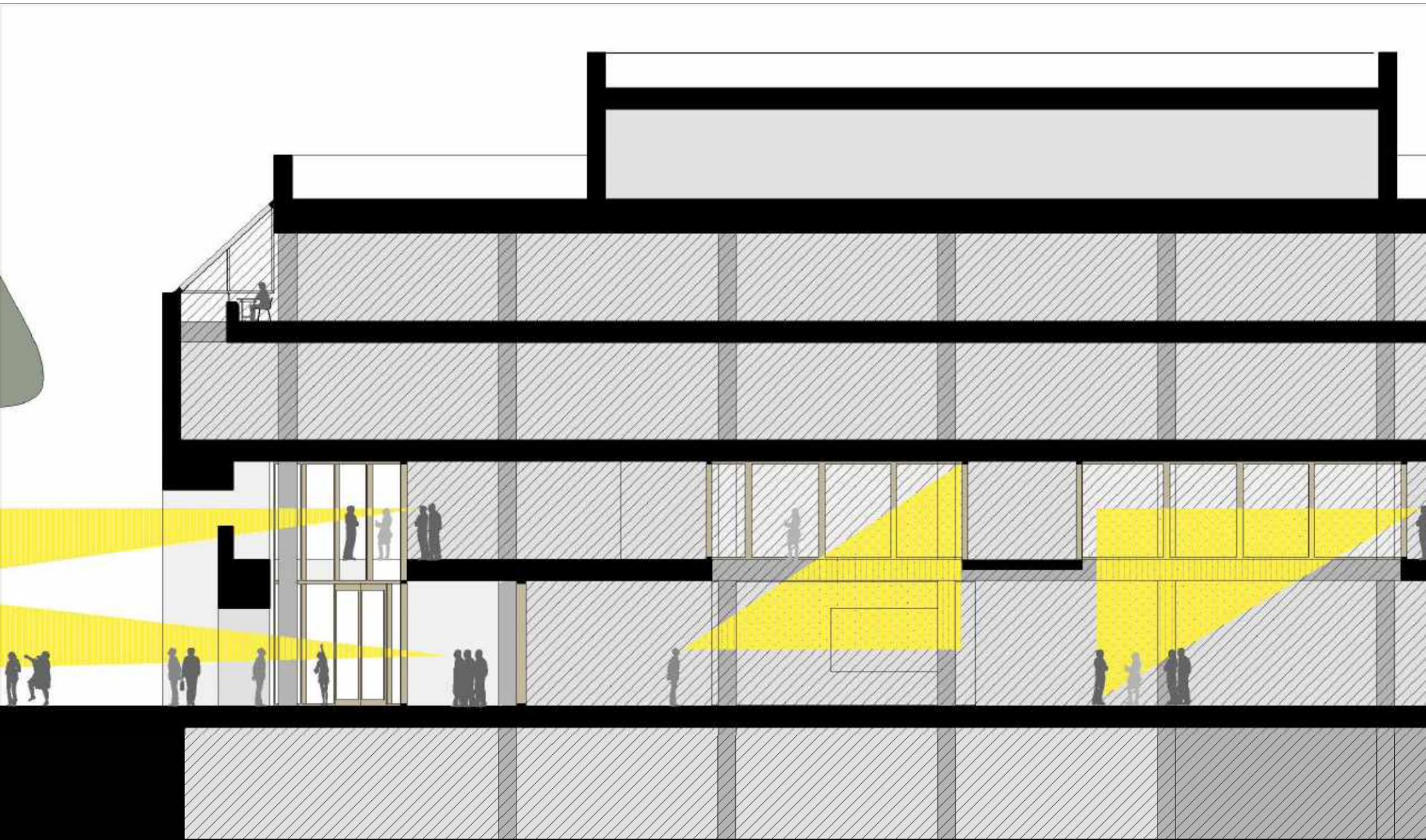
Cork University Hospital

Long awaited new medical school for UCC gets the green light

By Valerie Ryan 1st April 2021

Cork City Council approves construction of three-storey build

The construction of a new three-storey clinical medical school for University College Cork (UCC) at the campus of Cork University Hospital has been given the go ahead by Cork City Council.



Communicating the Space Master Plan

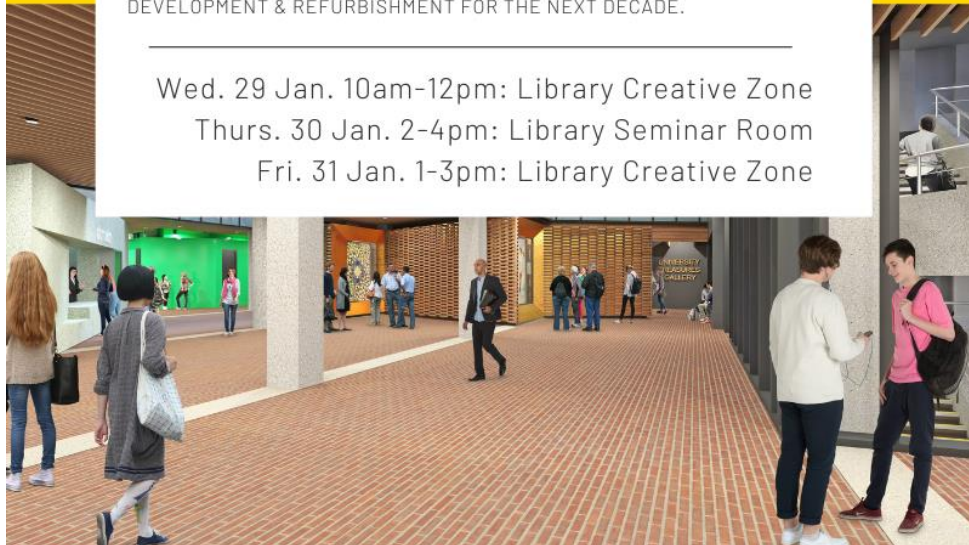
UCC LIBRARY SPACE MASTER PLAN TOWN HALL

YOU ARE WARMLY INVITED TO ATTEND A CONSULTATION SESSION ON THE UCC LIBRARY SPACE MASTER PLAN - A VISION DOCUMENT SETTING OUT THE REQUIREMENTS FOR SUBSTANTIAL LIBRARY SPACE DEVELOPMENT & REFURBISHMENT FOR THE NEXT DECADE.

Wed. 29 Jan. 10am-12pm: Library Creative Zone

Thurs. 30 Jan. 2-4pm: Library Seminar Room

Fri. 31 Jan. 1-3pm: Library Creative Zone



Series of townhalls with all stakeholders to communicate the space masterplan and seek feedback to inform the final vision

Vision website including feedback form and shared resources

Stakeholder Response to the Space Master Plan Vision

- Difficulty in viewing feasibility study as concept blocking exercise, and not a final architect design
- More collaborative spaces, both formal & informal
- Student excitement over development of technology-rich spaces & services
- Academic Faculty resistance around refined physical collections – particularly in Arts & Humanities.
- No to the Café!!! - “commercialisation” of library spaces

Interpretive Planners – benefits

- Concept design provided by architects to validate feasibility of masterplan and provide basis for accurate costing.
- Serendipity – Vice Chair, National Gallery of Ireland and Project Director of GPO Witness History <https://www.anpost.com/Witness-history>
- Impressed upon us the importance of engaging with an Interpretive Planner at the concept/feasibility stage of a project
- Martello Narrative Architects – focus on user experience (ux), makes sense of maximising use and flow of the space via that lens. Creators of immersive experiences.
- Experienced in delivering a wide array of exhibition, heritage and educational centres.

Blueprint for Library Space Development – Progress-to-date

Interpretative Planners - Findings

- Clarified need to relocate entrance to optimise the experience
- Recommendation to maximise the footprint for the Treasures Gallery to ensure impact and to provide an enhanced experience
- Provided a 3D flythrough of the Treasures Gallery
- Consideration given to manage the flow and circulation of footfall of our core academic users
- Updated and more realistic costings for the Treasures Gallery
- Confirmed that which the architects flagged – Treasures Gallery needs to be incorporated into a full floor redevelopment with a holistic design to meet the needs of all stakeholders.
- Delivered oncreased stakeholder engagement by facilitating workshops with internal stakeholder groups

UCC Library Treasures Gallery

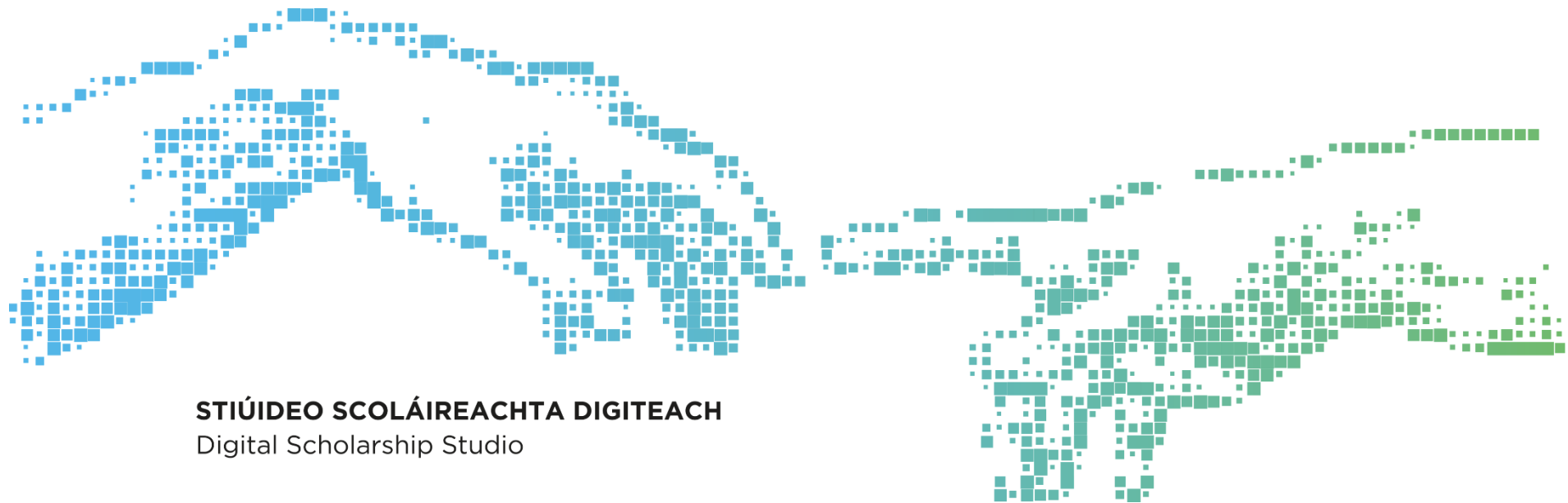
UCC Library Treasures Gallery identified as a strategic priority in the new University Strategic Plan under the Global Engagement Strategic Goal.

Collaboration with the university's alumni & development office to identify and target philanthropic funding sources

Deeper costs and order of magnitude exercises carried out with UCC Buildings & Estates office.



Technology-rich Spaces

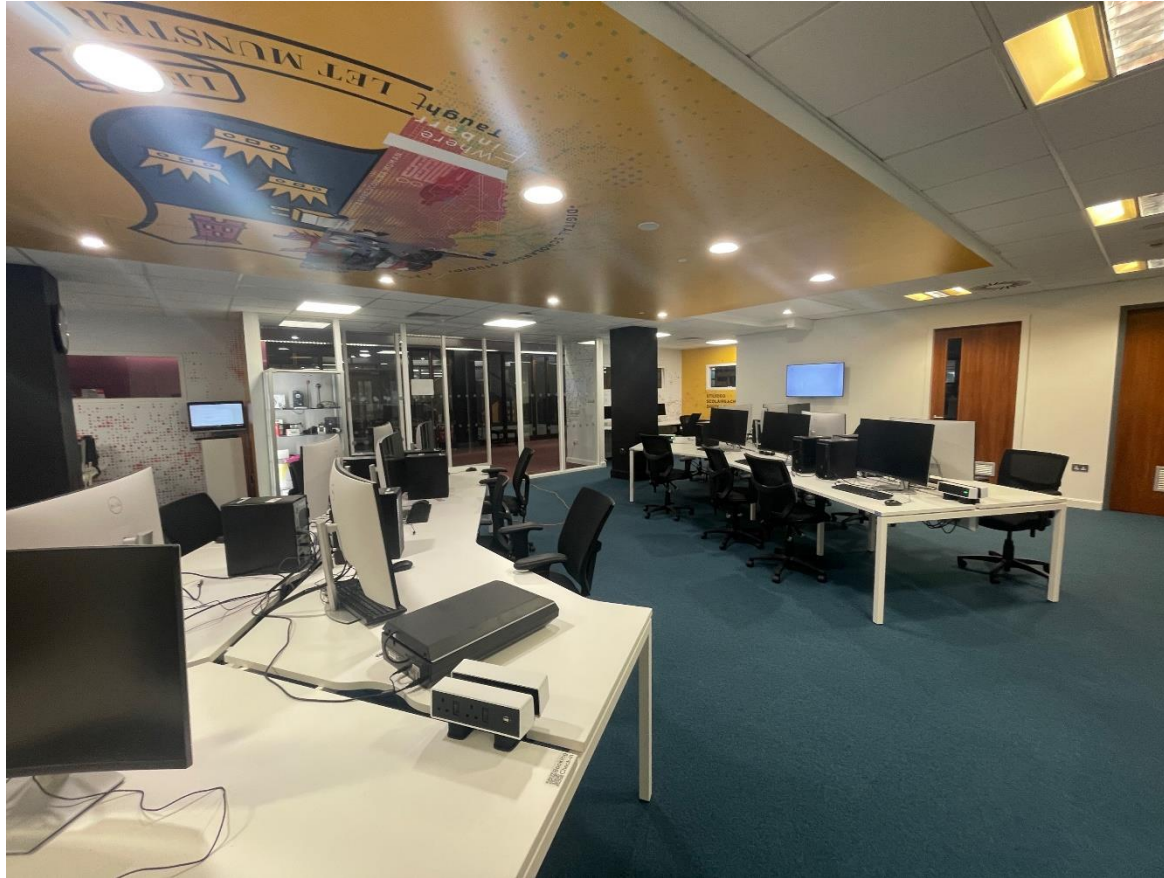


STIÚIDEO SCOLÁIREACHTA DIGITEACH
Digital Scholarship Studio

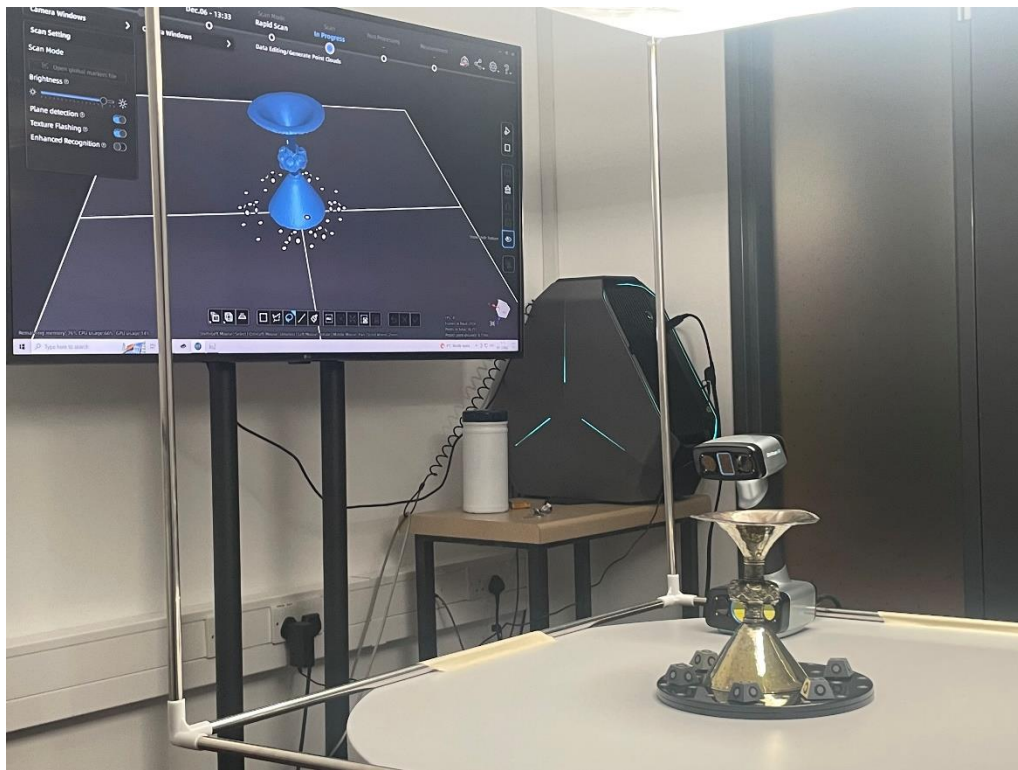
Before



Digital Scholarship Studio



A technology-rich space providing access to equipment, hardware and software for creating new knowledge, and provides opportunities for our users to develop their digital literacy skills.



Includes Digital Makerspace,
with emphasis on 3D scanning,
modelling and printing.

Technology-lending

Specialised services for
knowledge creation

Dedicated staff to integrate
space & services into the
learning and research activities
of the University.

UCC Library Studio & Podcast Room



One-touch video recording & green-screen technology

Sound recording and audio equipment to facilitate podcasting and other sound production activities

Digital Environment Lounge

Room-scale VR and augmented reality technology & equipment

Virtual & Immersive content consumption

Licensed and created content



Other Irish University Research Libraries

University College Cork is one of the 7 research-intensive universities in the Irish higher education landscape. It is the outlier in not having any significant investment or redevelopment since the 2007 extension.

1. Trinity College Dublin – currently developing their Long Room
2. University College Dublin – currently under significant redevelopment (approx. €20m)
3. University College Limerick – Ireland's newest academic library with Europe's only ARC system
4. University College Galway – Planning received last week for new library building to include ARC retrieval system
5. University College Maynooth – developed in recent past
6. Dublin College University – refurbished a number of their branches

What now?

- All efforts to date have been to establish stakeholder buy-in internally and to establish the redevelopment of the library as a valid project by the University.
- Work done has elevated the project to the UCC Strategic Plan for the delivery of a Treasures Gallery.
- UCC Library working to continue to advocate the wider merits of the redevelopment of the entire library and to challenge the University to identify suitable funding streams to support that redevelopment.

UCC Library Space Master Plan: libguides.ucc.ie/masterplan

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