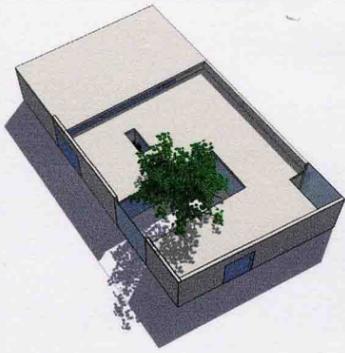


light movement in counseling room



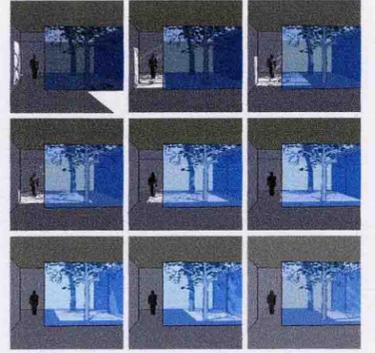
northwest aerial view



anniversary tree retained in large courtyard



north east aerial view



light movement in large courtyard

The intention is to provide a new building, which fulfils a number of social and urban roles. The pastoral centre is conceived as a key public building within the new urban fabric of its context. Its relationship to the new library, existing church and refurbished community centre is critical and the strategic landscaping of intermediate areas will ensure the buildings sit together successfully within a unified site.

The building has a clearly defined distinction between the public social spaces of the large hall, large meeting room, café and entrance and the private more intimate spaces of the smaller meeting rooms. The public spaces are articulated by the removable partitions, clearly defined openings, increased ceiling heights and the penetration of natural light to clearly define social spaces which are intended for communication and interaction. The smaller rooms are positioned deep within the building and adjacent to, or facing, courtyards to create introspective spaces where the occupant feels sheltered from the external world.

The nature of each room is uniquely defined by its relationship to its external environment. The smaller meeting rooms have no direct views to the surroundings of the building, instead roof lights provide views to the sky, low level windows provide views to the reflective or textured ground surfaces and glazed openings provide views to the protected external spaces of the courtyards. The penetration and movement of natural light is also unique to each room and is determined by different combinations of direct, borrowed or reflected light from adjacent courtyards and roof lights.

The large timber door is the public entrance to the building and is conceived as a marker which signifies if the building is open or closed, when it is open or closed. The smaller side door adjacent to the reception office is intended for more frequent access purposes. Both entrances are overlooked by the reception office ensuring supervised access to the building.

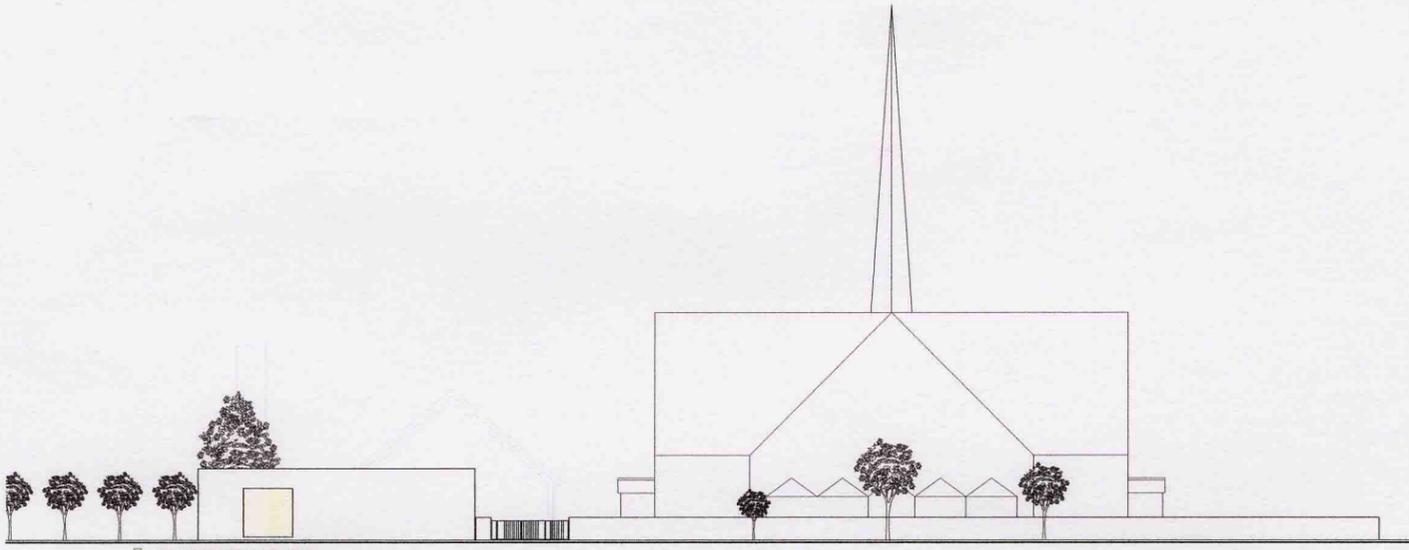
The glazing to the side of the large hall is conceived as a series of retractable screens, which can be fully opened to the landscaped plaza to the front of the building for occasional public events such as parish fairs, community talks and concerts, particularly during summer months. The internal timber screens to the opposite side of this hall serve a similar purpose, opening to provide direct access to the café area after seminars or meetings for more relaxed social gathering. The large meeting room has a glazed opening to the side of the building, which can serve as a discrete access point to this hall during AA or similar meetings.

We envisage the pastoral centre as a precious modern object set within the grounds of the church. The purity of its external form is subtly articulated and enlivened by a limited palette of delicate materials, such as brick, render, timber and opal glass. The simplicity of the external form reinforces the building's conception as a solid object out of which spaces are intricately carved and the rectangular geometry of the pastoral centre compliments and respects the complexity of the church's geometry. The flat roof provides the pastoral centre with a clean horizontal profile, which is critical to this relationship with the church and ensuring the centre, does not seek to imitate or mock the church.

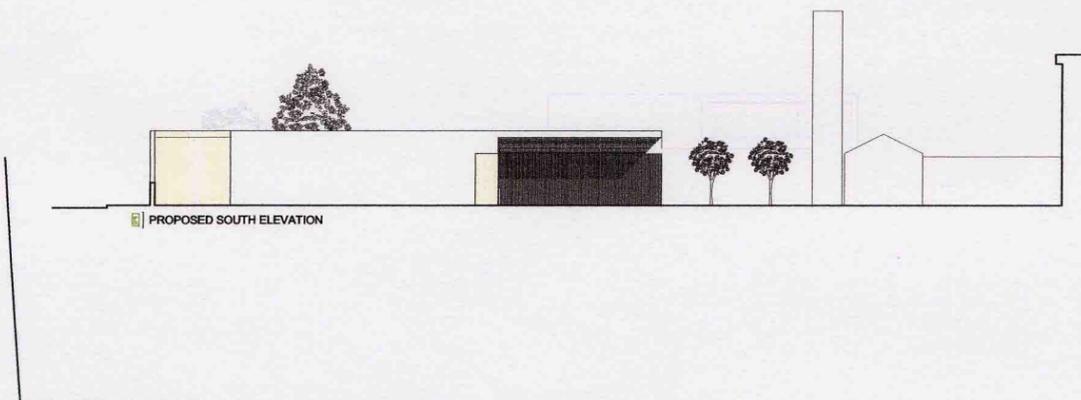
The flat roof is critical to the pastoral centre design as the internal spaces are informed by the movement of natural light gained from the courtyards and roof lights, and this would be severely compromised by a pitched roof profile. The large courtyard has been positioned to allow the retention of the anniversary oak tree and possibly the adjacent tree. These deciduous trees will provide the courtyard with dappled light during summer months while minimising shading during winter months.

We are aware the poplar trees behind the boundary wall between the library and courtyard may be coming to the end of their life and we are seeking an expert opinion from The Tree Council. If it is deemed advisable to remove these trees we propose they are replaced with the same species of tree that will be used in the new library car park. We would also propose that this boundary wall is removed and replaced with a linear bench, which will continue to define this boundary while providing a visually connected open space between the two buildings. This will avoid creating a hidden pocket of space to the side of the pastoral centre, which may be prone to anti-social behaviour and instead creates a space, which will be subject to surveillance from the library, pastoral centre and the road.

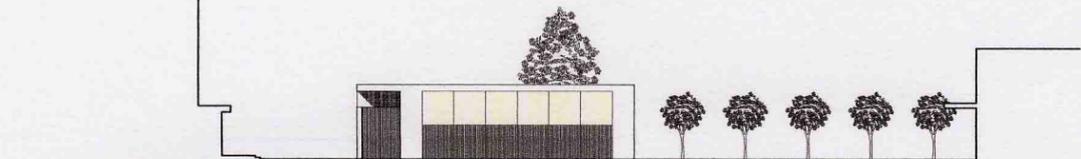
The building design will include for defensive measures such as anti-andal glass and paint and shutters, which can be used to close off the building at night as necessary.



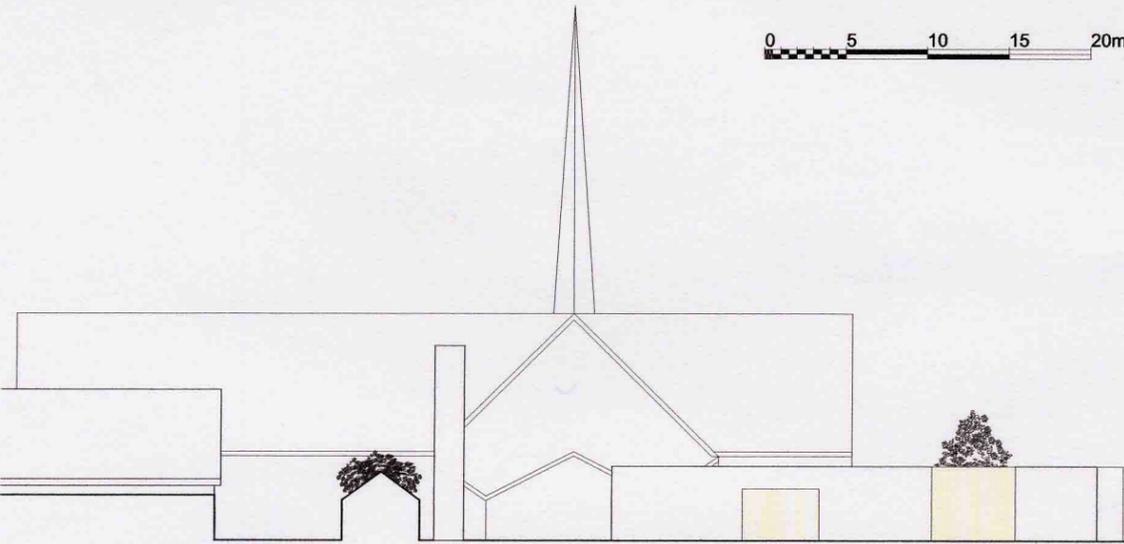
PROPOSED WEST ELEVATION



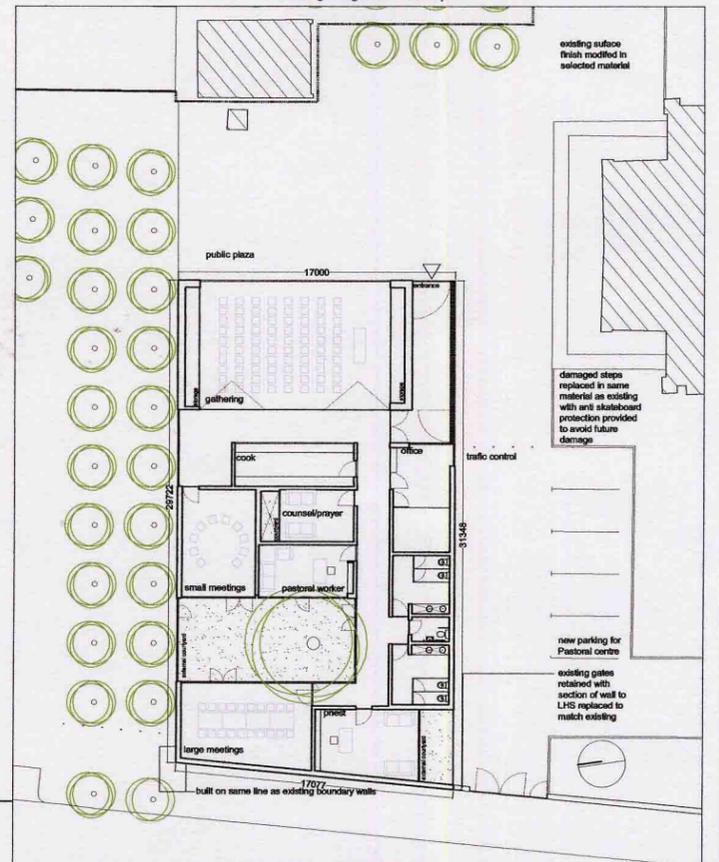
PROPOSED SOUTH ELEVATION



PROPOSED EAST ELEVATION



PROPOSED NORTH ELEVATION



pastoral

center

