The Vision

When you reach the University of Leicester, there should be a *feel* that you are here; something intangible that communicates the Leicester brand better than words or signs. This feel should be embedded and say that we are a 21st century campus. This means we are future-proofed against global and localised pressures; prepared to adapt to physical changes and embrace new ideas readily.

Our campus should be comprised of Interesting, Immersive and Interactive Sites (IIIS) that are open and accessible to students, staff, the local community and other species. We want to be known as the campus that is so diverse we welcome all forms of life. Let’s celebrate our differences.

The Leicester for Life promise

Leicester for Life is a promise made by the University to uphold our motto “So that they may have life.” It is a commitment to create and enhance space for diversity of life – human and non-human alike. We are renowned for our internationalism and multi-cultural communities; we should use this strength to demonstrate the variety of spaces / habitats we can create for social good.

The Challenges

As an urban parkland, we struggle for space and much of the green areas around our Main Campus is not our own. Our property is spread throughout the city and no site is ever the same – so how can we make this a positive experience? Many students are only here for autumn, winter and spring; how can we make the coldest times of year beautiful and an enjoyable time to be outside – without resorting to unsustainable measures?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What we don't want</th>
<th>What we want</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lots of moving digital signage and screens</td>
<td>Personalised to Leicester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death by planters</td>
<td>Integrated art with a consistent message / theme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overdesigned expense</td>
<td>Partnerships &amp; collaboration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pointless plants and overtly formal features</td>
<td>Colour and vivacity</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Solution

- Future-facing campus
  
  *Buildings designed that can adapt to meet changing user needs and environmental pressures*

- Synanthropic design
  
  *Building features and spaces designed specifically for wildlife. Including Integral bird bricks, Green roofs and walls (modular &/or trellis), bogs, ponds, wild pockets, indoor planting.*

- Edible campus
  
  *Students & staff want to see food plots and areas which encourage healthy, sustainable living.*

- Leicester Links
  
  *Work with the Council and other partners to improve connectivity, including how people travel, our relationship with the community and our wildlife corridors e.g. Railway – Cemetery – Main Campus*

- Artistic integration
  
  *Use art to communicate, enhance design and celebrate life.*

http://www.artecology.space/about/
A 21st Century Campus

We want to create a modern campus environment that faces future issues and is resilient against global and localised pressures. The challenges to be addressed are summarised by the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals, which the University has committed to.¹

Grounding exercise

Achieving this vision of building sustainably requires us to check our thinking and ensure we are following best practice. This grounding exercise poses a number of questions to make sure we have exhausted all the options laid out by Design Guides and adhered to the standards set by University strategy and policy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How much emphasis is currently being placed on how the building looks, in comparison to how it generates character through holistic design?</td>
<td>How has work / life balance been considered?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How has the brief been interpreted?</td>
<td>What is our interpretation of modern?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How have we applied the Leicester for Life vision and accompanying Sustainable Development Goals into the project?</td>
<td>How is it reflected in the design? Does it push boundaries?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As an innovative research institution, how have we employed cutting edge technology / approaches into the project?</td>
<td>Are we celebrating / showcasing the credentials (and activity) of buildings and users?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>How are we creating spaces to enjoy?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Are we bringing the outside in? e.g. plants, daylight and air exchange...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300)

---

**Social Impact Team** can offer support with workshops & consultations. 

socialimpact@le.ac.uk
Figure 1 – http://www.cpwp.com/project/centre-for-medicine-university-of-leicester/
Figure 2 – https://www.wwf.org.uk/get-involved/living-planet-centre
Figure 3 & 4 – http://www.swift-conservation.org/news.htm
Figure 5 – http://nansledan.com/sustainability/
Figure 6 - 8 – London, The Barbican & John Lewis, Victoria Street http://www.nigeldunnett.com/
Figure 9 – http://sustainability.leeds.ac.uk/biodiversity/sustainable-garden/
Figure 10 - 12 – ‘Eelavator’ ecology/art installation – http://www.artecology.space/gallery/
Figure 13 & 14 (15) – http://lovesquare.group.shef.ac.uk/?p=266
Figure 16, – http://arc-consulting.co.uk/gallery/addison-close/
Figure 17 & 18 – https://www.commonground.org.uk/emergent-landscapes/
Figure 19 - 23 – http://www.adamkuby.com/commissions
Figure 24 - 26 – Bug Hotels and seating

The orange line demonstrates how the Main Campus railway line is a wildlife corridor that extends out into the countryside.