

B\_landscape design















overview



the fields



green finger parks and the serpentine walk



cultural garden



st. brendan's way



quadrangles





introduction

The Landscape Design of the Masterplan sets out the basic design principles and spatial differentiation of public space, its use and functions and thus it's equipment, (street furniture, materials, lighting, vegetation). Based on these principles a framework shall be defined, of which the social, economic and environmental sustainability are in the foreground.

The interior and exterior spaces form a coherent network within which scientific research, exchange and teaching, and social life can be explored. Small, almost secluded places offer the possibility of relaxation, contemplation or are suitable specifically for discussion and study. Large and open spaces characterize the urban context and the participation in social life. In addition, a variety of possibilities for sports, games and playgrounds are provided.

The landscape narrative defines design principles regarding equipment and vegetation for access areas, connections and the main residence and traffic and pedestrian areas. This will ensure a high quality and a correspondence between the different buildings and open spaces.

The Landscape Design offers a comprehensive approach to make the different areas into a lively district together. In the context of scale and form and in the hierarchy of materiality and planting the typology and character of the various sections will be experienced.



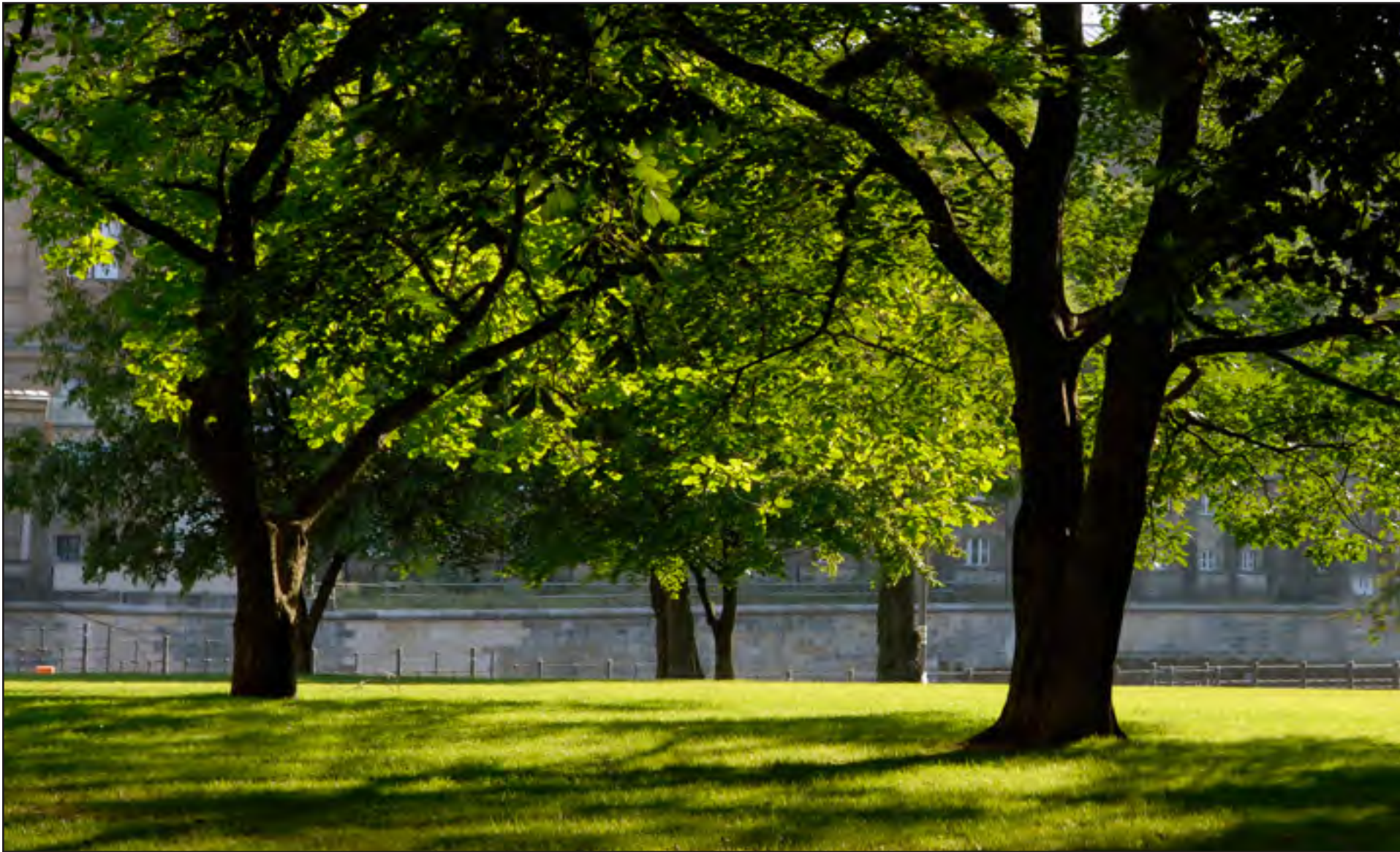


## the fields

The Fields will include three sports pitches as well as generous playspaces. The two main pitches to the west will be lawn pitches on a sand base while the multipurpose-pitch in the east will have an artificial surface. The area will be surrounded with a 1 km - long jogging/bicycle path, together with exercise stations. Areas for contemplation and relaxing will also be provided in the woodland areas, close to the grand stairs to the Upper Terrace, and next to the former Church of Ireland building.







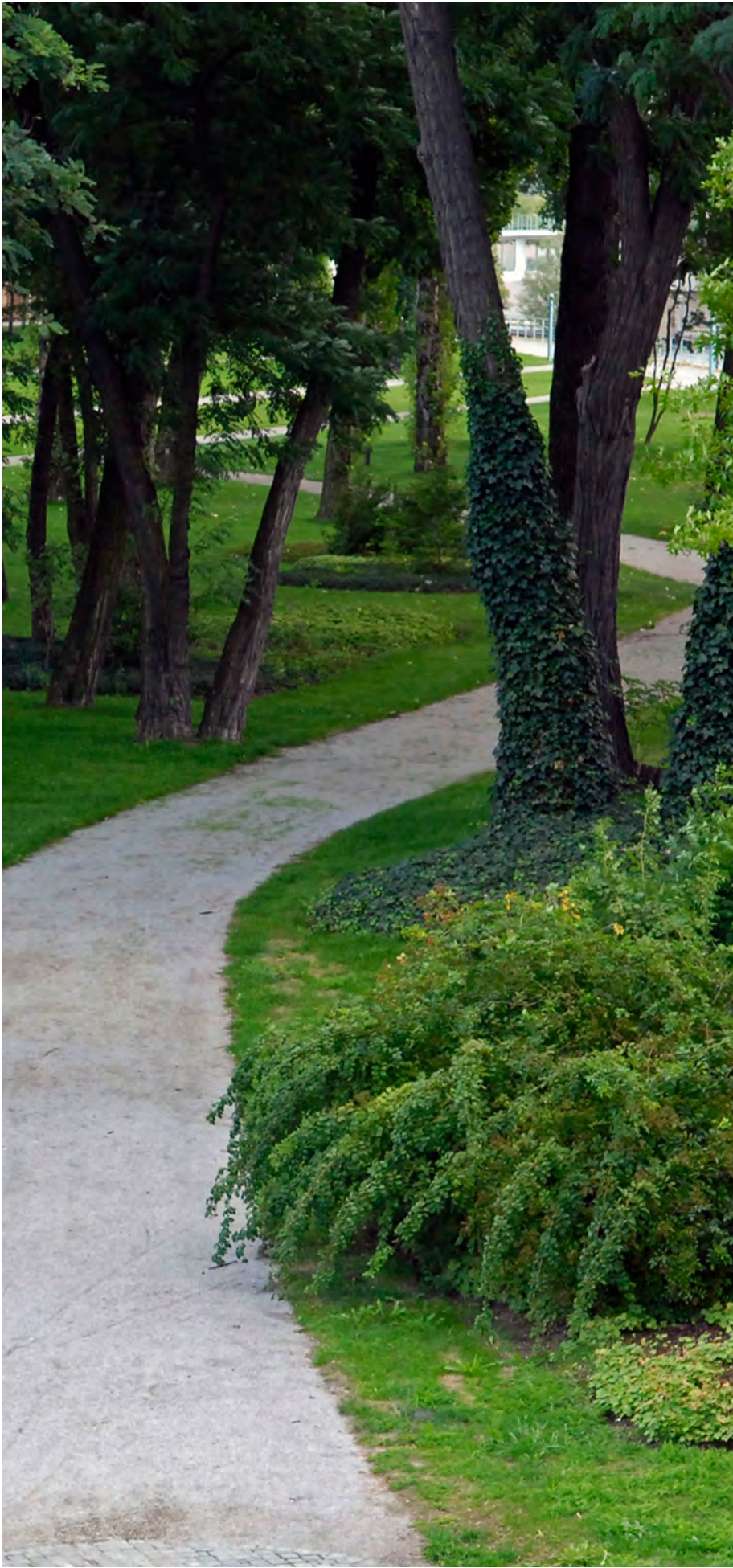
woodlands and groves

In consideration of biodiversity issues, there will be protected areas in the southern portion of the Grangegorman site and at the former Church of Ireland. The planting concept will work with species which are suitable to the local climate and ground conditions.

A special feature could be a wild flower meadow at the south of the former Church of Ireland. This will create a sharp and fine contrast to the park area. Many butterflies use meadow grasses as food-plants for their caterpillars as well as providing cover for frogs, mammals and insects.

Denser planting to the south of the sport pitches will protect the site from the prevailing south-west winds. The woodland areas and especially the protected areas will provide the opportunity to demonstrate the synergy and positive connection between urban life and ecological elements.





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green finger parks

The “green fingers” have a high ecological value. They provide a connection from one of the main city routes – North Circular Road to the Phoenix Park – into the site. The plants consist of native species (especially shrub berries and other feeding plants for song birds). The existing trees are integrated in the green fingers.

Furthermore the green fingers work to improve the microclimatic condition on the site by providing an air cooling corridor, creating a wind break and reducing the permeation of fine dust.

The “green fingers” incorporate the main pedestrian access routes in the District, with small play spaces and play stations arrayed throughout. Various kinds of seating areas to meet and to contemplate will also be arranged in this area. The “green finger” to the west provides access to two major urban plazas—Library Square and Upper Terrace—and is defined by formal tree plantings. The “green fingers” to the east are provided with permeable surfaces and a more linear garden-like expression. Selected places with artificial water features will be incorporated to invite pedestrians to sit down and relax.

the serpentine walk

The Serpentine Walk is the other main pedestrian route through the southern district of the site. Coming from Broadstone a ramp is envisioned for the Serpentine Walk, slowly going up to the level of the Upper Terrace, while also fulfilling accessibility requirements. The Serpentine Walk is accompanied by the visible drainage system in the Ha-Ha. Different arranged with various street furniture platforms (with possible mobile wind-shelters) provides users with optimal views over The Fields. The pedestrian footpath reaches a venue space next to the urban scaled Upper Terrace. Again, similar to the Cultural Garden, this open space is analogous to a “hortus conclusus,” secluded from the busy surroundings, but visually connected to the Fields and to the Upper Terrace. This venue space is in turn related to the north-south green finger park adjacent to the library.







the cultural garden

The cultural garden is a green connection between the academic/health heart and the cultural heart of the Grangegorman site. It is proposed that parts of the garden will reflect the history of the site and its transformation into an urban quarter with an open future. This garden features a range of spaces for contemplation, gathering and relaxing.

The design of the Cultural Garden provides a clearing to the east part of the garden, with the density of trees increasing toward the west part. Lawns which slope down to the middle of the garden is the dominating character. Because of the grades of the lawn, they are faced by little walls and stairs which invite pedestrians to sit down and rest. The Cultural Garden will also have the character of a “hortus conclusus” (an enclosed Medieval garden) in the east part, with water features to provide a calming accent. Due to this character the planting concept is more formal. A sequence of hedges creates various “green chambers”. Toward the west, the Cultural Garden opens to St. Brendan’s Way and becomes more urban.

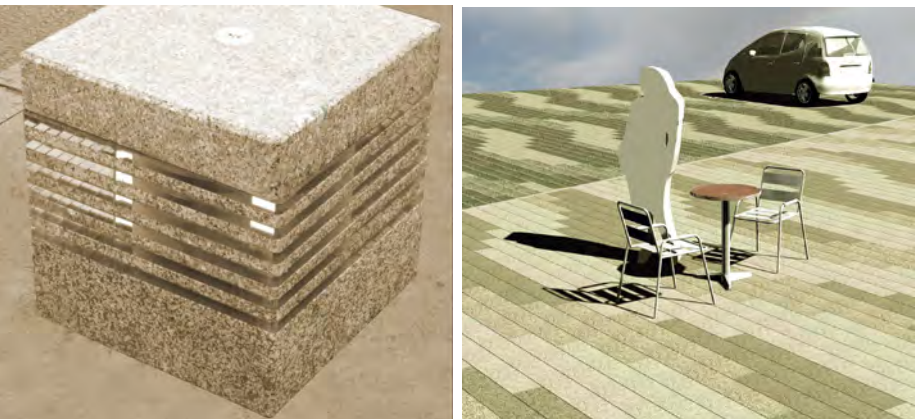
st. brendan’s way

The design for St. Brendan’s Way strives to provide a high quality of surface materials, street furniture, lightning, and a significant planting concept in order to establish a clear understanding of the importance and hierarchy of this very public open space. Paving materials include a warm natural stone in various colours to provide an engaging, almost painterly character. Spacious clusters of street furniture and sculpture along the pedestrian zone provide places for pedestrians to meet, sit down and observe the vibrant life in the District. Carefully selected lighting will give St. Brendan’s Way effective and expressive illumination at night.

Overall, St. Brendan’s Way has a harmonious character in scale, colours and materials. Existing trees have been integrated into the landscaping concept throughout. The Masterplan intends to keep the site vehicle free as much as possible. Due to the traffic and access requirements, there will be shared uses on circulation paths, but these will be clearly prioritised for pedestrians and cyclists. Vehicular use will be limited and controlled.



st. brendan's way paving





the health service executive:  
health gardens and courtyards

The design of the HSE Health Gardens will vary to reflect the requirements of the patients and the HSE. The aim is to create a series of garden areas accessible to patients, caregivers and staff. Integrating principles of ecological design and medical research on human wellness, these “restorative gardens” are designed to meet the physical, psychological, and social needs of patients and their caregivers. The health benefits of these gardens, however, extend beyond the garden walls to include the wider institution, the surrounding communities, and the living landscape.

The Health Garden areas act as pathfinder elements within an enhanced healing environment incorporating innovative landscape design, sensitive lighting and exterior artwork throughout the HSE healthcare campus. The design of the courtyards, whilst providing facilities to patients, staff and visitors, also acknowledge the privacy and dignity issues associated with adjacent facilities. External lighting is provided in a sensitive manner that does not become an annoyance to those occupying the surrounding developments.

The courtyards and gardens provide significant social areas for people to meet and talk, with plenty of seating in these spaces as well as the paths and planting beds. They also provide pleasant views from within the gardens as well as from the surrounding developments. Special attention have been paid to making the gardens accessible to people using wheelchairs or with limited mobility—by avoiding unnecessary changes in level as well as in the choice and width of paving materials and the design of the seating and tables. Seating areas have been designed to provide quiet areas where one can sit and reflect with some privacy. High-quality artwork will be commissioned and installed to provide markers and “points of interest” within the sequence of HSE gardens. The artworks are directly experienced from within the gardens, but can also be viewed from the adjacent departments and corridors surrounding the gardens.

HSE restorative gardens

The Intensive Care Unit will have a protected, secure garden which is visually connected to other open spaces so that it does not feel isolated. In the middle of the garden is a spacious lawn for a number of purposes such as playing ball or other games. In the northern part of the garden is a pavilion which is southerly-oriented and provides shelter to the users. Near the patients’ rooms is a patio designed which is more secluded and protected from the outside view. This garden has controlled access points to the whole courtyard and to the footpath which leads through the HSE complex from west to east.

The various parts of the gardens will be linked by secure walking paths with clear way-finding marked by expressive furniture and equipment. Various areas for seating and a south-oriented pavilion will be provided. Although the security of patients is a main concern, there is the possibility to share garden spaces. The aim is to provide a relationship and interaction with the “outside world.”

Inside the garden for dementia services will be a kind of “Journey” with places to sit and meet friends and families. Along this route, different “landmarks” including expressive vegetation, water features, and furniture provide orientation for the patients. Small, secluded garden spaces are designed with a sequence of hedges and gives the gardens a spacious character. A wide range of trees, flowering shrubs and herbacious plants reflect the changes in seasons with a shifting variety of colours, odours and appearances.

For high-dependent users, flower and planting beds are created in the different areas of the garden to support the sensory perception.

An additional aim is to create possibilities for engaging in outdoor activities such as gardening and growing vegetables which could be supplied to the restaurant. Similarly, greenhouses provide opportunity for gardening and plant growing. Additional to the greenhouses, pavilions could be located in the various areas of the HSE courtyards to give shelter for the clients and their visitors.

Furthermore, there will be special services and street furniture designed for people with limited mobility or sensory impairments. The entrances of the HSE courtyards are marked with significant, compact tree groves with different features such as playgrounds and furniture.



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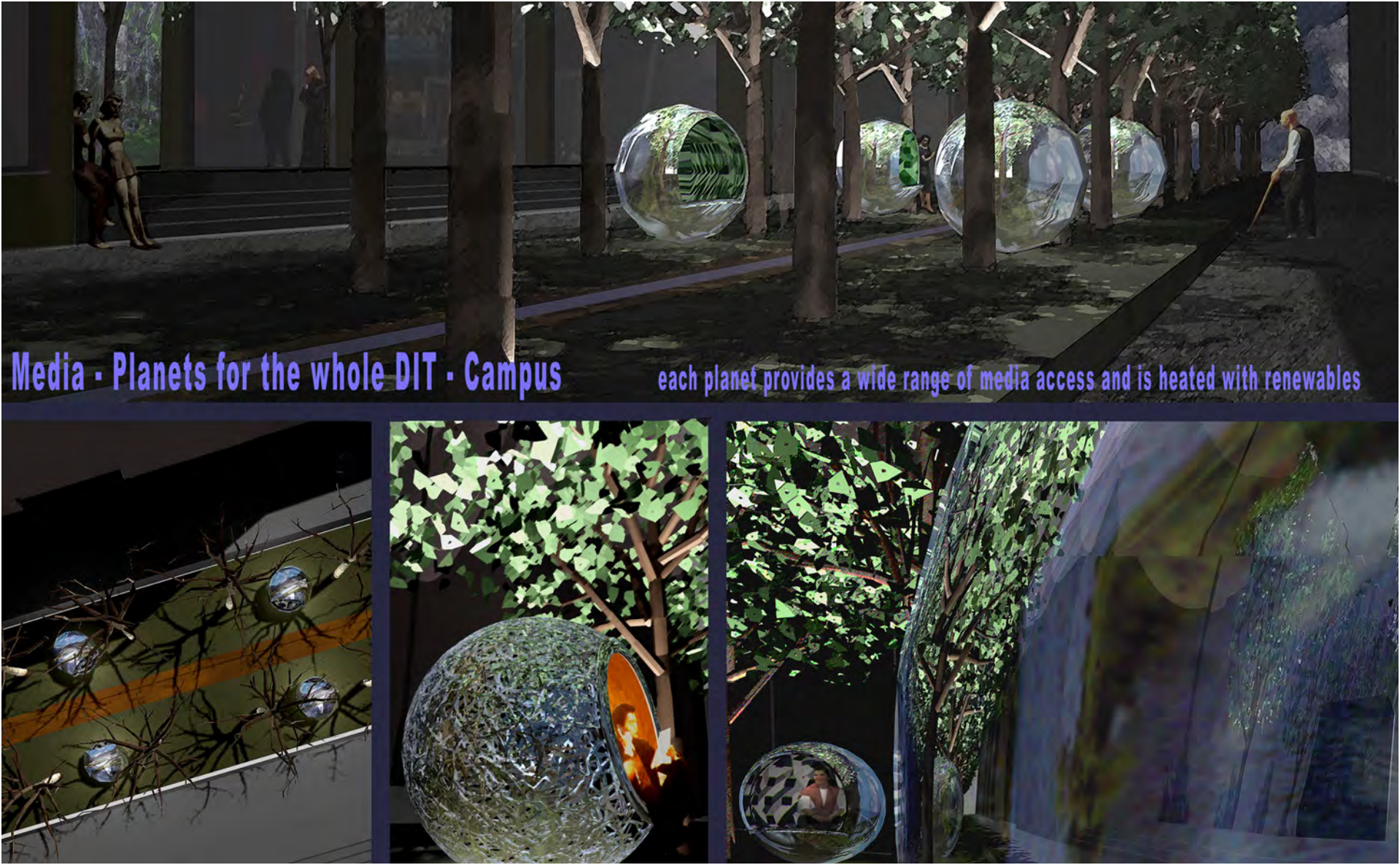


courtyards and quadrangles

The quadrangles and courtyards will be connected to each other with an expressive, harmonious design using plants, surface materials, street furniture and lighting. The various courtyards are formal and individually designs due to the use of the various faculties.

A special feature for DIT are the so-called MEDIA PLANETS. They are envisioned to link into St. Brendan’s Way and into the various courtyards. These MEDIA PLANETS provide full internet access and provide users with diverse kinds of information about the site, the university programme, et cetera. This MEDIA PLANETS are rotatable (to follow the sun) and stand alone or in groups. They are powered with renewable energies such as photovoltaic cells on top of them.

The aim in the Courtyards is to have most of the surfaces permeable to fulfill ecological requirements. This will include a drainage system and retention spaces for rainwater/surface water. (The same system would be provided in the health gardens for the HSE.) This system allows the water to circulate in a visible drainage network as a “living system.” The water will be collected in swales and flows from the north-west in these visible swales through the green fingers to the Ha-Ha. After heavy rainfall, a water cascade can be seen descending down into the retention canal of the Ha-Ha. Another water feature will be seen as a water-garden in the south east of student housing.



Media - Planets for the whole DIT - Campus

each planet provides a wide range of media access and is heated with renewables



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