Féidearthachtaí as Cuimse
Infinite Possibilities

A Portrait of the Library as an Office Block and an Asylum:

How Technological University Dublin converted, adapted and reused its buildings to create functional, efficient and modern libraries

OLLSCOIL TEICNEOLAÍOCHTA BHAILE ÁTHA CLIATH
TU DUBLIN
TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY DUBLIN

TU Dublin At A Glance

3
campuses

8k
graduates per year

29k+
students

7k
part time students

1:16
staff : student ratio

3k+
international students from over 100 countries

1,000+
students working with community organisations

STEM
17%
of the national provision

Business
14%
of the national provision

Services
20%
of the national provision

Craft Apprenticeships
20%
of the national provision

26%
of undergraduate new entrants via **access routes**

Further Education
20%
of national applications

Award Winning Staff

Athena SWAN
Bronze Award

+38%
research award value
(over the past 3 years)

11,000+
citations
(in the past 3 years)

+12M
open access research downloads arrow@TUDublin

1,000+
academic collaborations

800+
collaborations with industry

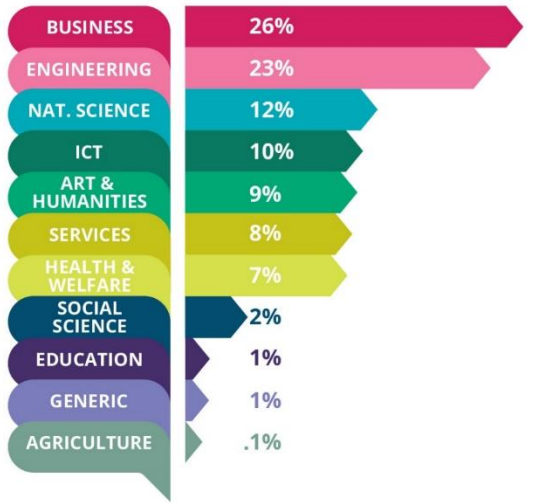
Award Winning
Technology Transfer Activities

7,000m²
of incubation space

100+
start-ups p.a.
(facilitated on campus)

200
entrepreneurs p.a.
(on TU Dublin enterprise programmes)

Field of Study



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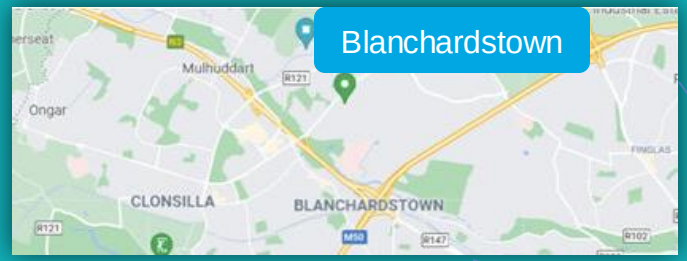
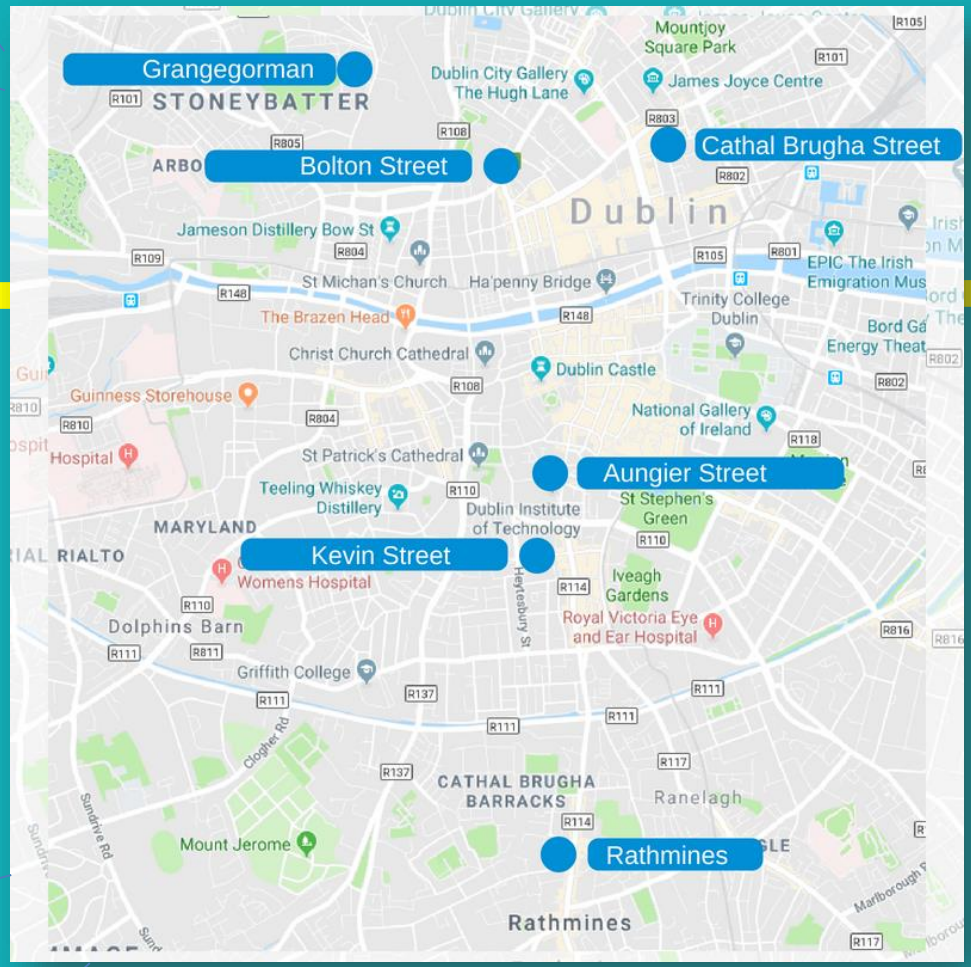
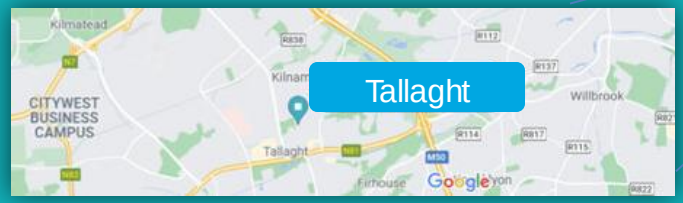
TU Dublin Locations in 2020

North Side

South Side







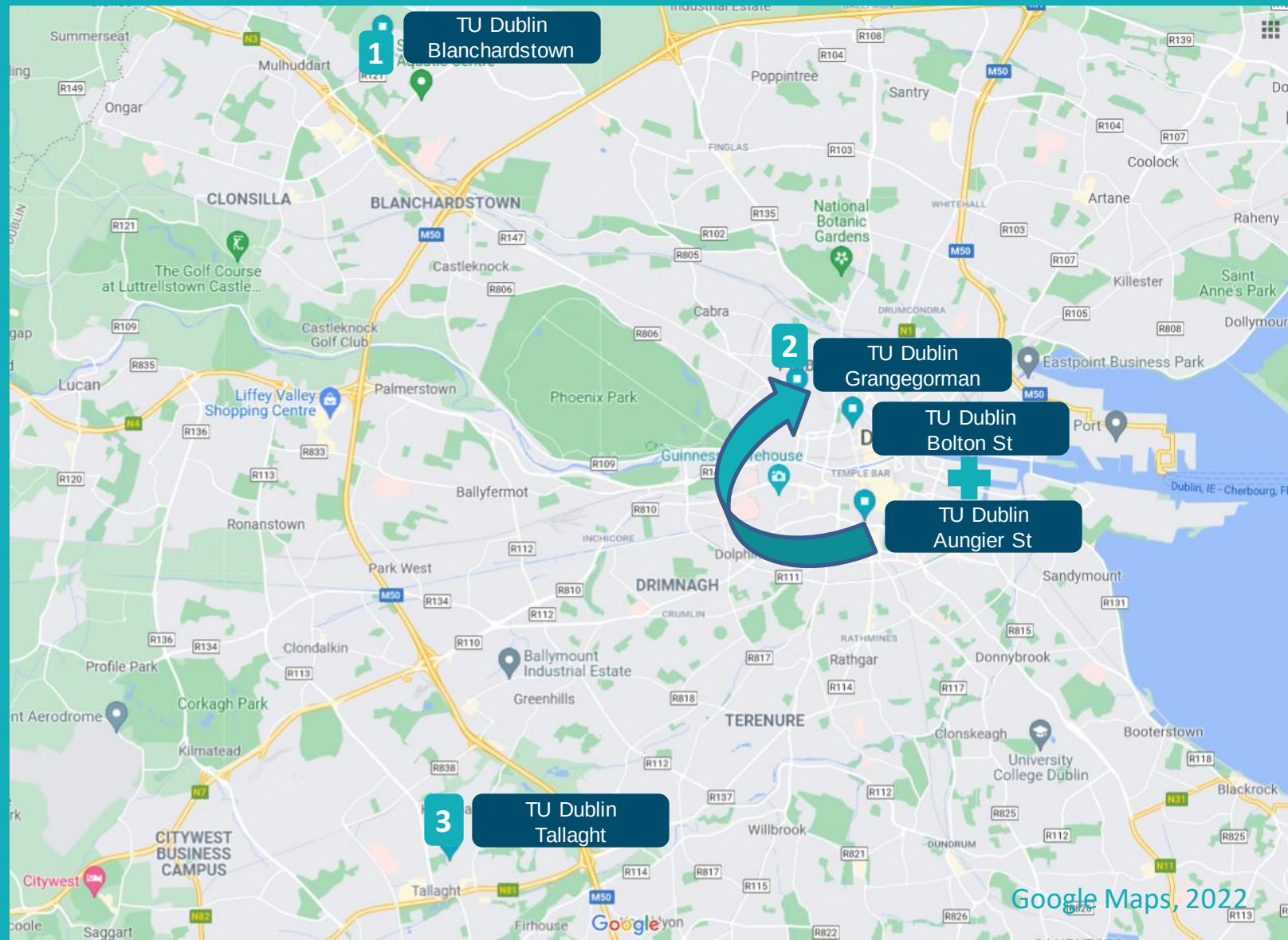
Google Maps, 2020

TU Dublin Campuses now

Five Locations

&

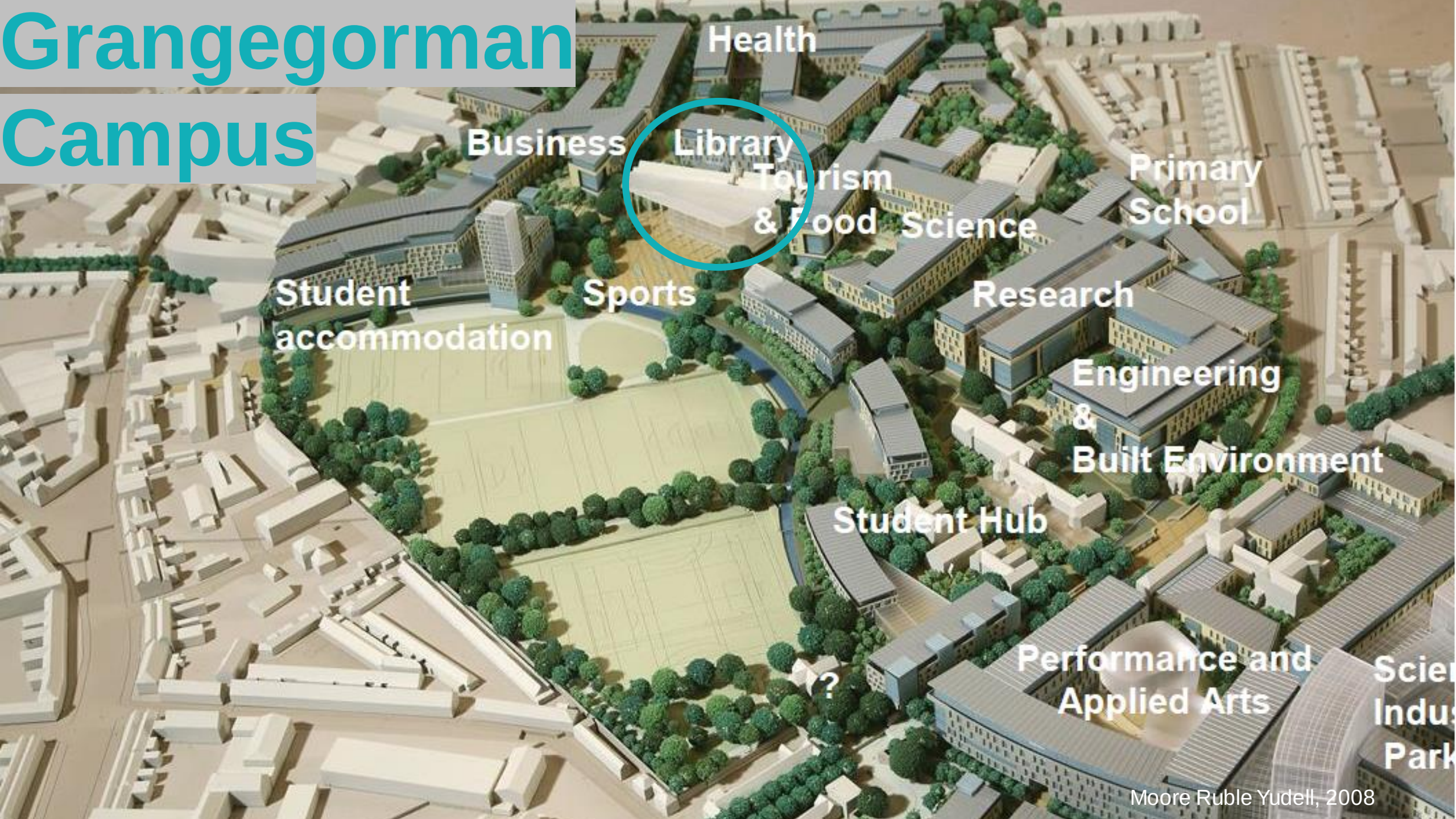
Five Libraries



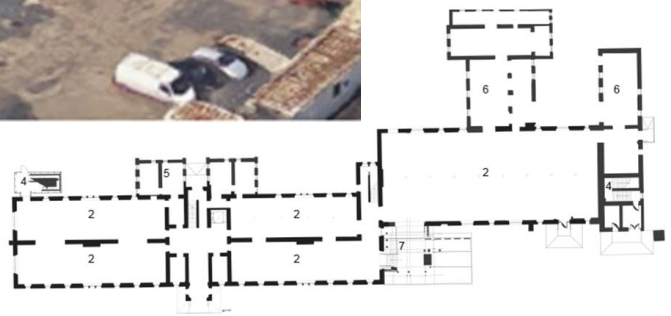
Grangegorman History

Photo credits: GDA, Irish Architectural Archive, RIA, TU Dublin

Grangegorman Campus



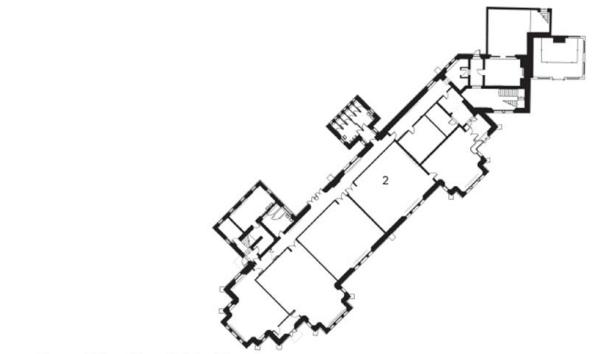
North House



Constructed 1854

Architect: Murray & Denny

Original Use: Male Ward of Richmond Lunatic Asylum



Original Functions
1. Male Wards
2. Recreation Space
3. Residential Building
New Additions
4. Fire Escape
5. Toilet Block
6. Workshop
7. Entrance

Ground Floor Plan- Original Functions

Academic Hub

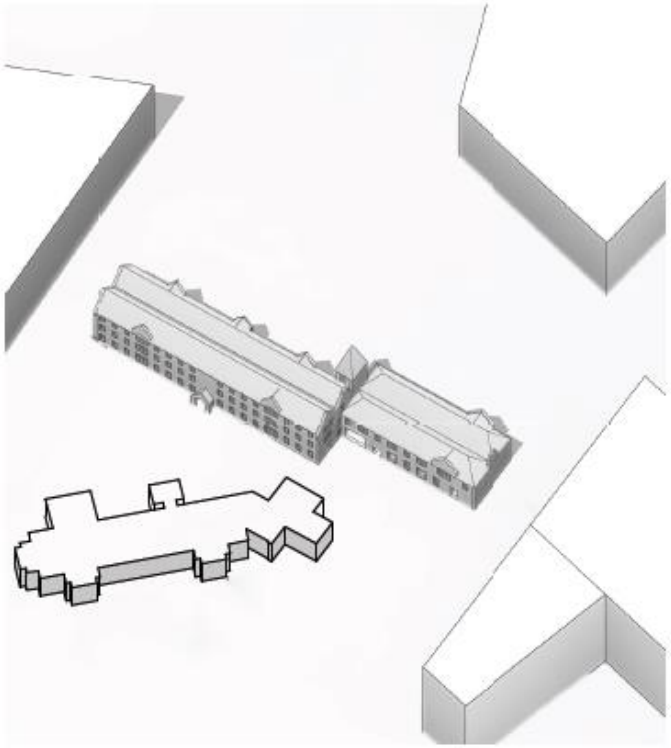
Picture Plane, 2017

O’Donnell + Tuomey –led design team

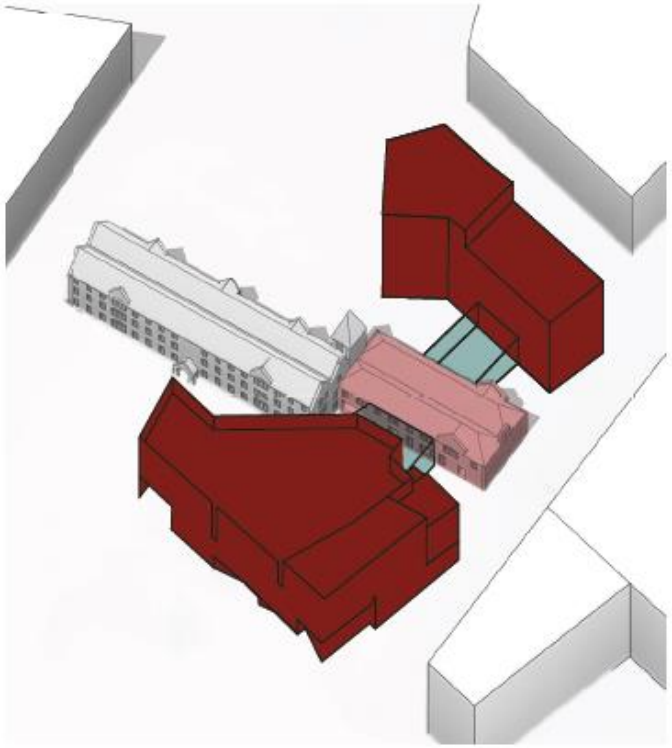
Heart of campus

Incorporates protected structure

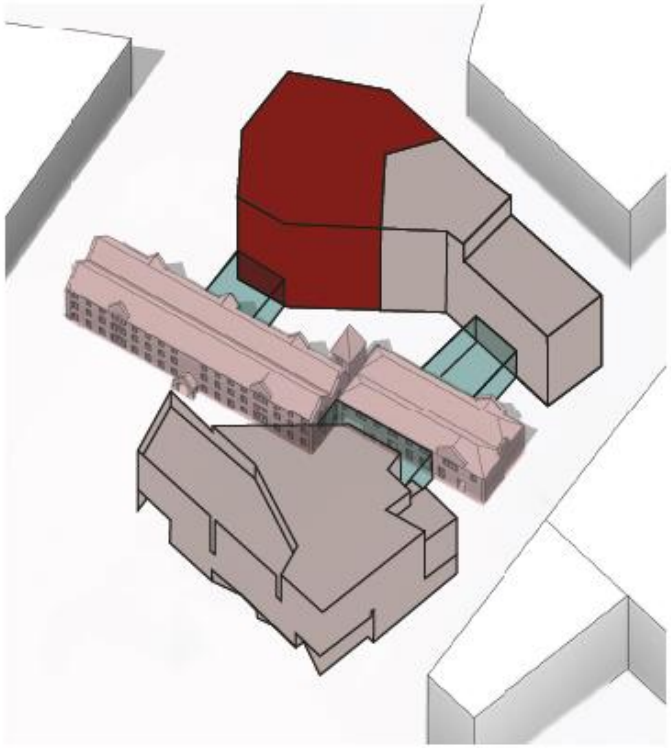
Integrating the North House



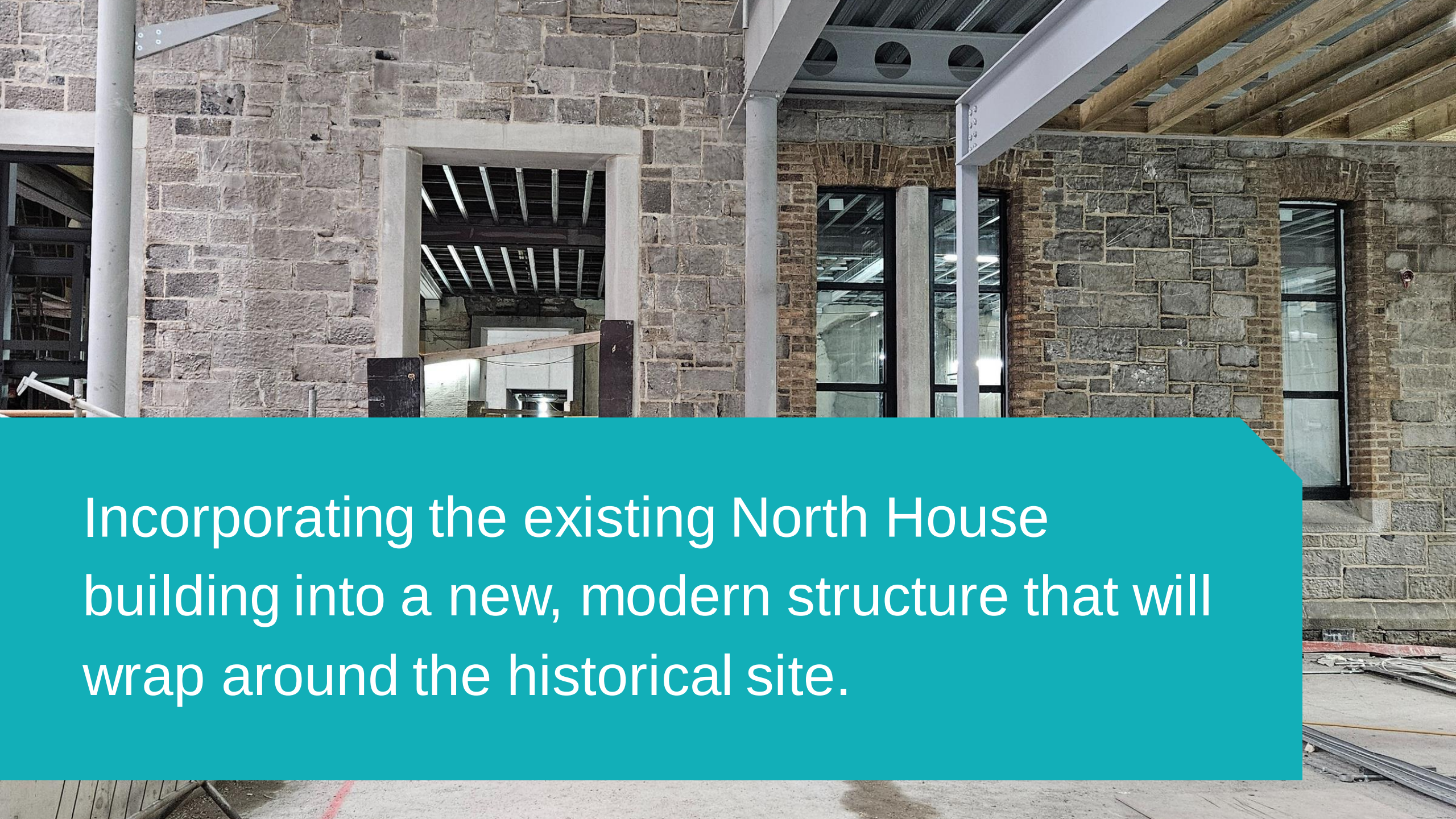
Existing Buildings and Demolition of Annexe 9



Phase 1



Phase 2



Incorporating the existing North House building into a new, modern structure that will wrap around the historical site.

North House: Internal View

View of Learning Commons- Ground Floor North House East

First Floor Library Reception - North House East

Accommodation

Picture Plane, 2017

Phase One 12,565 m^2

Seminar rooms

Flexible classroom

Café on ground floor

Roof-top terrace

Special Collections: climate controlled storage & reading room

Building Occupants

Consolidation of multiple libraries

Academic Support Services

Learning Teaching & Assessment

People Development

A Space for the Community

O'Donnell + Tuomey Architects, 2017

Ground floor:

-Café
-Exhibition Space

Fourth floor:

-Event Space
-Roof-top terrace

Academic Hub – Under Construction

2020/21 Migrations to Grangegorman

East Quad

Central Quad

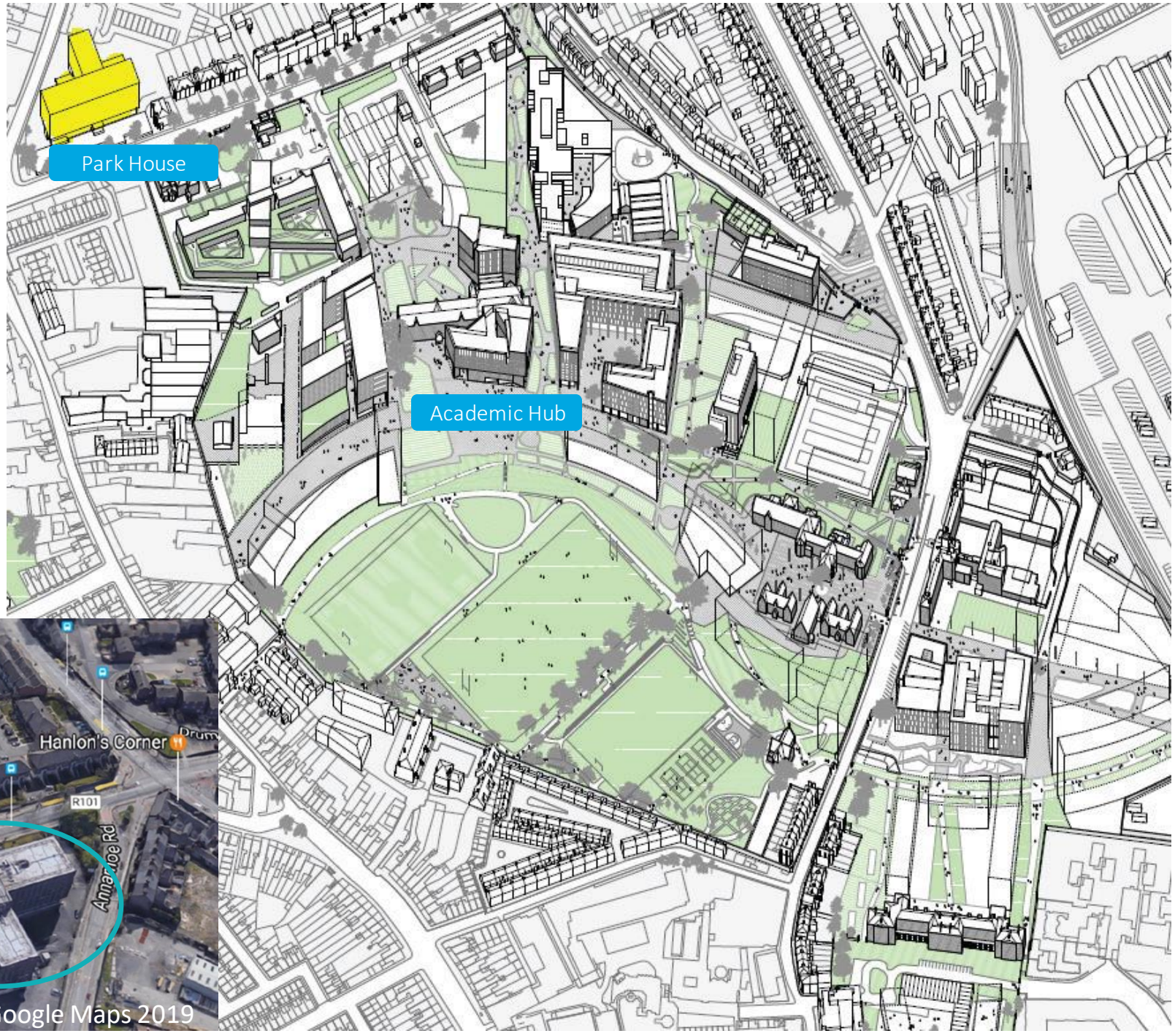
Interim Library- Park House

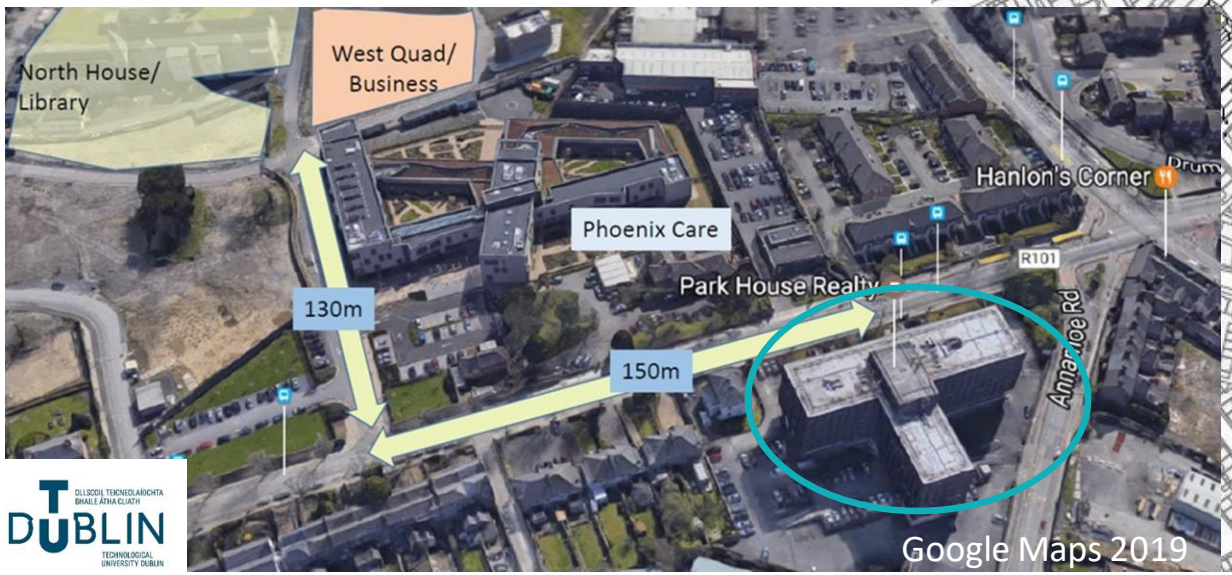
→ **1972:** Built as a hotel!

→ **1970's- 2017:** Operated as an office block

→ **2020- present:** 3.5 floors of library space

Interim Library Location





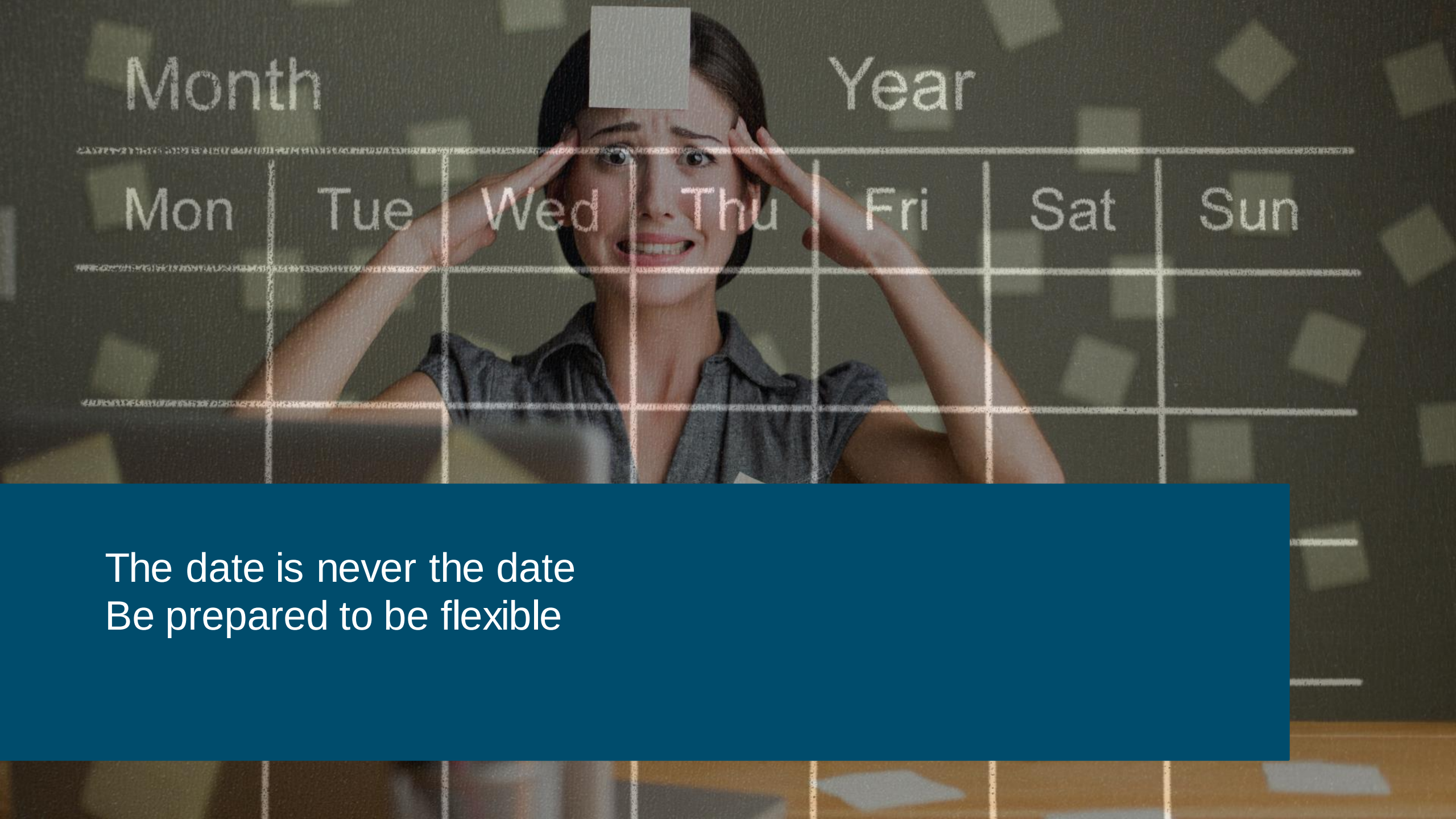
Migrate and merge 4 libraries and a Central Services Unit

Establish a new library

Consolidate 5 library teams

Provide a continuity of service

While merging three institutions and library services to form Ireland’s first technological university



The date is never the date
Be prepared to be flexible

Floor Loading

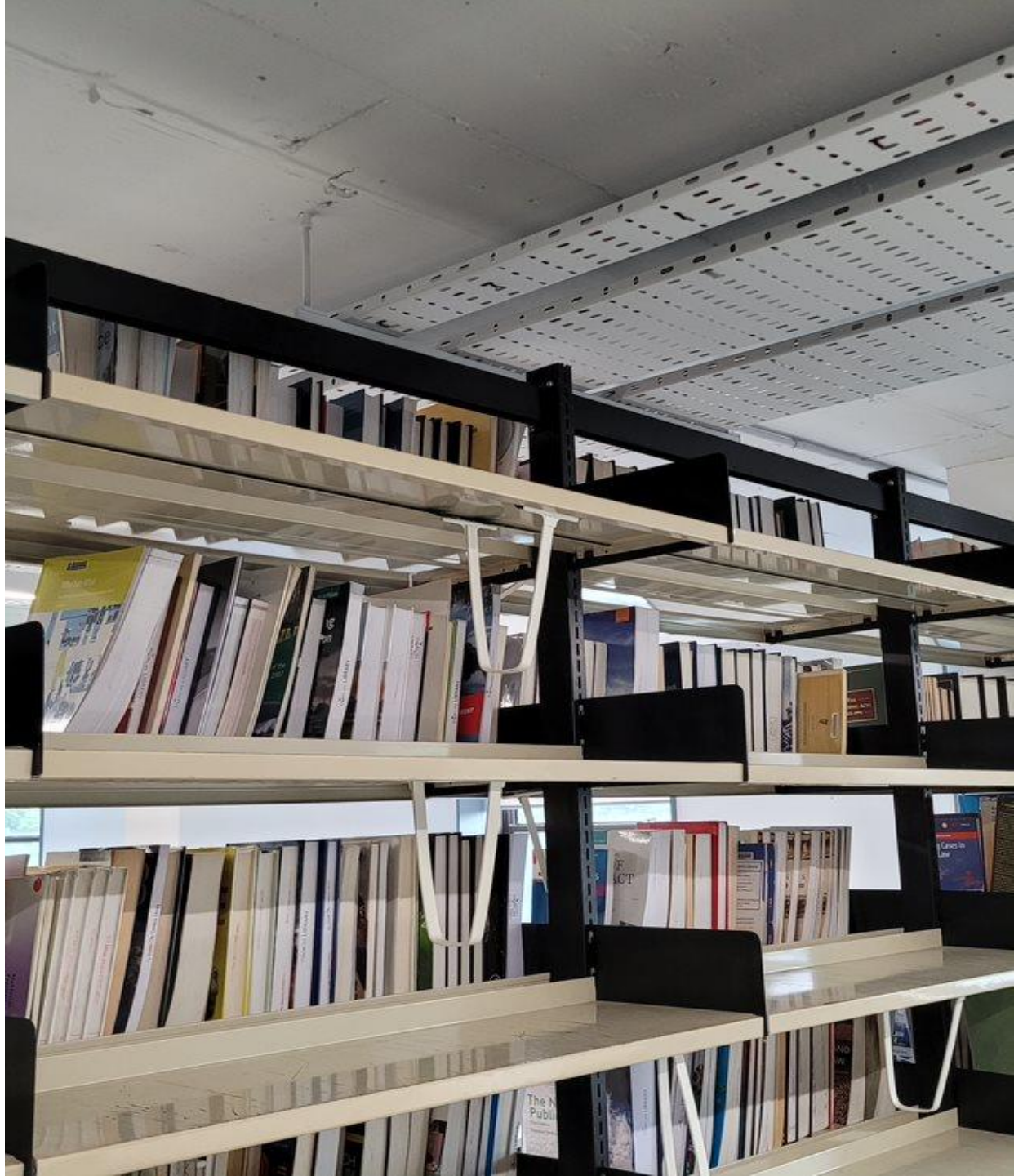
Steel supports to reinforce

Floor Loading

Steel supports covered by panelling

Ceiling Height

Reused shelving
cut to fit



Library Security

Security panels on each floor

Fire Safety

Additional fire stairs

4,603 linear metres of print collections moved (150,000 items)

2,690 linear metres of shelving reused

Park House Today

Photo credits: Mahoney Architecture, TU Dublin

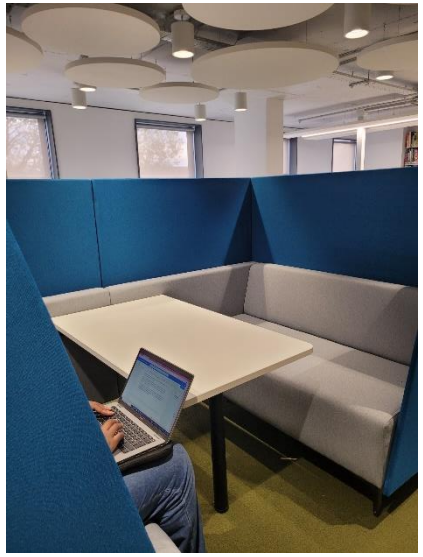
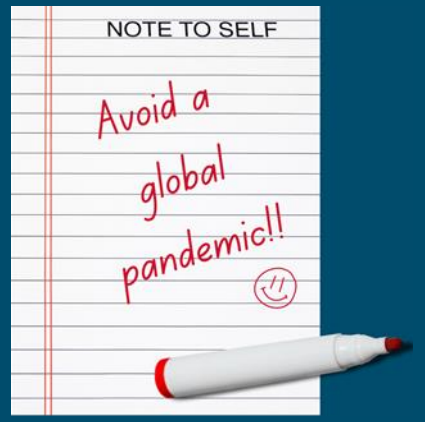


Photo credits: Mahoney Architecture, TU Dublin, C Cooke

The interim testbed

- Move from small libraries to one large library & from single storey libraries to multi-floor library
- Move from small teams to one large team of 34 people
- Centralisation of functions
- New services

What we Learned…



- It’s never too early to start planning!
- Ensure library membership of the project team
- Ensure library involvement in tender specifications
- Develop good working relationships with everyone
- Adapt and re-use: spaces and plans

Making Progress

Sod-Turning Ceremony March 2022

Topping Out ceremony January 2024

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Academic Hub

Tom Coakley, 2024

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Féidearthachtaí as Cuimse
Infinite Possibilities

Go raibh maith agaibh
Thank You

Allison Kavanagh
Head of Library Services
allison.kavanagh@tudublin.ie

Catherine Cooke
Academic Hub Project Manager
catherine.cooke@tudublin.ie

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