

chapter five  
architectural guidelines



## Architectural Guidelines

The University of Otago Campus includes a wide range of buildings and spaces from many eras, expressed in diverse architectural languages. This diversity reflects the gradual changes that have taken place in the University over its long history and should be seen as a positive asset to be developed in the future, setting the precedent and challenge for future architects to continue the narrative of reflecting the changing nature of the University over time through exemplary architecture.

Given the diversity that already exists, two sets of guidelines are proposed. The first sets out general principles recommended to be applied in all circumstances, provided below. The second deals with guidelines for each of the Precincts across the campus, which are included in the Precinct Plans in the next chapter of this report.

### 5.1 Design Leadership

The design of all new buildings and refurbishment projects should be led by a qualified architect. The design of all new landscape proposals should be led by a qualified landscape architect. Most projects will require the appointment of both professionals to lead the design process.

### 5.2 Design Review Panel

It is recommended that the University consult and take advice on issues of design from a Design Review Panel comprising eminent professionals with expertise in the areas of architecture, landscape architecture and interior design. The Design Review Panel should also be charged with the responsibility to act as custodians of the Master Plan to ensure that all proposals are reviewed in the context of the Master Plan. It is recommended that the University and the Design Review Panel carry out periodic reviews of the Master Plan to ensure its currency, with the potential involvement of the original Master Planners being invited to provide input to this review process as required.

### 5.3 Buildings and Spaces

All new buildings should be designed to frame and enhance the spaces between buildings. Particular care should be taken to ensure that buildings provide shelter and good microclimate conditions in the surrounding spaces of the campus

### 5.4 Place making

All new buildings should be designed in such a way that they respond positively to their surroundings and adjoining users, and enhance the character and sense of place of each part of the campus

### 5.5 Frontages

Public or publicly accessible facilities in all new buildings should be located at ground level, facing onto the public realm in order to create active frontages to the principal pedestrian circulation routes.

### 5.6 Scale, Height and Massing

It is recommended that the maximum building height for new buildings be twenty five metres, which equates to approximately five storeys of academic space. The reasons for this imposed constraint are:

- To avoid excessive overshadowing of surroundings. In many locations lower buildings would be desirable to allow sunlight penetration into adjacent landscape areas;
- To avoid microclimate problems caused by tall buildings deflecting high-level cold winds down to ground level;
- To promote large footprint buildings to facilitate the provision of very flexible and adaptable space;
- To promote building forms that enclose and contain external space rather than standing as isolated towers in open space; and
- To provide a Master Plan that can be delivered incrementally, with linked low-rise buildings better able to deliver this objective than isolated large tower projects.

