



Building Plans – Concept Diagrams
Classroom Axo
Inverness History & Vernacular
Elevational Treatment
Visualisations
Site Layout

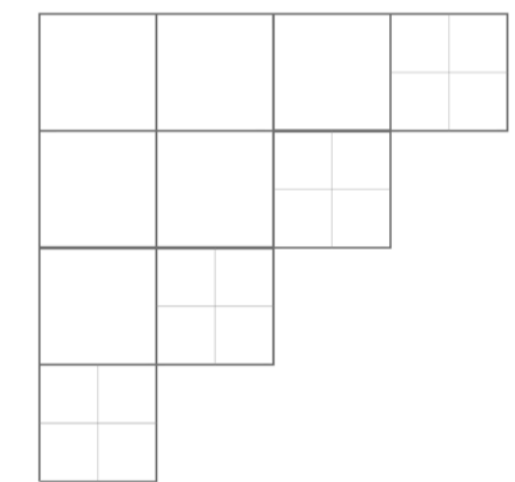
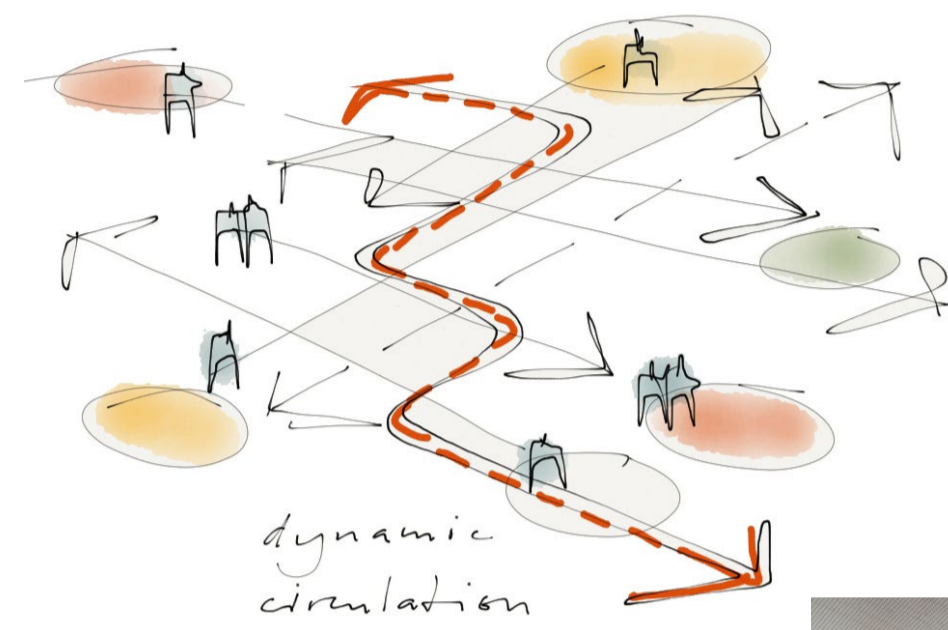


Building Plans – Concept Diagrams

Idealised Programme

All classrooms are oriented south for optimal environmental conditions in teaching spaces.

Classrooms are arranged into clusters of three to promote collective learning and provide shared teaching spaces to an otherwise single-banked plan typology.



Primary Circulation

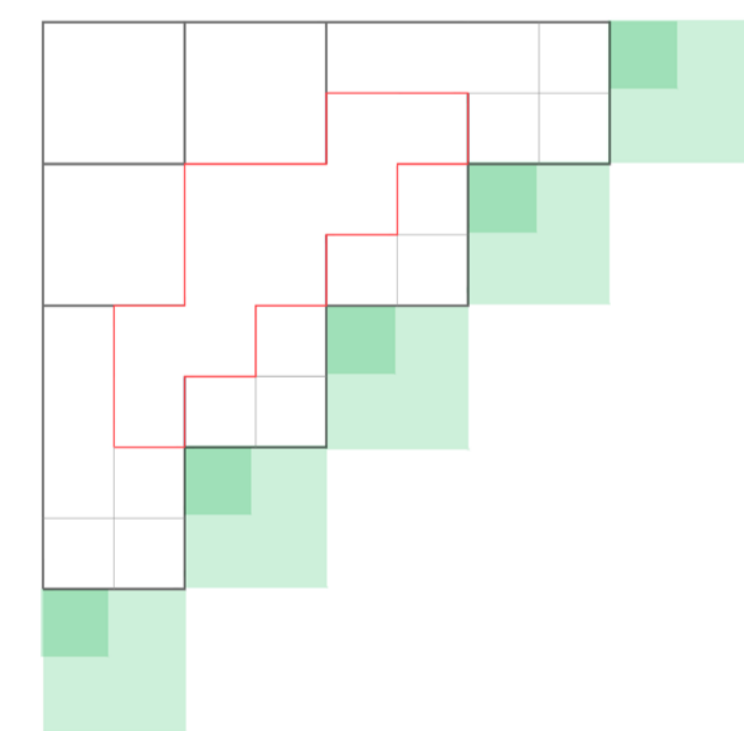
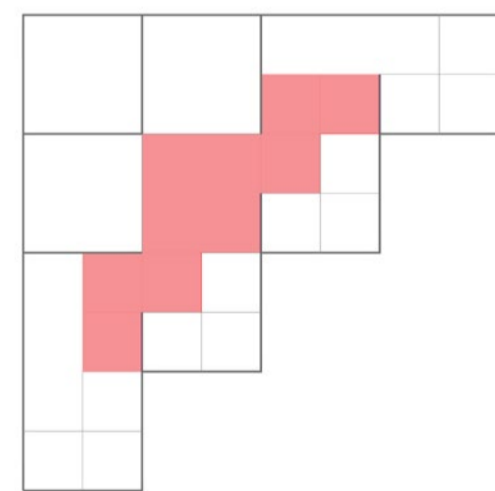
Central to creating a dynamic shared teaching space, each classroom has the ability to spill out onto generous circulation that cuts through the heart of the plan.

The arrangement lends itself to creating smaller learning plazas and breakout spaces between clusters that facilitate team teaching / resource sharing.



Creating a Heart

The building offers an opportunity to provide a central teaching space with a unique enhancement to the educational value of the school. This 'heart' is defined by high quality finishes and flexibility of use for gathering, giving presentations, groupwork, breakout and independent play, all central to this building type.



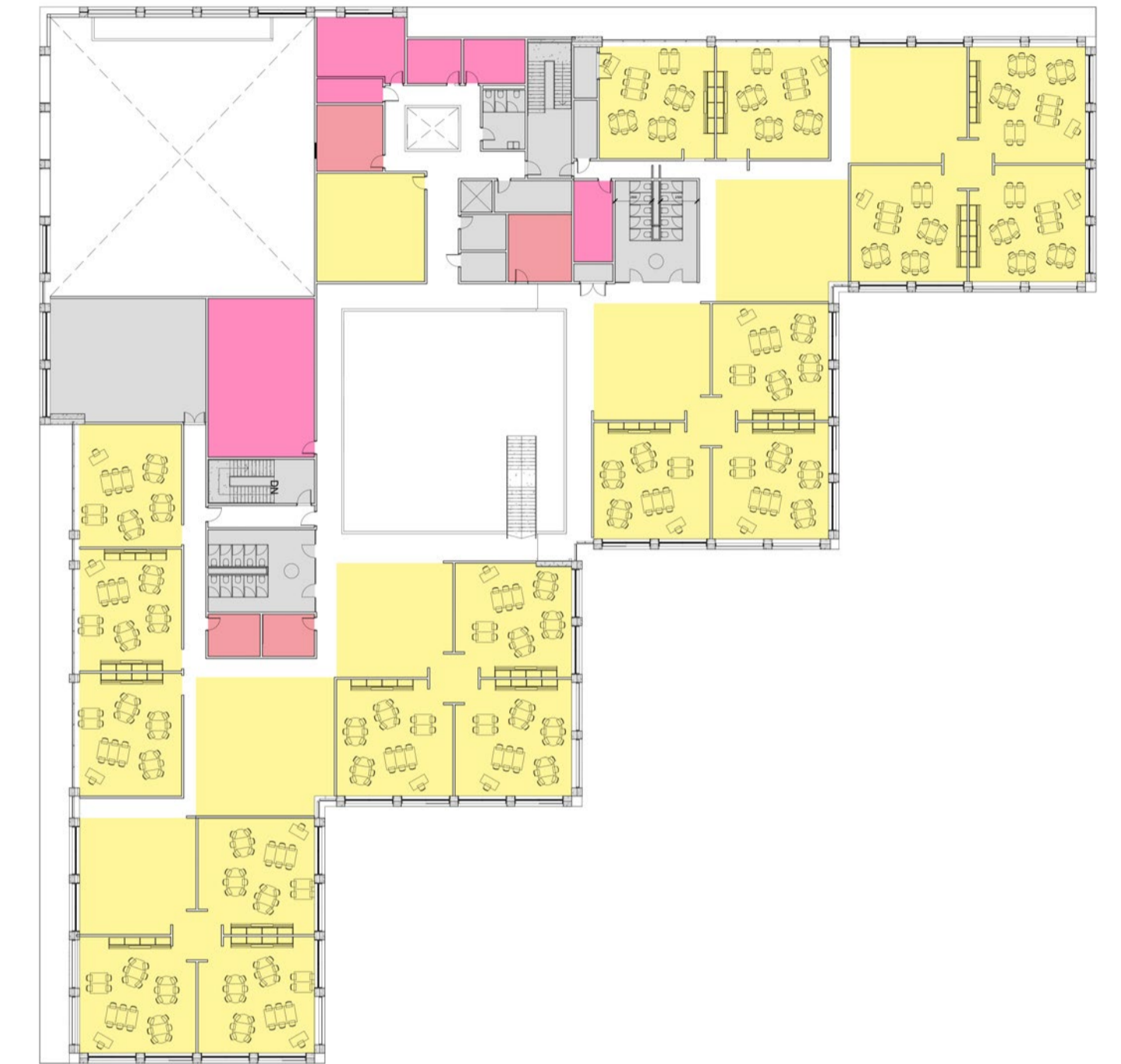
Connection to External Spaces

Banks of ancillary spaces, such as WCs and kitchens occupy the centre of the plan where areas are less dependent on natural light.

All classroom clusters feed into the external learning space.



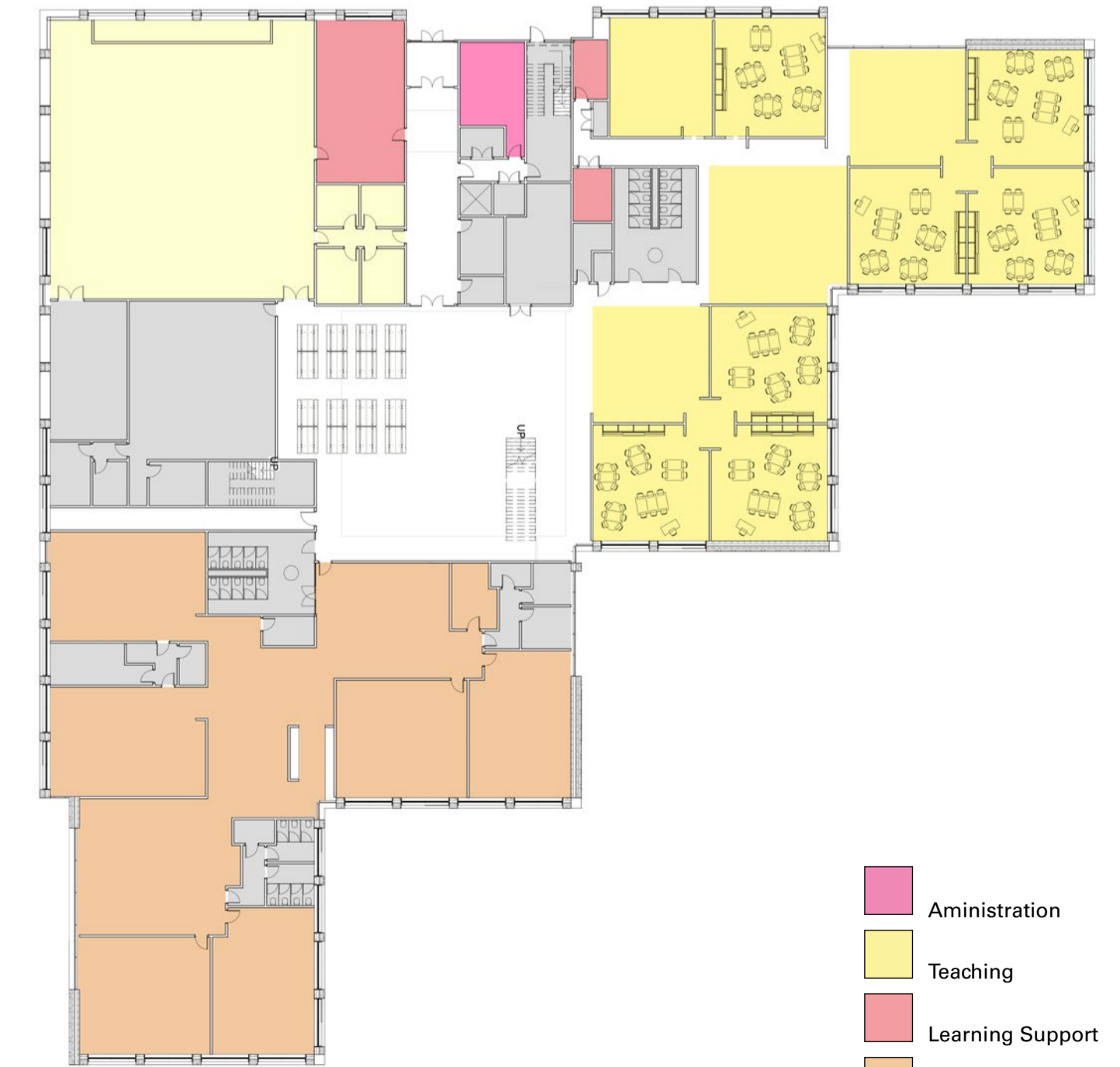
PHASE 1 / FIRST FLOOR PLAN



PHASE 2 / FIRST FLOOR PLAN



PHASE 1 / GROUND FLOOR PLAN



PHASE 2 / GROUND FLOOR PLAN

- Administration
- Teaching
- Learning Support
- Nursery
- Sports
- Ancillary



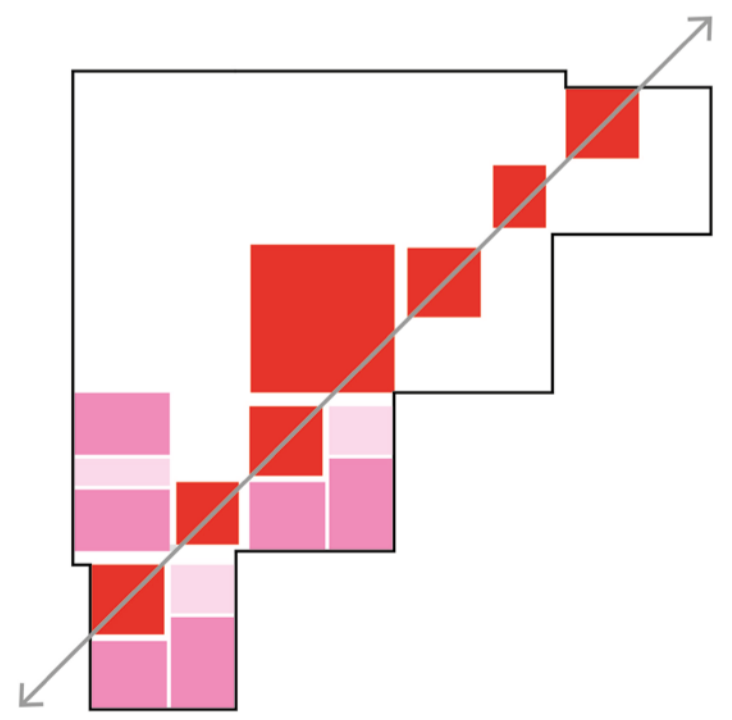
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Classroom Axo

Studies show that improving the brightness, access to daylight, colour and playfulness of a school's interior has a significant role to play in improving well-being and boosting attainment levels. Not only do children learn better, using attractive spaces for self-directed play and learning, teachers and staff also feel better about their place of work. Investing in the colour, material specification and vibrancy of a new school building is central to creating a warm and dynamic environment in which to learn.

The plan organisation is designed around the pupil experience, generated from a model that we have developed over the last decade, with semi-enclosed teaching spaces and a flexible 'breakout space'. This approach has proved popular with both pupils and staff due to the unique design and practical functionality.

Externally, the modular plan is central to the architectural language that we have developed for the school.



There will be a visual connection across the school, linking semi-enclosed breakout spaces to encourage collaboration and shared experience.



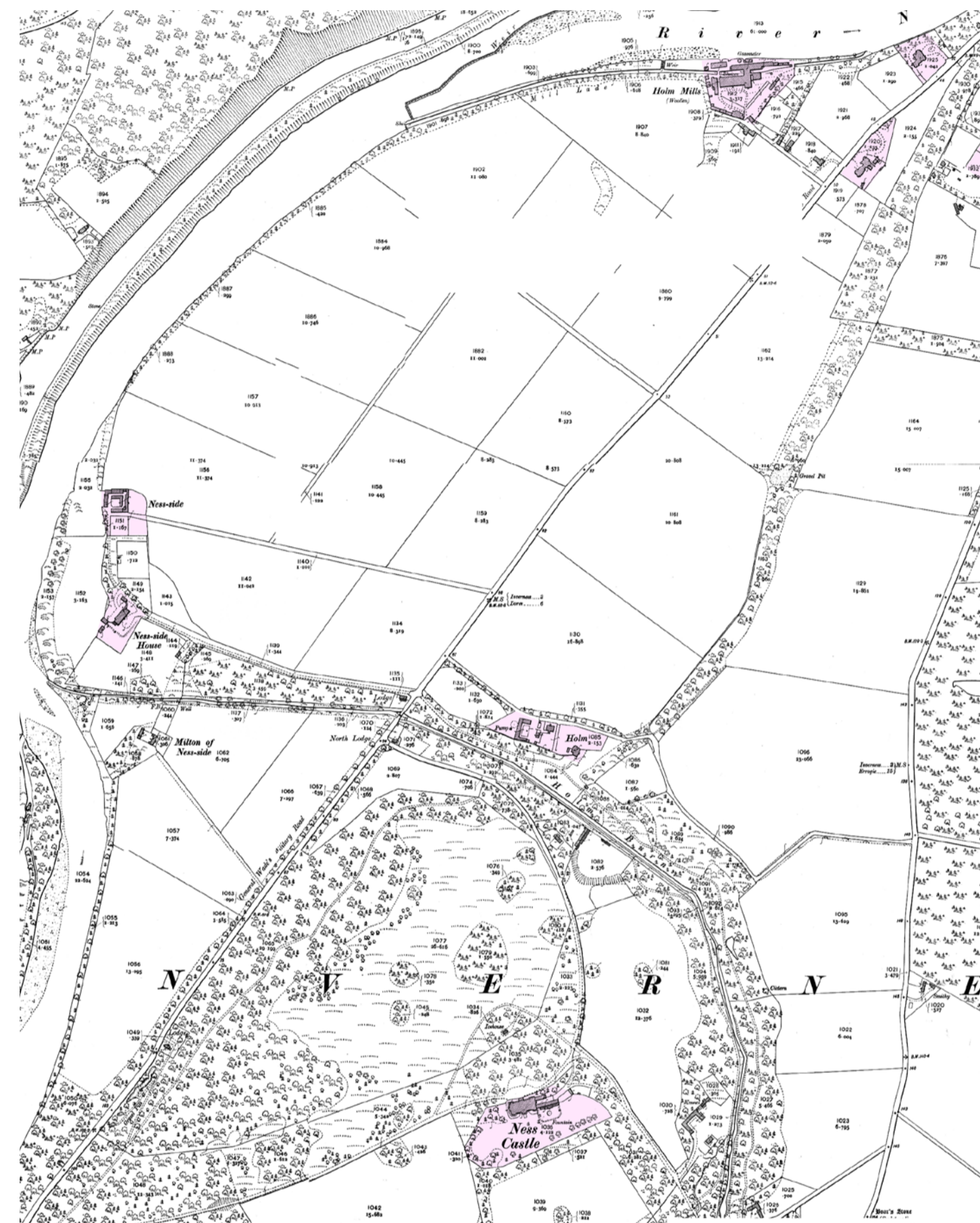
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Inverness History & Vernacular

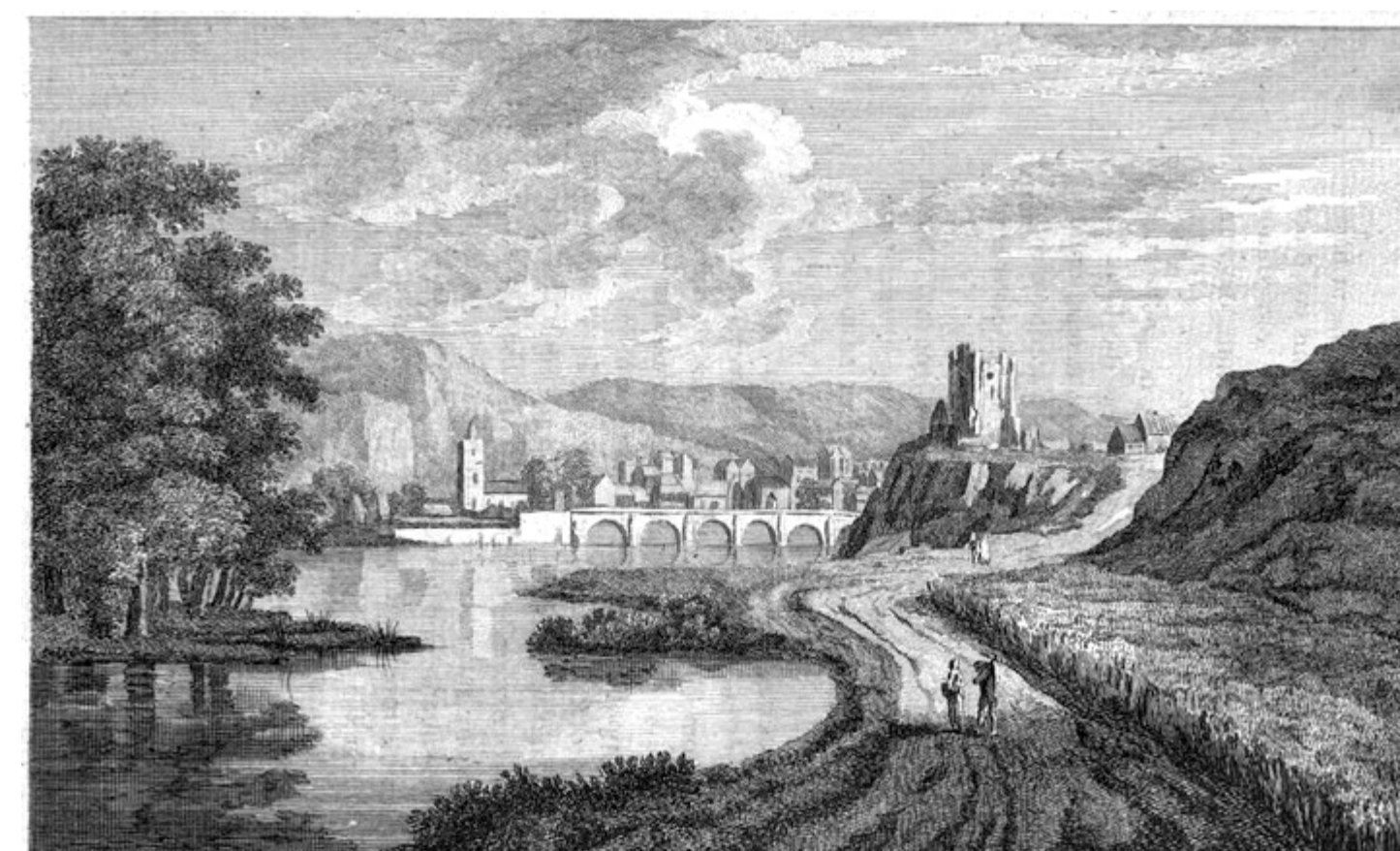
Understanding the unique character and history of a place is a critical part of designing a building that is knitted into its context. As the new primary school will be situated in a new housing development, it is essential that the building provides a sense of place and appropriately contributes to the history of Inverness.

Architecturally, the most enduring language of Inverness is the medieval style. Commonly identified by crow-stepped gables; a style with Danish and Dutch origins. The centre of Inverness has undergone many changes over the years; the original castle was destroyed by the Jacobites and replaced with a Georgian copy. The original medieval town was further lost through the Victorian era and post-war 60s redevelopment. However, outside of the city centre, the language of Inverness' past still endures. On the periphery of the city, large baronial country houses, ruinous castles and infrastructures still remain.

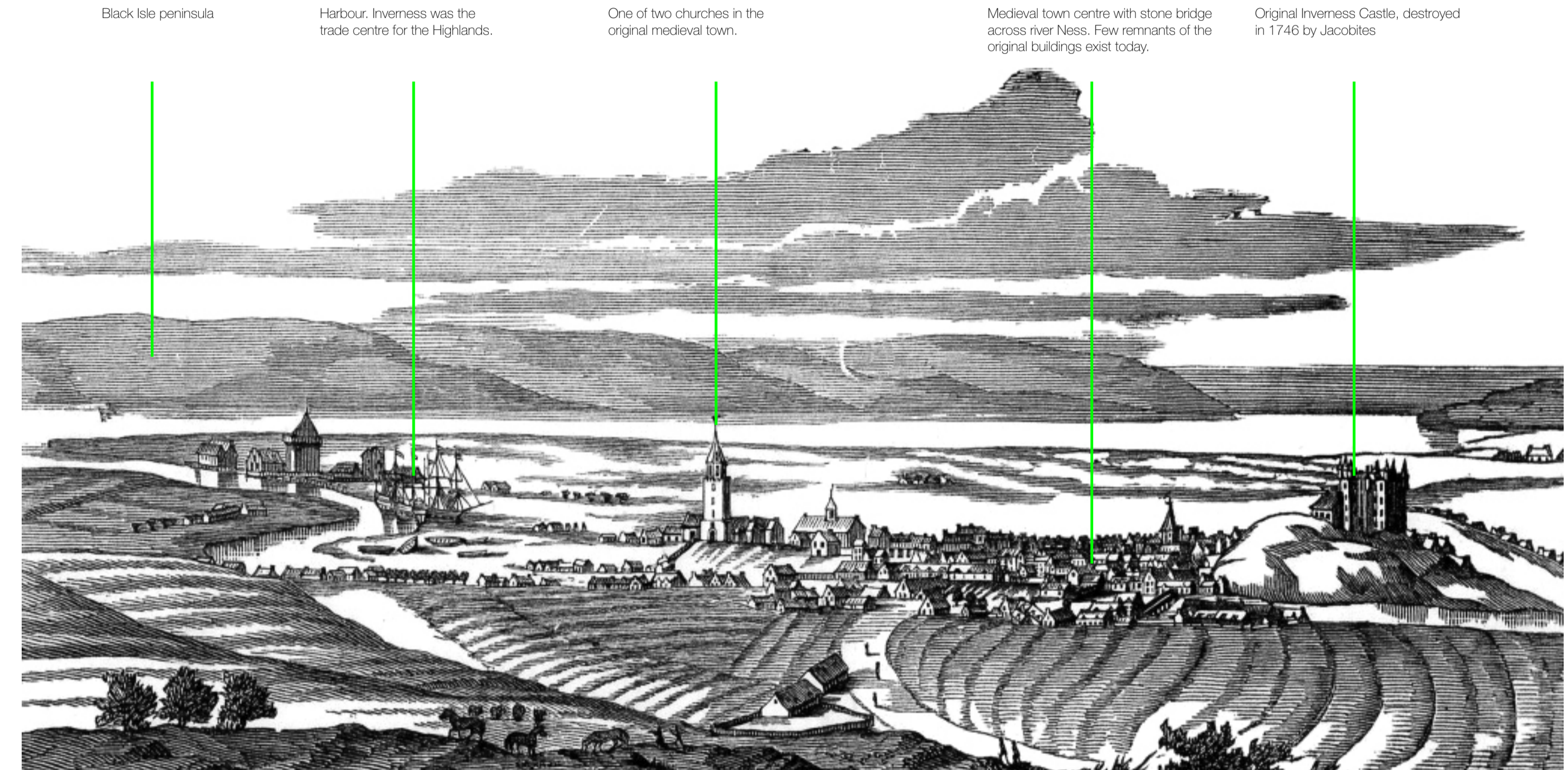
The site in Ness Castle where the primary school is to be located, lies adjacent to one of these country houses with origins dating back to the late 1700s. The design proposals will draw inspiration from the local style and incorporate some traditional building techniques into its construction.



Ness Castle country house located on the edge of the River Ness is an example of the characterful buildings that rest on the outskirts of Inverness city centre.

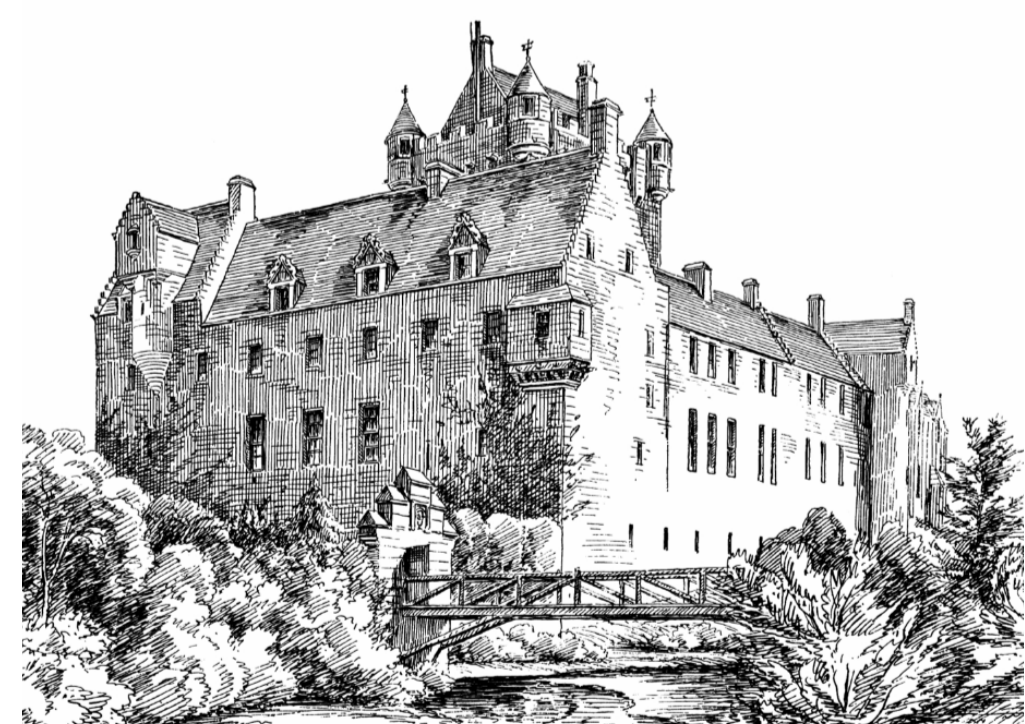


Original Inverness Castle. Outside of the city centre there are many examples of castles from a similar time. Urquhart Castle and Cawdor Castle being among the most notable.



Etching of the original inverness medieval town, dated around 1623.

Black Isle peninsula Harbour, Inverness was the trade centre for the Highlands. One of two churches in the original medieval town. Medieval town centre with stone bridge across river Ness. Few remnants of the original buildings exist today. Original Inverness Castle, destroyed in 1746 by Jacobites



Cawdor Castle



Urquhart Castle



The waterfront in Inverness city centre, shows the Danish architectural influences with the stepped gables and figurative facade features.



The crow-stepped gable has become synonymous with a Scottish medieval style of architecture



Inverness' oldest building, Abertarf House remains today, with heavy masonry walls and signature stepped gable ends.



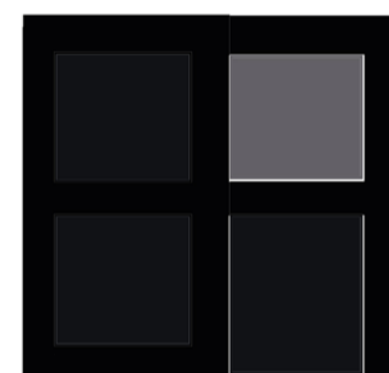
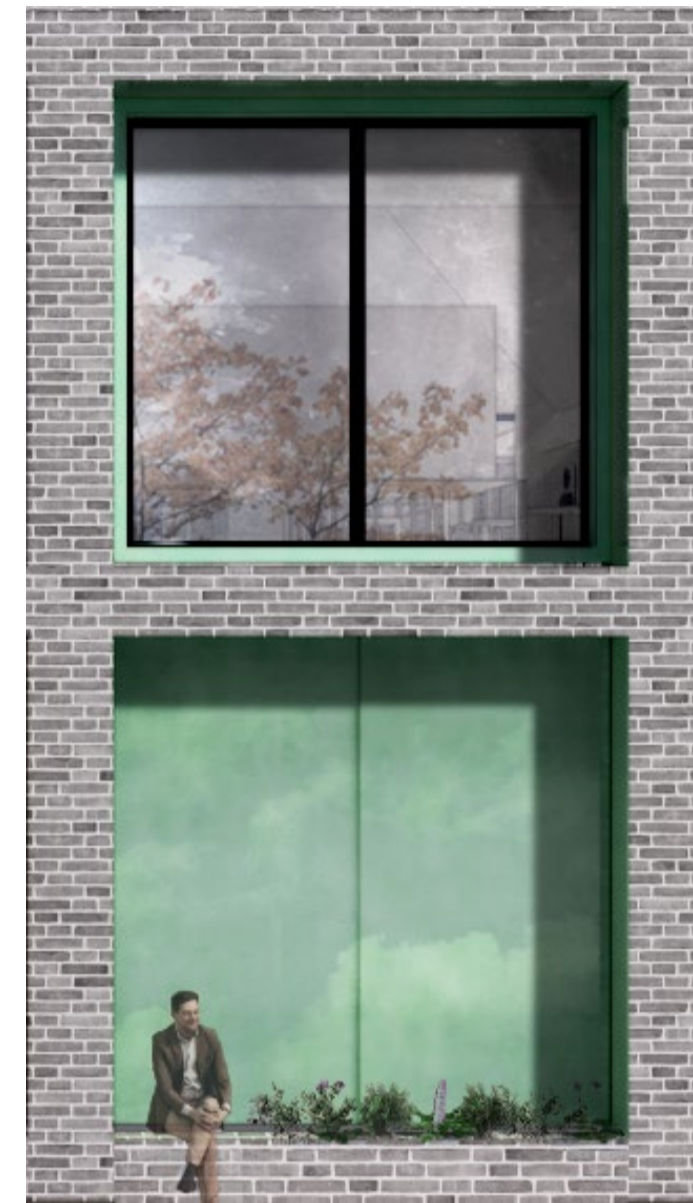
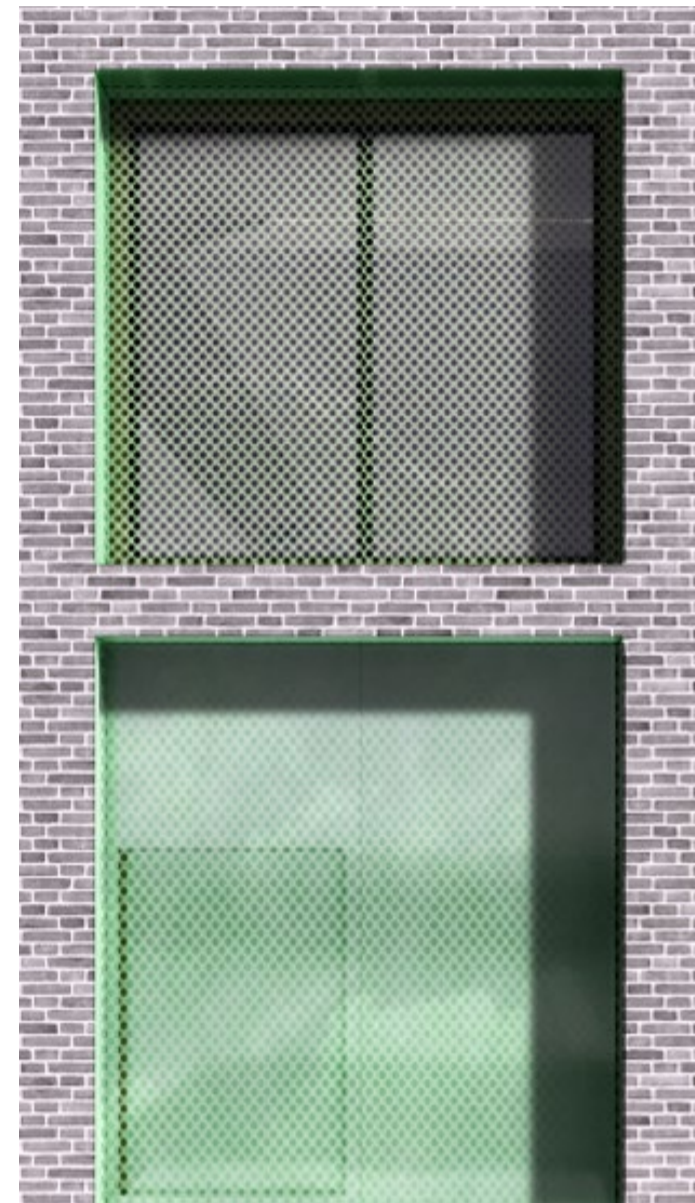
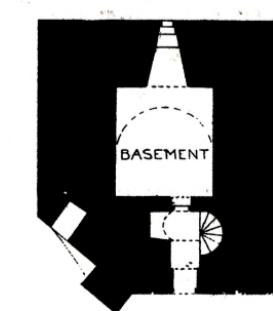
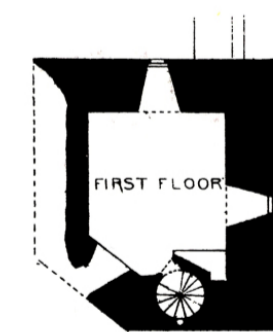
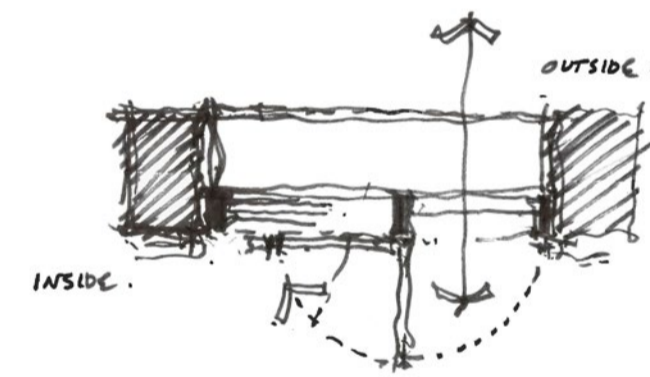
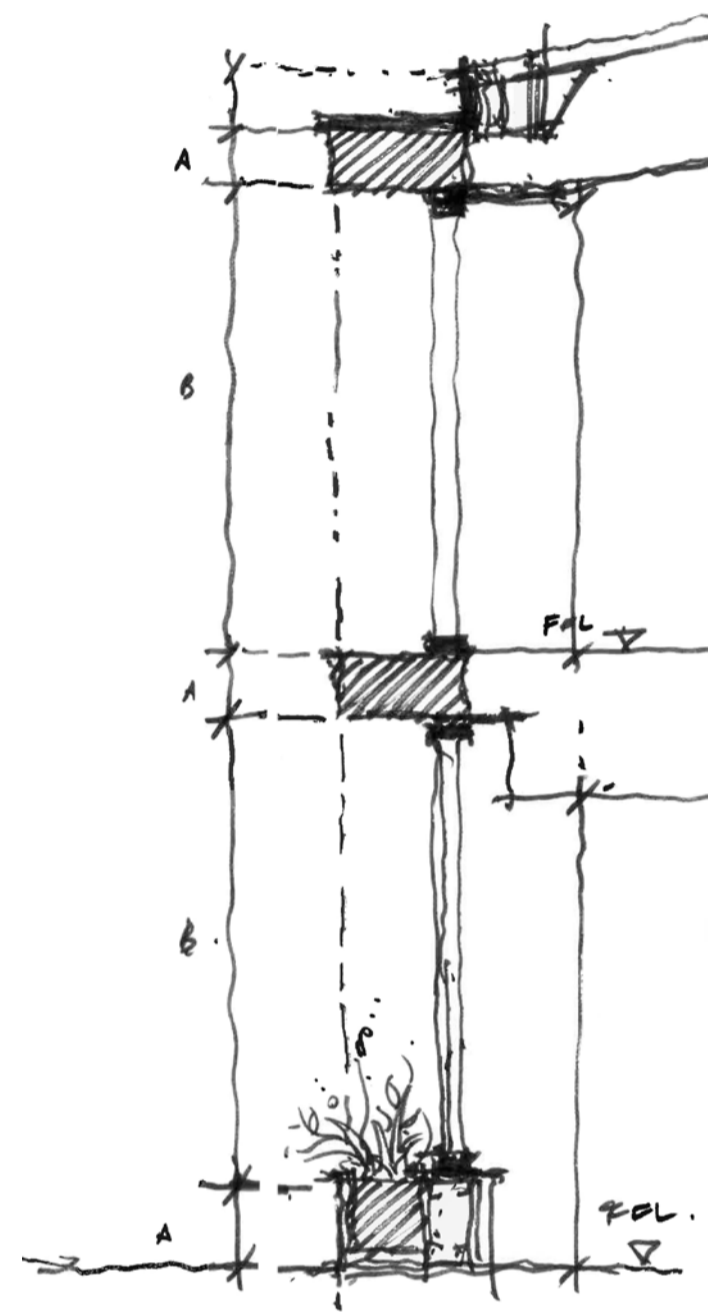
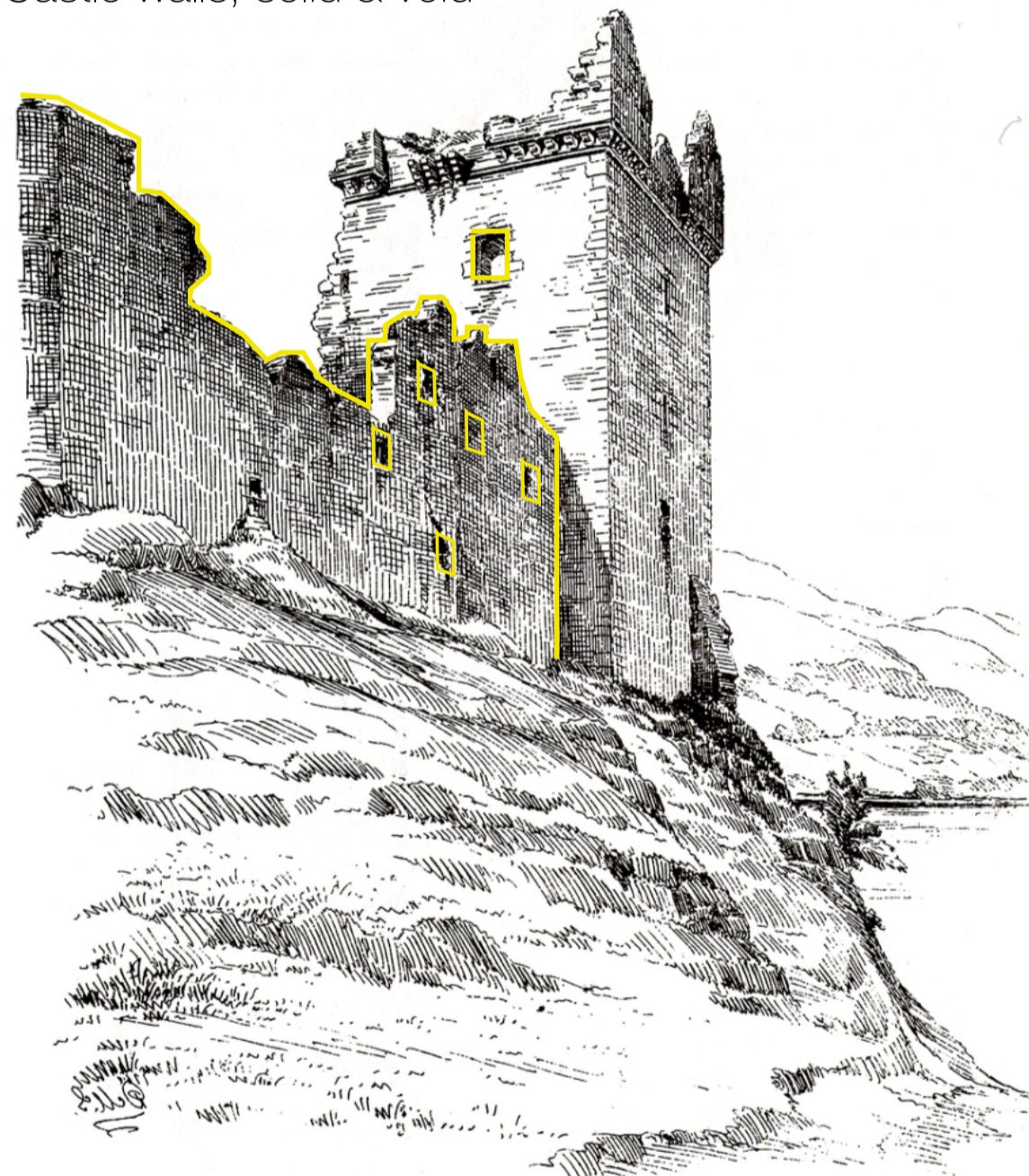
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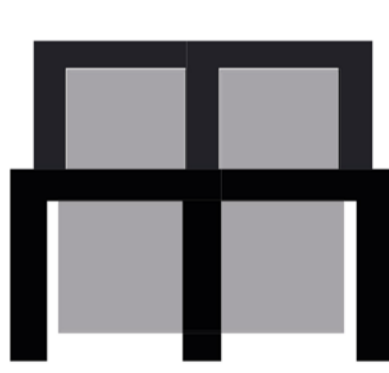
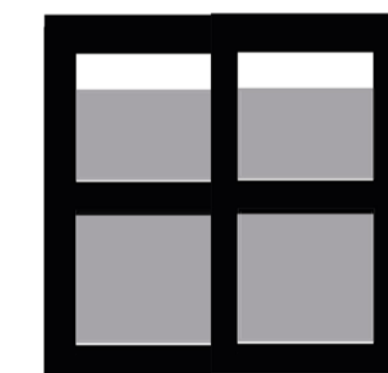
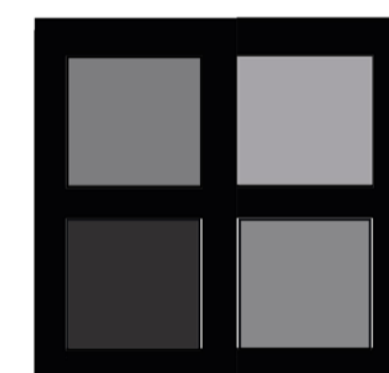
Elevational Treatment

In response to the local architectural influences of heavy masonry walls and playful stepped gables, the design of the elevations at Ness Castle begins to develop a language appropriate to the timeline of a contemporary Scottish style. Assessing the development of the traditional Scottish tower house and how it has evolved to become more open and light informs the sizes of the window openings. The thickness and layering of the walls provides the opportunity to inhabit the wall; as fixed seating, with planting or as external terraces at upper floor.

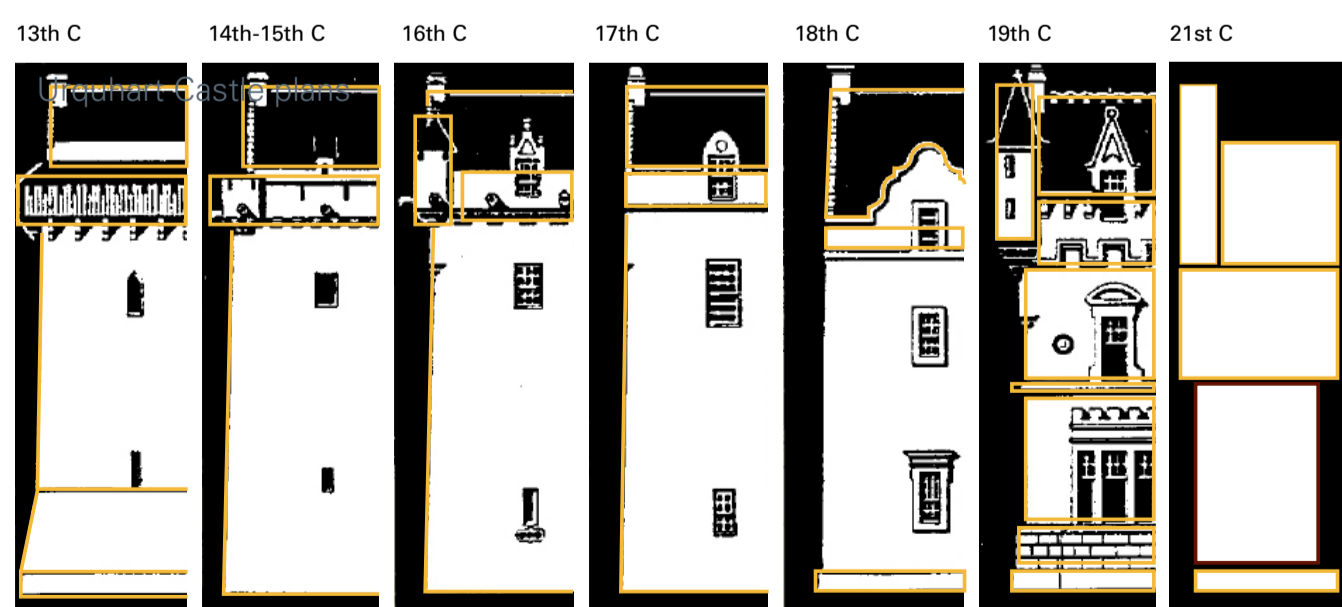
Castle walls, solid & void



Introvert



Extrovert

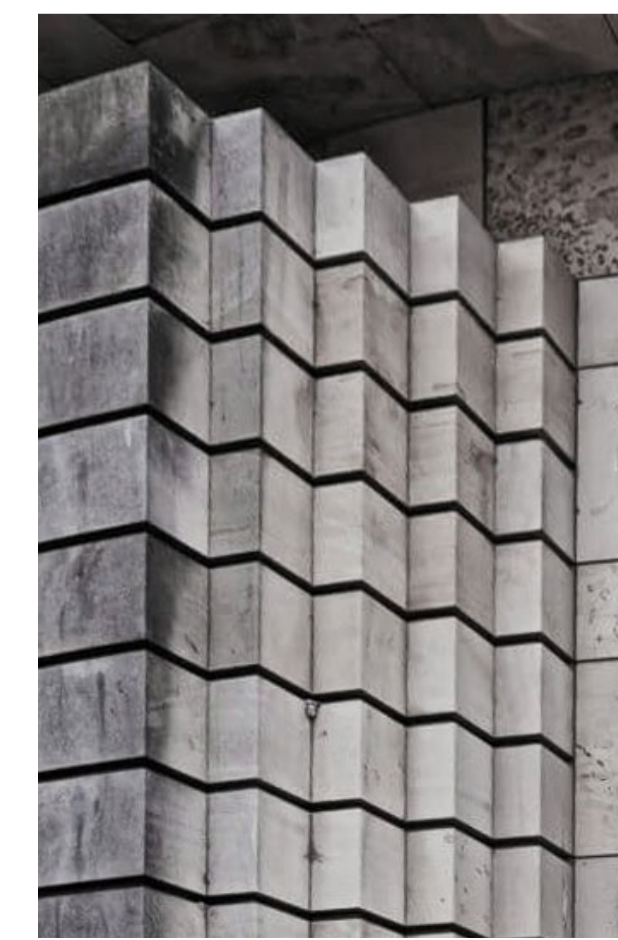
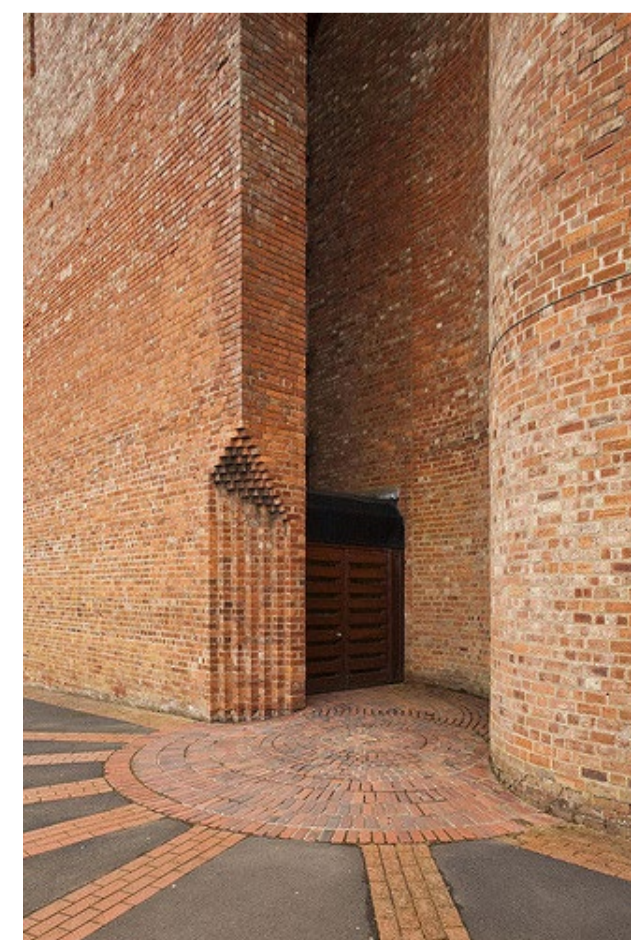


The Evolution of the Scottish Tower House



Introvert

Extrovert





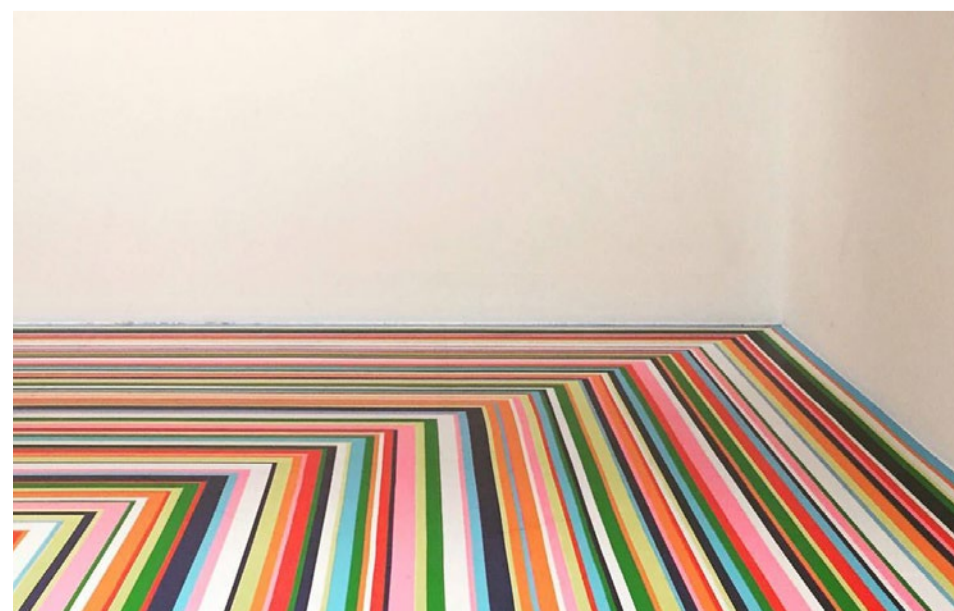
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As the first new public building in the Ness Castle area the school will help to define the identity and sense of place for this new community. We believe schools should be unique to their individual setting which in turn gives the pupils, staff, carers and parents a feeling of ownership over the place they work, study and play.

The building form and materials will take inspiration from the landscape, history and cultural context of the site to create a unique design solution, whilst the typically variable Scottish climate dictates a quality and robustness of materials that can withstand the test of time. Not only must the cladding suit the weather conditions, it must also provide an attractive backdrop to encourage outdoor learning and positively contribute to the character of the Ness Castle development.

As this building is to be constructed on a phased basis, its appearance must be carefully considered at each stage, so that it always looks complete.





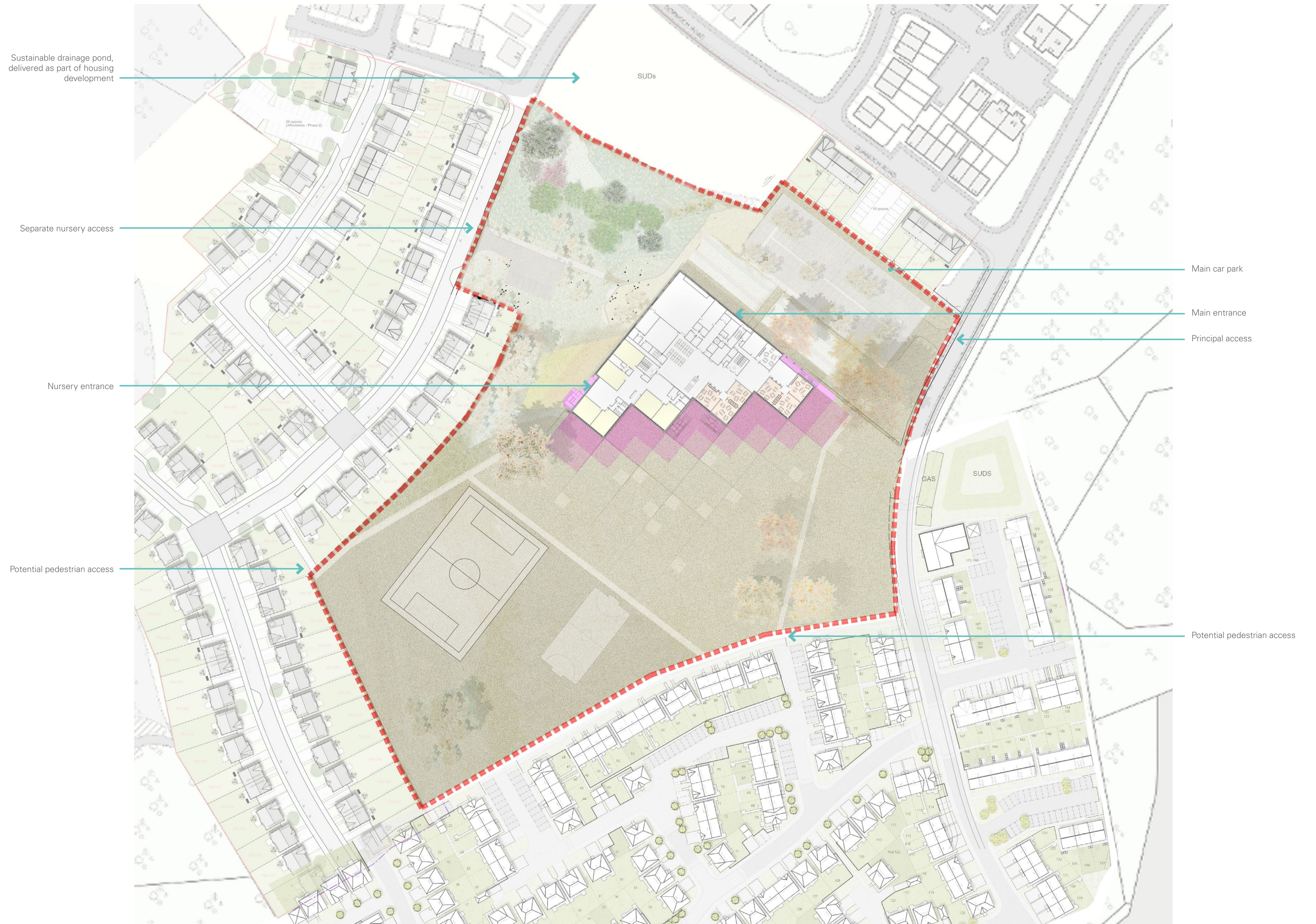
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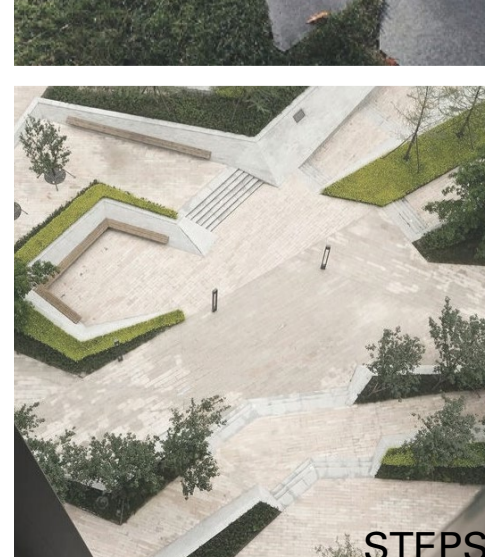
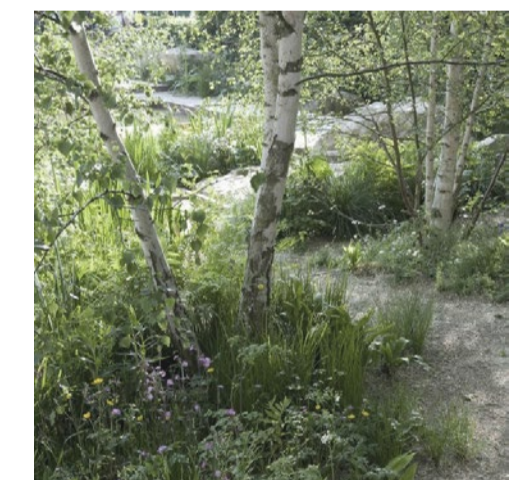
Site Layout

The condensed plan of the building allows us to make the most of the site, with extensive play space that is directly accessible from the classrooms. Character areas have been developed around the edges of the site that are sensitive to the new housing development, employing robust local materials and multi-sensory planting that takes its cue from the surrounding landscape. Existing trees will be retained and celebrated where possible.

The architecture of the building is echoed in the landscape design, in a composition that reads seamlessly through classroom, structure and site.



HARD LANDSCAPING



LAYERS

STEPS