DEBBIE FLEVOTOMOU
ARCHITECTS

City of Tomorrow
St. James, Mayfair

The Node

Architectural Competition

Help us design a new Landmark!

A node is a place of interest for
St. James - Mayfair Conservation Area.

A node will create a dramatic fusion of traditional and novel in a conservation area.

It is a space for the city of tomorrow. A connectivity pavilion; where data collection points, charging stations, modal transportation links and last mile delivery ports can interact with an exhibition space open to the public, for optimal synthesis of aesthetics and functionality.

Starting from this design, we aim to develop a number of nodes all linking with a larger feature node which will serve as a gathering point not only of information, connectivity and technology, but also of people, nature and design.

Let's make St. James Mayfair, the city of Tomorrow!

Toyota City, Japan

Masdar City, Abu Dhabi

Fujisawa Smart City, Japan

The pavilion will be inspired by THINK NATURE and the design concept should be of the English Rose.

Timetable

Competition Launch:
Monday the 1 February 2021

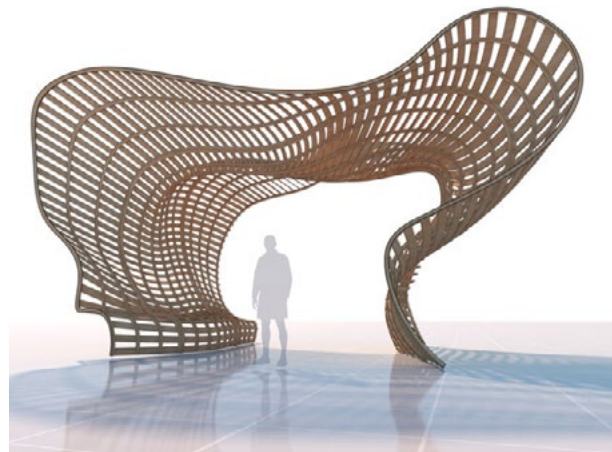Deadline for questions:
Monday the 8 February 2021

Deadline for submission:
Monday the 25 February 2021

Winner Announced:
Monday the 15 March 2021

Winning Entry Published:
Monday the 22 March 2021

Exhibition in Mayfair and award ceremony:
June 2021 (Subject to Government Guidelines)

Pavilion Design Example

About us

We are the THINK NATURE Architects.

Designing beautiful buildings, creating inspirational zero carbon emission spaces from natural forms and organic motifs.

Imagine the building of the future. A building that is 100% carbon free and also produces energy for its occupants and users; a place that improves its users experience, reduces their stress levels, blood pressure and heart rates, whilst increasing their productivity, creativity and self-reported wellbeing with the help of Biophilic design. An environment where every unit of space is utilised. A place where personal space is highly valued and communal areas are catalysts of fusion of ideas. A space that the end-user is looking forward to experiencing every day. Our vision is that the city of tomorrow will consist only of such places.

1st Prize Competition Entry - Link

Award Winning Residential- Link

Post Covid Office Spaces- Link

The concept of the City of Tomorrow

Most "City of Tomorrow" concepts we've seen so far have been developed on a white canvas, some on areas of desert, others on reclaimed land, others on brownfield sites. This obviously allows a degree of freedom to incorporate all aspects of sustainability, infrastructure and services, without encountering the constrains that an existing city fabric would impose.

whilst the results of white canvas cities of tomorrow are inspirational and demonstrate well "the art of the possible", the evolution of existing cities will need a different approach, one that respects local heritage and current norms commercial, residential and civic. In other words, to convert an existing city, there is a great deal of compromise that needs to be applied to thinking outside the box. Nevertheless, the city of tomorrow is a reality that we must strive towards if our national targets for decarbonisation are to be achieved.

In an effort to find an approach that can be adopted by cities around the UK, we are developing a masterplan for our local area.

St. James Mayfair is a good example of a locality with many and diverse constraints. As a conservation area with numerous listed building and limited space for new developments, it offers a great case study for challenging the status quo to deliver the city of tomorrow.

Areas of exploration:

- Road Usage
- Green vehicles vs conventional cars
- Necessary infrastructure
- Decarbonise buildings and energy generators
- Infrastructure for sustainable transportation, green energy generation and distribution, telecommunications, connectivity and data management.
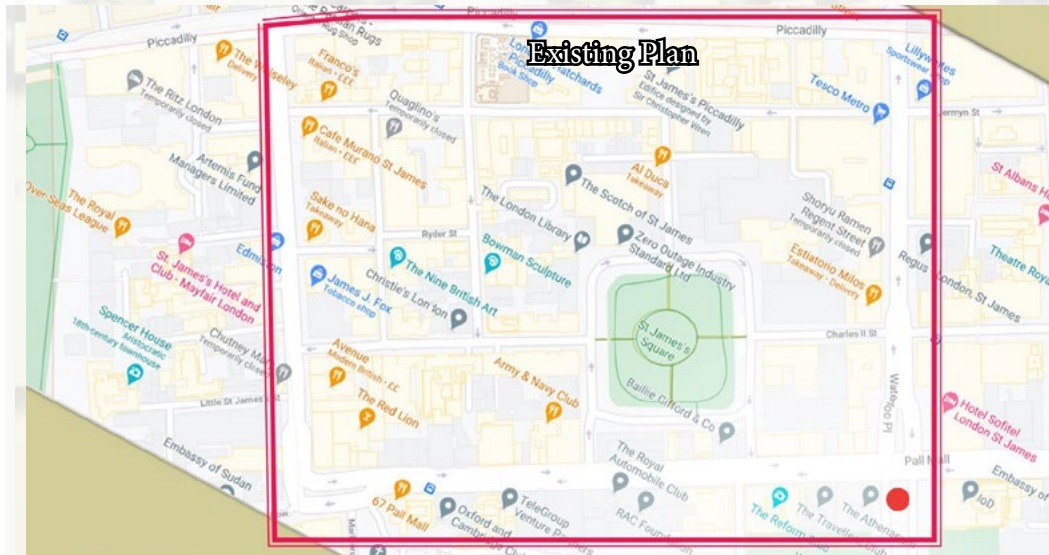
What is a Node & Lynchian Analysis

According to the traditional urban design Lynchian analysis, a city consists of its edges, its nodes, its districts, its paths and its landmarks. Of those, edges are usually set elements defining the city boundaries and hence would not be changed. However, paths, districts and landmarks and nodes can be modernised to become smart-elements of the city; the city can be further enhanced by the introduction of a smart-promenade.

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Node Site

Paths

The term "paths" includes road, pedestrian areas and footpaths. As the city of tomorrow will have clean air and a very low carbon foot-print, all transportation within the city must be electrified or based on a different zero tailpipe emissions propulsion. Returning to our local example at Mayfair, roads should evolve, making the most of the area's character and history, whilst at the same time creating bespoke spaces for each category of road users.

· Some of the roads previously used by automobiles, would be redesigned and repurposed for pedestrians to walk, run, etc. on landscaped routes dedicated for such use.

· Cyclists would need their own dedicated routes; these can be part of the main streets of partial use of pedestrian routes

· In our example, utilities, services, public transport and private transportation would share the main routes. Different approaches can be adopted where larger streets and high-speed roads are available.

Districts

Our example area is a single district protected by conservation orders. As such converting buildings to zero carbon emissions must be respectful of current designs. In this case a suite of modern technologies (photo voltaic, geo-thermal, etc.) could be incorporated within each building to enable it to offset part of the energy it consumes, as well as providing a connection point to the grid for electric vehicles of all types.

Nodes & Landmark

Lynchian analysis defines city nodes as places of interest that help people understand the city grid. Looking at nodes in our example area from a technology point of view we can consider where data collection points, charging stations, modal transportation links and last mile delivery ports can interact with architectural points of interest for optimal synthesis of aesthetics and functionality.

We propose a number of nodes all linking with a larger feature node which will serve as a gathering point not only of information, connectivity and technology, but also of people, nature and design.

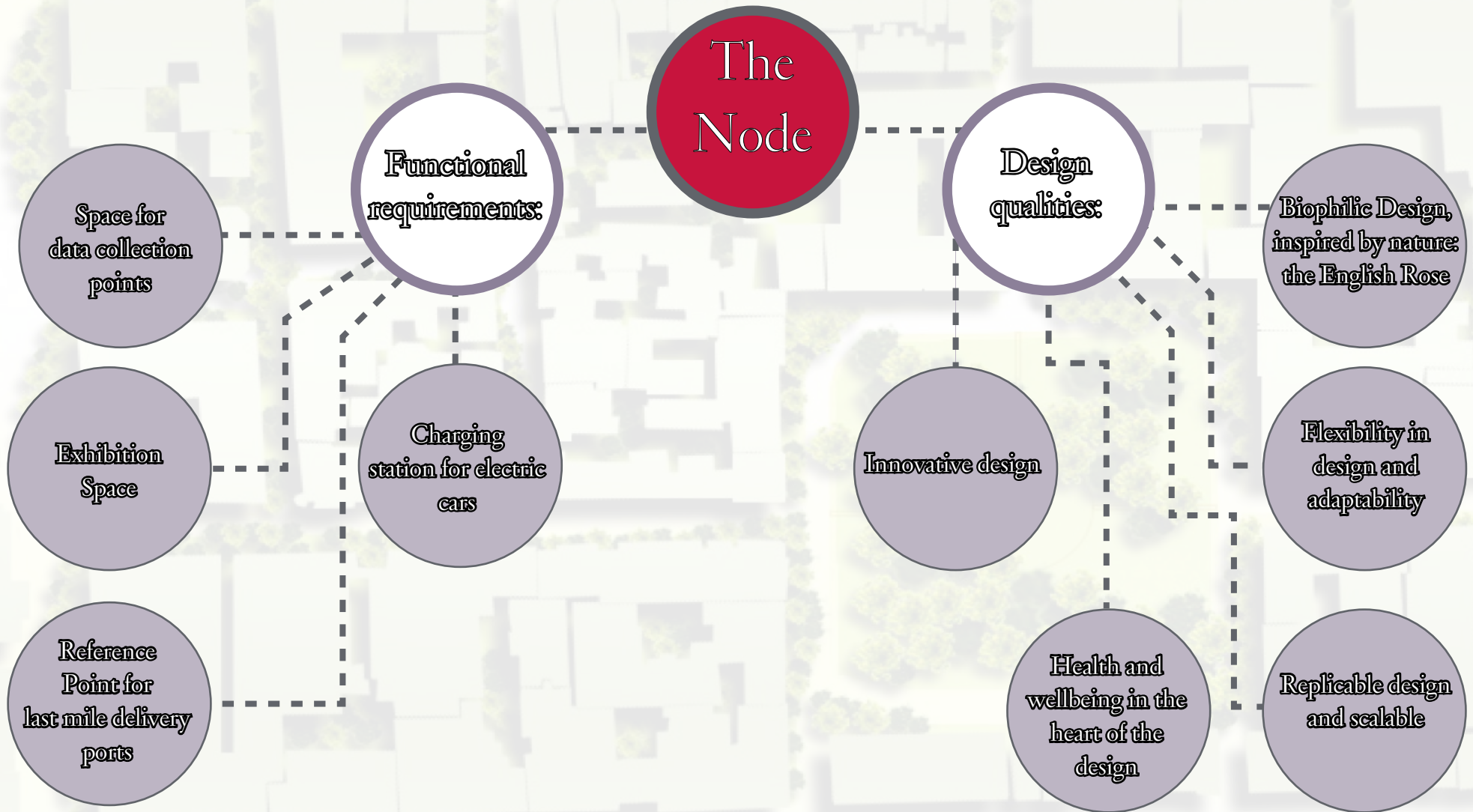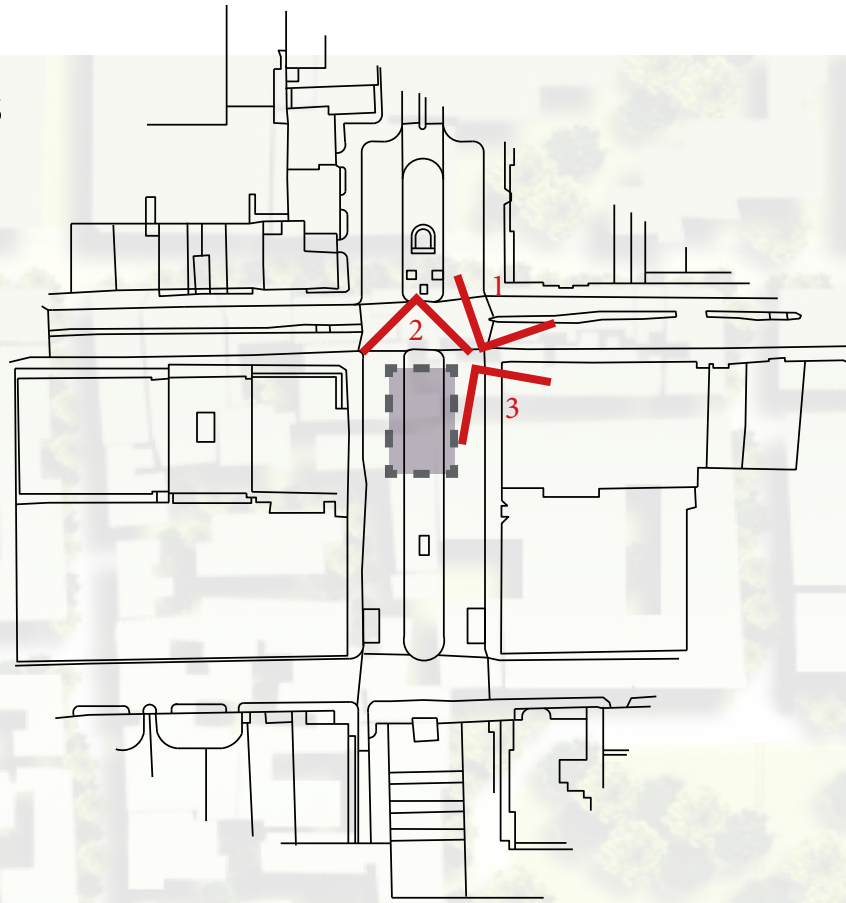path   edge   district   landmark   node

Concept design

The design should be no bigger than a One Storey with no significant foundations. The design should incorporate both the functional requirements and the design qualities and that can be replicated and scaled.

The Node

Functional requirements:

- Space for data collection points
- Exhibition Space
- Reference Point for last mile delivery ports
- Charging station for electric cars

Design qualities:

- Biophilic Design, inspired by nature: the English Rose
- Flexibility in design and adaptability
- Replicable design and scalable
- Innovative design
- Health and wellbeing in the heart of the design

Site Plan Dimensions

8900mm X 12000mm

Site Photos

1

2

3

Submission requirements

There are four elements to the design submission. Competitors should refer to the anonymity requirements and submit the following material digitally.
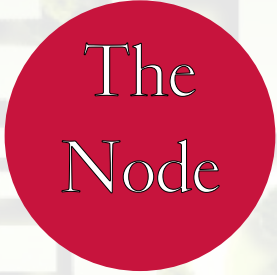
A maximum of 1 landscape sheet – A3 PDF

Elevations and floor plan at 1:100 scale
and 3D Concept Visuals

A written design statement

The concept / How the design creatively addresses this brief.
Maximum 500 words.

The Node

One visual image

One visual image of the design concept should be provided for publicity purposes and for the future physical exhibition (this will also be used in the online gallery of all entries at the end of the competition). The image should be representative of the ideas proposed. The image should be submitted in JPEG format, in a low and high resolution (72ppi) and (300ppi) and A3 size.

Declaration form

A completed declaration form that includes the contact details of the student and University.

Submission method

Each stage on design submission, should be submitted electronically before noon on Monday the 25th of February 2021. Please note, that the total upload should not exceed 10MB.

Judging panel

The Judging Panel is expected to comprise:

- Debbie Flevotomou Architects Director – Debbie Flevotomou
- Grosvenor Development Director, Piers Townley
- TLT Solicitor Sustainability Ambassador, Maria Connolly
- Mayfair Business Association Manager, Jer O' Mahony
- First Base Development Director, Doug Higgins
- Ion Development Board member, Olivier Duquenne

Winners

The three winners will be featured in the local magazine for Mayfair members and business.

The winning entry will be awarded £1000.

The entry fee is £20 + VAT for individual entries, £40 + VAT for team entries.

The second stage of the project aims to have the design build at some location subject to stakeholders buying in. The winner (individual or team) will be involved all the way.

Eligibility

The competition is open internationally to architectural students of any level. Students can submit their entries individually or a team.

Every student may only submit one entry to the competition.

Please visit our website for more information and how to submit. https://www.debbieflevotomou.com/city

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Evening Standard