WELCOME TO THE CONCEPT DESIGN ROAD SHOW

This exhibition presents the initial ideas for the detailed design of Pool Street West.

Pool Street West makes up part of the first phase of UCL East, the largest single expansion of UCL since its foundation. UCL East will be an inclusive world class university campus, breaking down traditional barriers to inspire the free exchange of ideas and knowledge.

Pool Street West will feature a range of uses, including student accommodation, academic, retail, community and engagement uses.

Pick up a feedback form to share your views on what you’ve seen. Please return this form to a member of the team or in the box provided.

Alternatively, submit your completed feedback form via email or post by Friday 26 May 2017. For contact details, please see board 12.
UCL was founded in 1826 and was the first to open up university education to those previously excluded from it, and to provide teaching of law, architecture and medicine. As London’s Global University, UCL is among the world’s top universities, as reflected by performance in a range of international rankings and tables. UCL currently has over 38,000 students from 150 countries and over 11,000 staff.

Lifschutz Davidson Sandilands (LDS) have gained an international reputation for the quality of both its architecture and its completed projects in a wide variety of sectors. LDS have designed buildings of a similar nature to Pool Street West, including JW3, an award-winning community centre in London, University of Birmingham Indoor Sports Centre, and iQ Shoreditch, a mixed-use scheme of student housing, hotel and offices. LDS have worked with the Coin Street Community for 30 years to build affordable housing and public amenities.

Soundings led community engagement on the UCL East masterplan process and will continue their role as public engagement consultants into Phase 1 of the detailed design stage. The company has worked on a diverse range of projects in the built environment, including the Olympic Park Masterplan, the Canada Water Masterplan and Kings Cross Central. Soundings will continue to be an impartial member of the team, liaising with the local and UCL community on the design proposals as they evolve to ensure the best fit possible.

A number of technical consultants are also involved in the project, including:

**ATELIER 10**
Sustainability / fire / services

**TYRENS**
Transport consultants

**KIM WILKIE**
Landscape architect

**AECOM**
Cost management

**DELOITTE**
Planning consultants

**AKT II**
Structural engineer

**THE ECOLOGY CONSULTANCY**
Ecologist

**WSP**
Project management
OFFERINGS AND ACTIVITIES

The design of Pool Street West will foster innovative academic programming, as well as a range of events and activities. Performances, exhibitions, workshops and lectures will contribute to a lively and creative learning atmosphere.

The lower levels of the building will also feature a range of retail and food & drink units to cater to both the public and UCL students and staff.

BRINGING THE ACADEMIC VISION TO LIFE

The academic vision for UCL East is deliberately innovative and ambitious. Pool Street West will house the Future Living Institute, which will explore global challenges such as planetary sustainability, understanding nature, environment and urbanisation, global communications, and social inclusivity. It will be truly multi-disciplinary and the first time UCL has created an institute cutting across five faculties.

The Future Living Institute aims to overcome the conventional barriers between research, education, enterprise and public engagement.

It will comprise:

- **The Experimental Engineering Labs**, which will provide new academic activities covering a wide range of unique and innovative fields of study. A centre for Robotics & Autonomous Systems will offer the opportunity to build robots from the nano to large scale and model their environments.

- **The Global Disability Innovation Hub**, which will bring together cutting edge technology and lived experience. Academics, innovators, corporates and the local community will explore disability from a new perspective.

- **The Culture Lab**, which will offer teaching, research and engagement spaces, underpinned by new programmes in making, media, conservation & heritage, and public history. Facilities at Pool Street West will include an object-based learning laboratory and a London Memory Archive.

- **Nature-Smart Cities Labs**, which will be a research and teaching centre, focusing on three key themes: enhancing biodiversity of cities; understanding urban ecosystem services & wellbeing benefits; and engaging urban populations with their natural environment.

- **The Urban Room**, as part of the Global Future Cities Co-Labs, which will be a major public and community space, hosted by urban academics from across UCL, for debating the past, present and future of London. The Co-Labs will provide opportunities for the application of knowledge towards the improvement of human settlements worldwide.
A HISTORY OF THE AREA

In 1868 the area was largely agricultural. Adjacent uses included a gasworks, brick field, spinning mill and nearby railways on the embankment. By 1893 a number of light industrial premises (Victoria Oil and Candle Works, Varnish Works, Oil and Chemical works and Hudson’s Bay Fur and Skin works) occupied a vacant area of land to the south including the UCL East site. From the end of the 20th century until the early 2000s the site was used as a scrap yard.

The wider site was developed prior to 2012 for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Immediately to the south is the head house for the National Grid transmission tunnel, enclosed by a concrete wall. Two deep tunnels containing power lines cross the site and these constrain the foundations to a large extent.

The Legacy Communities Scheme (LCS) planning application, which was approved in September 2012, is the overarching scheme developed to guide the long-term development of Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park and its neighbourhoods after the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

THE CURRENT SITE
CONSULTATION TO DATE

Consultation on the UCL East masterplan started in summer 2015 to raise awareness about the project and engage with the local community.

The four stages of consultation helped gather aspirations and understand key issues — both for the local community and UCL students & staff — and respond accordingly in the masterplan.

Since summer 2015, over 4,800 people were engaged in total through 49 events including public exhibitions, pop-up events, local schools & youth workshops, public workshops, stakeholder events and outreach sessions.

OVERALL IMPRESSION OF THE MASTERPLAN*

*FROM STAGE 3 OF THE MASTERPLAN CONSULTATION (SUMMER 2016)

82% of the 159 people who left feedback were excited or positive about the plans.

GENERAL IMPRESSION OF THE MASTERPLAN

No answer | 8%
Unexcited | 1%
Unsure | 2%
Neutral | 7%
Generally positive | 46%
Excited | 36%

HEADLINE FINDINGS FROM THE MASTERPLAN CONSULTATION PROCESS*

*RELEVANT TO THE DETAILED DESIGN PROCESS

Ensure there is good wayfinding from key access routes and strong gateways to mark entrances. Members of the public coming from any direction should feel empowered to walk into the university buildings.

Activate the site with events and activities for both the local community and UCL students and staff.

Make public areas distinct from the private student and staff areas. Access should be balanced with security needs and the expectations of students and staff.

Connect UCL East academics and activities to the local environment and provide opportunities for young people studying around the site to access. Have inclusive, involving and inviting public spaces that embrace learning and exchange for all.

The waterways and green landscape are the site’s strongest assets. How does UCL East connect to these features?

Have high standards of design for the buildings and landscape. It’s important to merge with the rest of the Park and its naturalistic expression. The architecture should stand out without competing with the surrounding built environment.
MASTERPLAN PRINCIPLES

The UCL East masterplan has informed the outline planning application which sets a framework for the overall distribution of building heights and blocks, the amount of floorspace, building uses and links to spaces.

An overview of the key elements of the masterplan is presented below:

• The concept of the Fluid Zone on the lower levels (see orange-green gradient tone on the image to the right) will seek to encourage movement through the buildings, inviting the public into the campus. Active frontages along key routes will connect UCL East to Carpenters Road and the south of the Park.

• Throughout the public realm, seek to ensure a safe and secure environment which is promoted via lighting, visual connectivity, overlooking from active areas and strong sightlines.

• The Promenade will form an arrival space for UCL East and help promote connectivity within the Park.

• The Plaza will be a vibrant public space and the heart of UCL East, defined by the buildings around it and linked to the Promenade and the Terrace.

• Both Pool Street sites and the southwest of Plot 3 on Marshgate will include student accommodation above the lower levels.
THE DETAILED DESIGN PROCESS

Following the submission of the outline planning application, UCL intend to submit planning applications for the detailed design of buildings and landscaping associated with the various phases of the masterplan. These are called ‘Reserved Matters’ applications and will be formally submitted following the determination of the Outline Planning Application for the masterplan (see phasing diagram on board 12).

The first ‘Reserved Matters’ application to be submitted will be for Pool Street West, anticipated early 2018.

RESPONDING TO THE OBJECTIVES

Pool Street West complies with the Fluid Zone principles on the lower levels (represented in yellow and red tones below) with academic and public functions.

The building is activated by the showcasing of work, interactive space, retail areas and inviting landscapes in all directions to avoid creating a traditional back and front to the building.

PHASE 1 OBJECTIVES

Pool Street West will seek to:

- Be distinct and confident, providing an appropriate identity for UCL on the Park.
- Provide an outstanding environment for learning and scholarship for students, staff, collaborators and the public.
- Build on and develop the idea of the ‘Fluid Zone’ on lower levels to encourage the public to access the building through active frontages, a range of activities and events.
- Encourage approaches from all directions around the site to connect the building to its context and provide navigation.
- Provide new high quality residences for students.
- Provide interactive public engagement and exhibition spaces.
- Achieve long term adaptability, while accommodating the requirements of the first generation of users.
- Encourage chance interactions of people working in the building to increase social and academic exchange.
- Accommodate facilities expected to operate on a 24/7 basis.
- Provide high standard sustainable design throughout the development – in social, economic and environmental aspects.

LAYOUT AND USES

FACTS & FIGURES

- Academic floorspace of circa 5,000 m²
- Student residential floorspace of circa 13,000 m² with about 440 to 490 student study bedrooms (including wheelchair accessible and adaptable rooms)
- 3 levels of academic space at the lower levels, terrace level and up to 14 storeys of residential space above
- Provision of shared amenity space, community and engagement uses and retail and commercial spaces
- Flexible, adaptable and sustainable design that achieves as a minimum a rating of BREEAM ‘Excellent’
The initial concept studies on this board show how the design team has interpreted the parameter plans of the UCL East masterplan. For example, the eastern tower of Pool Street West has been rotated to create a stronger streetscape edge along Thornton Street and give a sense of enclosure to the south of the Park.

**DESIGN EVOLUTION**

The below 3D diagrams show how the concept designs have developed over time. Changes have been influenced by continued understanding of the academic requirements, climate change mitigation and adaptation measures, and in response to feedback from LLDC’s Built Environment Access Panel (BEAP) and Quality Review Panel (QRP).

Design team meetings have been regular, and joint meetings have been held with the Marshgate Phase 1 architect team, led by Stanton Williams, in order to achieve coherence within the wider UCL East development.

**Current concept design of the exterior view from Thornton Street**

**FAÇADE TREATMENT**

The towers are composed of textured precast concrete in two colour tones, white and grey (refer to image on the bottom right). Metal screens to the windows provide additional layering and articulation to the glazed bands. The underside of the projecting precast elements is textured for visual interest when viewed from below.

Vertical and horizontal grids reflect the room sizes behind the façades. The glazing increases where there are communal kitchen/living/dining rooms on the ends of the towers so that views from these spaces are maximised.
DESIGNING SPACES

The building design of Pool Street West takes inspiration from the fluid form of its surroundings, including the London Aquatics Centre and the natural landscape of the Park.

Further detail on the fit-out of the interiors will be available at the next stage of consultation.

STUDENT LIVING

Study bedrooms are arranged in clusters around communal kitchen / living / dining areas. Communal spaces are placed at each end of the towers and are triple aspect, offering views across the Park and London.

A proportion of rooms are designed especially for wheelchair users. The design team are very aware of the need to create flexibility in the configuration of these clusters to accommodate different sizes of groups, to meet individual students’ needs and to allow for adaptability in the future, in line with LLDC’s Inclusive Design Standards and in the spirit of the Paralympic Legacy.

TREATMENT OF THE LOWER LEVELS

A key design aspiration is to maximise permeability at ground floor level to activate the public realm around the building. The main entrance on Thornton Street is recessed forming a canopy and highlighting arrival.

Horizontal bands in the lower level façades indicate the floor levels inside and emphasise the fluidity of the lower level form.
AN INVITING BUILDING FOR ALL

The public realm design at ground level aims to enhance the existing routes and better integrate with the wider context. Active frontages will be maximised at ground floor level.

A key part of the design concept is an open and accessible entrance foyer at the centre of the building with an atrium above. Shared facilities and amenity space will surround the atrium, helping to create a dynamic and welcoming environment that encourages visitors, the local community, and UCL students and staff to enter and spend time in the building.

KEY FACTS

• The site is around a 10 minute walk from Stratford station and Stratford High Street and Pudding Mill Lane DLR stations.

• Cycle parking will meet London Plan standards with generous provision for students, staff and visitors.

• There will be blue badge parking and access to dedicated vehicle drop-off points.

• The existing bus stop is located adjacent to the site.

• The southeast corner of the site will be brought to life by the Making Yard, where students can make models and hold experiments. This will help to engage people coming from the south of the site with Pool Street West.
SUPPORTING A RANGE OF ACTIVITIES

The Pool Street West scheme provides amenity space in the form of a terrace garden above the lower levels. This will be a place for learning and a space for relaxation. Part of the garden could also support a programme of events, for example outdoor screenings or lectures.

More detail on the public realm of Thornton Street will be available at the next stage of consultation.

ILLUSTRATIVE TOWNSCAPE VIEWS

The configuration of Pool Street West is intended to draw people in and serve as a marker to aid wayfinding in the Park. The design allows for framed views of surrounding landmarks.

LANDSCAPE INSPIRATION

Landscape architect Kim Wilkie has developed concept ideas for the terrace, inspired by the surrounding landscape of the Park and the soft, fluid shapes within it.

EXPERIENCING THE TERRACE LEVEL*

*The terrace level is located 3 storeys above ground level with the residential towers situated above.
Thank you for coming to the first exhibition on the detailed design of Pool Street West. The proposals shown are initial concept designs and will continue to be developed and evolve in the coming months.

Please pick up a feedback form to share your views on the concept proposals. All written feedback will be entered into a database, analysed and reported back to the design team to help shape the detailed designs and will be available to the public.

GET IN TOUCH
For any enquiries, please contact the UCL East team at Soundings on:

- 020 7729 1705
- UCLEast@soundingsoffice.com

Soundings
148 Curtain Road
London
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You can also keep up to date on the web by visiting either:

UCL website
ucl.ac.uk/ucl-east

Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park website
QueenElizabethOlympicPark.co.uk/ucl-east

PHASING OF UCL EAST
The first phase of UCL East will focus around the Waterworks River helping to establish a strong presence within the Park. Phase 1’s location away from Sidings Street ensures that future development and construction will not impede concurrent operation and University life.

Masterplan Stage 3 public exhibition, summer 2016