

Our College, Our Future Campaign

Remodelling Our Central Spaces

April 2020

“Our Members know that our buildings play an important role in creating an atmosphere conducive to learning and fostering a strong sense of community. Our plans will ensure that our facilities provide these benefits for many years to come. The central areas of College life – the Hall, kitchen, libraries and function rooms – are absolutely key to the St Catharine’s experience.”

DR PETER WOTHERS, PRESIDENT



OUR COLLEGE,
OUR FUTURE

OUR AIM

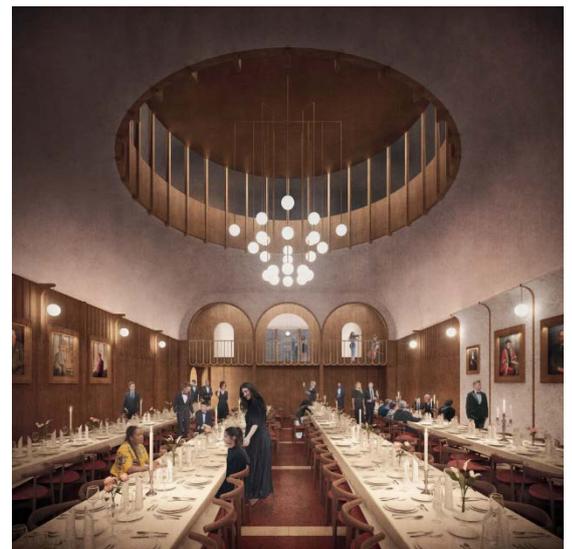
To execute a selective, planned renewal of buildings to support College operations, ensuring Members enjoy a high standard of communal life, while also increasing opportunities for revenue generation.

Our Central Spaces Project

The importance of place cannot be underestimated. Our buildings are the environment in which we live, work, eat and socialise. Lifelong learning takes place and transformative, enduring friendships are made within our walls. Attractive, functional and enjoyable spaces enhance the student experience and encourage alumni to return and remain connected to their College.

GIFT MATCHING

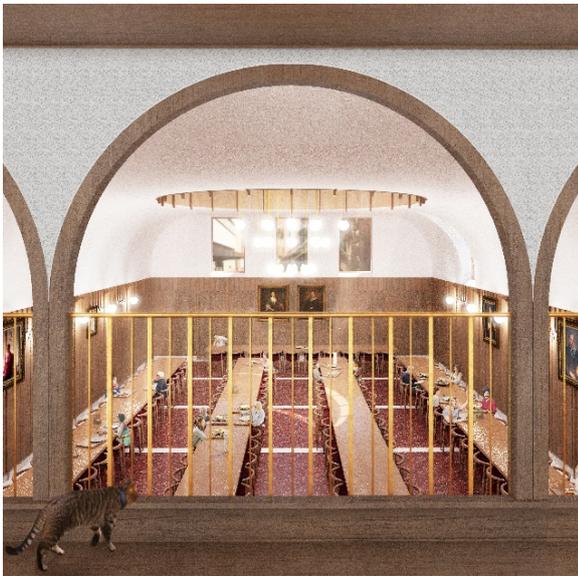
Christina (2016) and Peter Dawson (1974) have given a substantial lead gift of £4 million, meaning the project to refresh central College spaces is much closer to being realised. Peter and Christina have also established a matched funding challenge, to encourage others to support this vital project. Until December 2021, all gifts received for the remodelling of our central spaces will be matched on a pound-for-pound basis, up to a maximum of £4 million in matched funds from Peter and Christina. Successful completion of this matched funding challenge will result in a total of £12 million for the project.



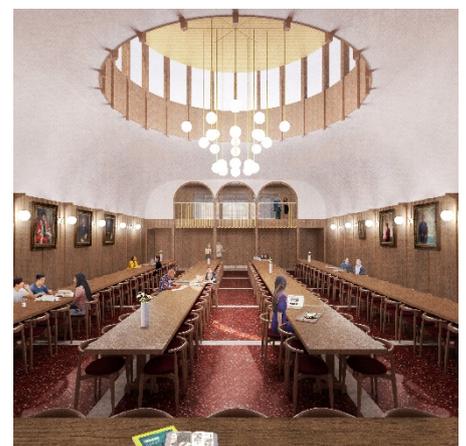
The Revitalisation of St Catharine's Central Spaces

Estimated project cost £12 million

Our Hall and dining rooms are the core of College activity, where students, Fellows and Members come together to build and strengthen our community. A design competition to remodel these central spaces was launched in February 2019 and saw entries from over 30 architects. Gort Scott was appointed as the winning architect. The target start date will be Summer 2020, with an anticipated working timeframe of 18 months, and a project build cost estimated at £12 million.



Proposed Dining Hall, looking West and artist's interpretation of original Hall, showing detailing of panels & arches.



Above: Proposed Dining Hall, looking East.

Inspired by the opportunity to remake the social heart of St Catharine's, Gort Scott propose a new Hall, resized and reshaped to meet functional needs and reimagined to become a memorable and elevating space for dining. A new light-filled Atrium, in the location of the Old Walnut Tree Court, provides an elegant, light-filled means of connection between the Hall, Chapel and McGrath Centre. In addition, a new access route to the much loved Sherlock Library will provide improved accessibility for all users and reveal the north wall of the former 17th Century Hall. Vestibule space at each entrance provides enhanced congregating spaces, bringing flexibility of use, for formal or informal occasions.



Left: Atrium space connecting Chapel Court with all central spaces, allowing the 17th Century architecture to breathe again.

Right: Chapel Court, looking West at the new Hall.

The brief for the project was demanding in order to deliver improvements on many fronts, in a scheme that transforms the Hall and associated areas into a space that matches the quality and serviceability of the McGrath Centre. Key features of the revitalisation will include reviewing and reversing the Hall layout, repositioning High Table to the opposite end; creating a staff corridor to afford unobtrusive transit through the Hall to other service areas; a review of contingent hospitality rooms and facilities; a review and improvement of the basement area and the modernisation, to latest standards, of the kitchen and buttery areas of the current footprint of our Hall suite. The solution must prioritise addressing the disabled access and audibility limitations of the current Hall.

In Gort Scott's design, enlarged and reconfigured catering areas facilitate improved food production lines in an upgraded working environment. Discreet movement and convenient serveries are seamlessly integrated so that the Hall, SCR, Armitage Room, OCR and new 30-person dining room are

all fully accessible and fully serviceable: making the most of existing heritage assets. The Sherlock library will be modified and refurbished to accommodate workspaces for study, and to retain the Library as a beautiful, contemplative space for everyday use. A secure, climate-controlled environment suitable for rare book conservation is to be created as part of this development.

The plans incorporate the addition of a **new private dining room**, located on the site of the present Buttery. This elegant new room will be named **in memory of Dr Sydney Smith**, Fellow of St Catharine's between 1939 and 1988.

Donor Boards to recognise your support:

Central Spaces - Donors who give £10,000+ can choose to have their name listed alphabetically on the main donor board or:

Sydney Smith Private Dining Room Donors who give £10,000+ and specifically want their gift to be in memory of Dr Sydney Smith can choose to have their name listed alphabetically on the donor board for this room instead.



Cross-section of the proposed design, showing the Sherlock Library, Armitage Room, and Senior Combination Room to the left of the Atrium, the new Hall with green roof, and student accommodation and Junior Combination Room.

Our Hall and dining rooms are the core of College activity, where students and Fellows come together to build our community, and our Members gather to reminisce. At the time of their construction in the 1960s, these shared spaces helped to transform the College into the flourishing institution that it is today. This extensive redesign will deliver a stylish, streamlined community space for our Members, Fellows and staff: essential to meet the needs of a 21st-century College.