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O'DONNELL + TUOMEY

Established by
S. O'Donnell and J. Tuomey in 1988.

SHEILA O'DONNELL (left)

Born in Dublin, Ireland in 1953.
Graduated from School of Architecture
University College Dublin in 1976 and
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Colquhoun and Miller, and
Stirling Wilford Associates.
Received a Master's degree in Environmental
Design from Royal College of Art in London.

JOHN TUOMEY (right)

Born in Tralee, Ireland in 1954.
Graduated from School of Architecture
University College Dublin in 1976,
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Worked for Stirling Wilford Associates in
London from 1976 to 1981,
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O'DONNELL + TUOMEY

CENTRAL EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY CAMPUS REDEVELOPMENT

Nador Street, Budapest, Hungary

Design: 2011–13

Construction: 2013–16



Sectional perspective

Central European University (CEU) is embarking on one of the largest current real estate projects in Hungary with the redevelopment and refurbishment of approximately 30,000 square meters of its campus in downtown Budapest, World Heritage site.

Site: Permeability

The campus site is located in the City Centre block defined by Nador Utca, Zrinyi Utca and Oktober 6 Utca. We propose to open up connections between each of those streets; to

make the CEU buildings and facilities into an accessible campus which acts like an urban connector, a permeable University that reflects and promotes the ethos of the Open Society.

Problem: Interconnectivity

At present the old buildings and the various piecemeal additions work against each other. Access between the parts of the campus is convoluted. The existing complex is closed and confusing, with divided and insular

buildings disconnected from each other and lacking dynamic exchange. Access from one building to another often involves going back out to the public street. Our design philosophy prioritizes interconnectivity as a design principle.

Solution: An Open Campus

We have identified the opportunities to intervene in this downtown urban block, to make what is now a disconnected and disparate set of buildings into an Open Campus. Our aspi-

Architects: O'Donnell + Tuomey—
 Sheila O'Donnell and John Tuomey, principals-in-charge; Mark Grehan, Ciara Reddy, Edin Gicevic, project team
 Architectural partners: M-Teampannon Kft
 Client: Central European University
 Consultants: KENESE Mérnöki Iroda Kft, structural; Temesvári Tervező Mérnökiroda, mechanical; a_zero, environmental engineering

Program: university campus, multi-use
 Structural system: concrete frame, steel frame
 Major materials: stone, concrete, hardwood, glass
 Site area (=footprint area): 6,754 m²
 Total floor area: 38,000 m²

ration is to accommodate the Central European University, to embody and extend its mission and promote a sense of integration and innovation.

Academic Clusters Connected

The design solution unites all of the departments, facilities and clusters within CEU into a clearly legible entity by connecting all elements. Glass roofed courtyards will provide a series of social and educational spaces in a connected campus plan, characteristic of Budapest urban culture and appropriate to the ethos of the Central European University.

Sustainability

We propose landscaped gardens on the roofs of new and existing buildings where possible. These will form an accessible roofscape; a kind of 'hanging gardens of Budapest'. The vegetation on these roofs will play an important role in reducing heat gain in the buildings and will enhance the environmental sustainability of the project. The well-tempered environment of the covered courtyards, combined with a practical approach to natural ventilation will ensure a low-carbon economical strategy for long-term energy conservation. While the masterplan design continues to evolve, the revised design proposals remain consistent with the principles and direction of our initial conceptual strategy:

- To provide an Open Campus embodying the Crossroads ethos of the CEU
- To provide Permeability by clear circulation routes from City streets to CEU campus
- To provide Interconnectivity within the CEU Campus through a scheme of linked courtyards

Program: Incremental Development

Our proposal is based on a strategy of incremental development beginning with 15/13 Nador Street. Library and Conference facilities relocated in Nador 15 will provide an international standard of accommodation for these crucial yet currently inadequate facilities. This first move will allow for subsequent phases of refurbishment and new build. The urban block pattern supports this phasing strategy. We have considered options for

phasing and logistical strategies in a logically sequenced pattern of development.

Phased Development/Linked Courtyards

An incremental demolition, construction and refurbishment strategy would be programmed to minimise disruption to the CEU. Each stage in the incremental development will enhance the sense of interconnectivity between academic activities, leading towards an eventual Open Campus. Passageways opened up between buildings will reduce the existing number of confusing corridors and eliminate dead-ends. A clear pattern of circulation will enhance the legibility and "mental map" of the campus.

Nador 15

The new building at Nador 15 will act as a beacon for the vital presence of the University in the architecture of the city. Nador 15 is organised around a series of internal voids, maximising daylight and natural ventilation. Social spaces flow through the overlapping floor levels and between purpose-designed spaces.

The new building comprises:

- Conference/Lecture/Performance near the street entrance, with the optional possibility of visibility from the street.
- Teaching/Seminar rooms at the rear around a rooftop courtyard.
- Up to date Library and Multi-Media facilities on the upper floors, providing views towards the Danube River and visibility from the street.

Subtraction and Addition

We have employed a process of selective subtraction and addition to transform the campus into a metaphorical crossroads. By a carefully considered "surgical" strategy we propose to link all existing and new facilities through a legible sequence of connected courtyards.

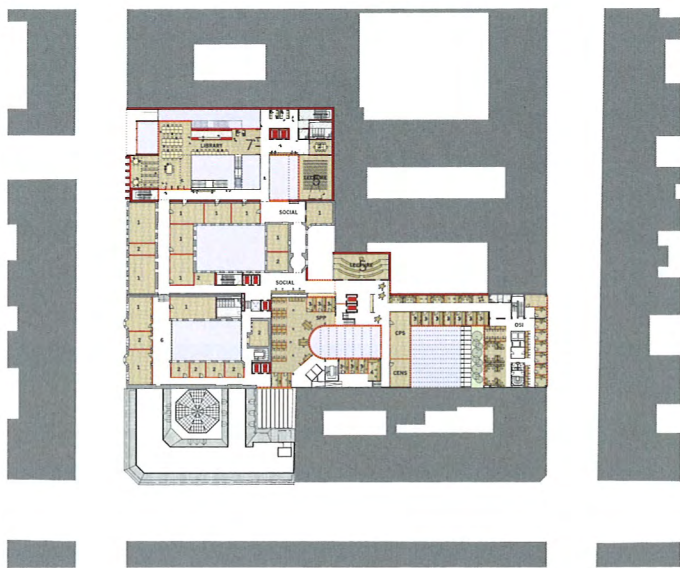
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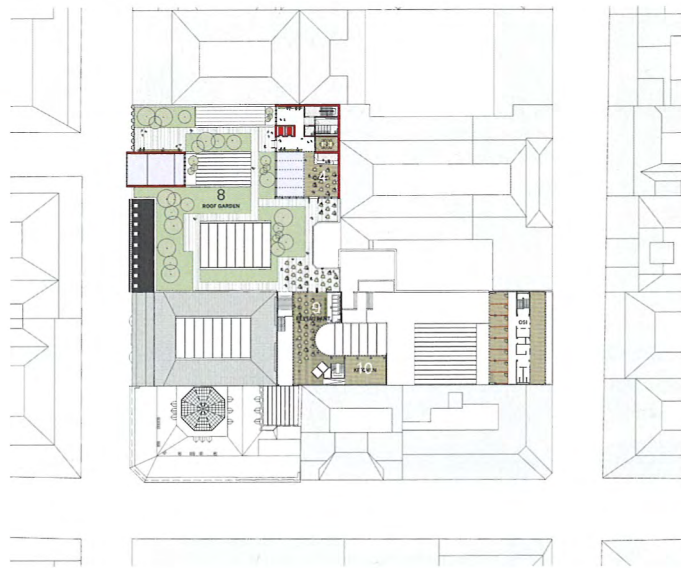
Courtyards



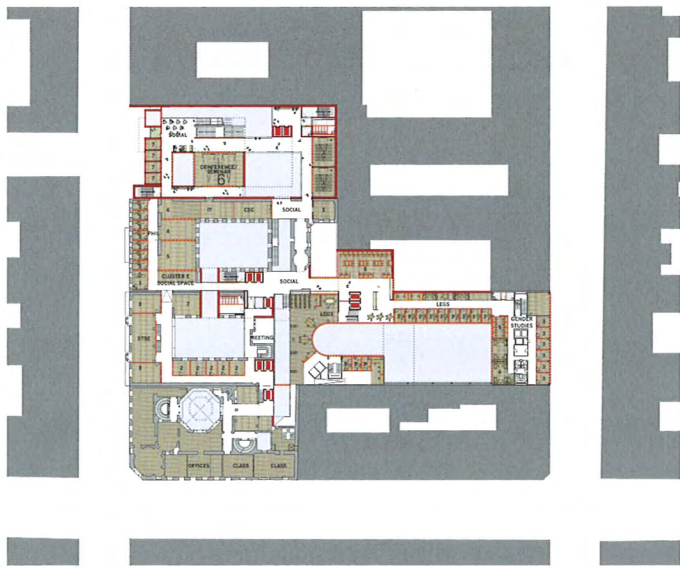
Site plan



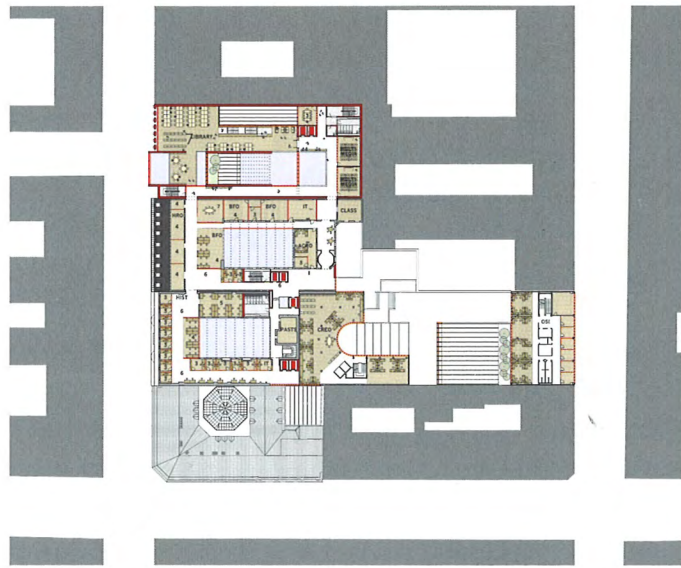
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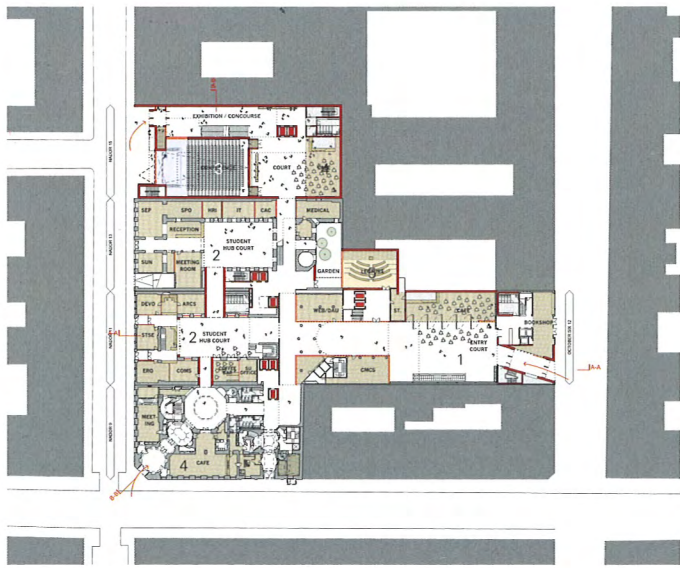
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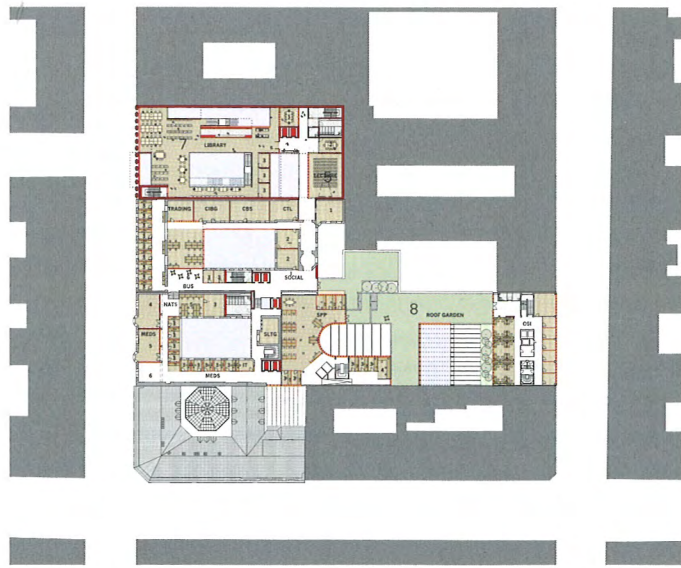
Level 1



Level 6



Level 0 S=1:2000



Level 4

- 1 ENTRY COURT
- 2 STUDENT HUB COURT
- 3 CONFERENCE HALL
- 4 CAFE
- 5 LECTURE ROOM
- 6 CONFERENCE/SEMINAR
- 7 LIBRARY
- 8 ROOF GARDEN
- 9 RESTAURANT
- 10 KITCHEN

