University of Northampton

Out with the Old and In With the New

How to design a new campus from scratch ...and make it work



Nick Allen Executive Officer The University of Northampton



14,000 Students FTE

Two edge / out of town campuses

Six schools

- Education,
- Social Sciences,
- Arts,
- Business,
- Health,
- Science /Technology

1261 – University of Northampton
1265 – University dissolved
1924 – Northampton Technical College
1975 – Nene College
1999 – University College Status
2005 – Full University Status ...840 years on

A University of 61 buildings







VISION

Vision is the art of seeing what is invisible to others. - Jonathan Swift

To turn this...









...into this!





It had some interesting features...





It had some interesting features...





It had some interesting features...

and so a team went to work...





MILLS & REEVE











Masterplanning



Masterplanning is about understanding the sustainable relationship between the built environment and the communities that live, work and play within that environment. It is about strategically organising an achievable vision for a specified area. We must imagine large scale, while remaining realistic about details.



What did we have?

- 24 hectare brownfield site;
- Grade 2 Listed Locomotive Shed;
- 14,000 students;
- 2,000 staff;
- £330million budget.



What would you design?





Feedback



What did Northampton do?



- Re-thinking of organisational structures;
- 'The learner' at the heart of the campus;
- 'Non-silo' approach to campus planning;
- Fundamental shift between 'owned' to 'shared';
- A commitment to sustainability.





How the metrics stack up...

- 'Learning Commons' increased from 21% to 31%;
- '*Owned s*pecialist' space reduced from 53% to 24% '*shared* skills' space;
- Academic Workspace reduced from 15% (owned) to 9% (shared).



Academic Workspace Principles

- avoid organisational silos;
- work anywhere;
- enable collaboration;
- create communities;
- flexible and efficient.







NEWS

No more 'droning dons' as university drops lectures

Sian Griffiths and Julie Henry Published: 10 April 2016







Learning Hub





Creative Hub

- Arts and media studios;
- Science and engineering laboratories;
- Gallery space.





UO University of Northampton

Senate

- Postgraduate Research Space;
- Teaching building;
- OVC space.





Engine Shed

- Students' Union administrative hub;
- Café open to the public;
- Heritage focus;
- Meeting rooms.





Energy Centre







How did we make it work?



Room bookings





Office hours





Revised bus services





Don't just take it from me...





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