

Locations Framework Directions Workshop Pre-Reading Pack

17th March 2022

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What's next...



Document Context



RMIT Locations Framework

The Locations framework will guide place-based decision-making within RMIT, through a set of site-agnostic principles or “locations directions”. These will complement and build on RMIT’s emerging strategy, mission and purpose. The directions will apply to current RMIT locations, and new place-based opportunities. The framework will also provide our partners and stakeholders with an overview of our current place-based opportunities to facilitate linkages, future planning and possible co-investment. The framework is being with input from across the university and our partner and stakeholder networks while drawing inspiration from leading practice in sustainability, heritage, planning, landscape, built form and architecture from a wide range of sources.

This Document

This document is a pre-read pack for the Locations Framework exploration workshop on 17th March 2022, which is being used to test the 5 draft directions and gather internal RMIT and external stakeholder input into the drivers of value for place and space at RMIT.

The document contains the draft directions as of March 2022, as well as some prompter material and an exploratory question to consider ahead of the workshop on Thursday 17th March.

Draft Locations Directions



1. **INDIGENOUS HERITAGE:**

To create places that recognise and celebrate Indigenous peoples, cultures and contributions

2. **ACCESS & INCLUSION:**

To create places that are porous, accessible, well-linked, inclusive and enable student, partner, employee and community well-being

3. **CREATING AN IMPACTFUL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT:**

To create places that enable a vibrant, flexible, active learning experience connected to research, industry and a community of life-long learners

4. **TRANSFORMING RMIT:**

To cluster disciplines, industry and community partnerships and spaces in a way that integrate with and enriches existing innovation ecosystems and supports future jobs and economic growth

5. **SUSTAINABILITY:**

To create environmental, cultural and socially ethical environments through living labs that where possible exceed best practice

Plexal Innovation Centre

London, UK



This tech-centric innovation hub is modelled on a mini-city and includes an indoor park, high street, town hall, private phone booths and a prototyping workshop equipped with 3D printers and scanners.

It also boasts an in-house innovation services team charged with bringing the right people around the table and hosting workshops, conferences, hackathons, launches and meetups.

What makes Plexal distinctive is its focus on helping social entrepreneurs get their idea off the ground by helping them find a route to market and scaling-up production.

Through their East London Inclusive Enterprise Zone (ELIEZ) Plexal brings together tech start-ups engaged in developing assistive technology to work with industry, academics, policymakers and experts to develop assistive technologies.

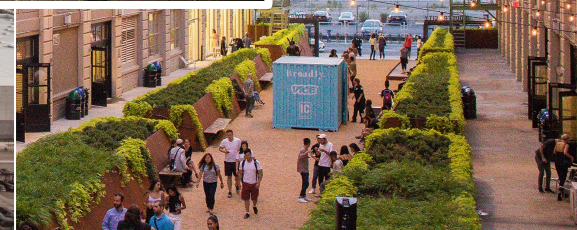
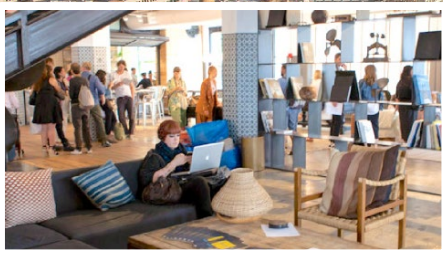
This includes a collaborative partnership between University College London, the Global Disability Innovation Hub and Disability Rights UK, that receives funding from private and public sectors. Plexal's Social Inclusion Unit is a research arm producing actionable insights that can make society and business more inclusive.

Key takeaways for RMIT

- Providing physical services relating to innovation work as well as the lifestyle needs of staff, students and the community provides an attractive place for people to work and dwell, increasing opportunities for informal connections
- Collaborative partnerships strengthen positioning for government and private sector funding opportunities
- An in-house innovation services team for RMIT's social innovation ecosystem can help bring the right users and stakeholders together for impactful engagements

Industrial City Brooklyn

New York City, USA



This redevelopment of a former industrial area into an innovation economy is an interesting example of the intersection between engineering, design, manufacturing and production.

Industrial City in Brooklyn knits together these uses with retail, meeting and activity spaces in a creative environment.

The most striking aspect of this development is its spatial typologies and their social function in helping promote collaborative enterprise between disparate stakeholders.

Three spatial typologies have been used to structure the in-between spaces that hold Industrial City together:

'Innovation Alley' is the artery that links the indoors to the outdoors and is the gateway to programming and experiences across the campus.

'The Courtyards' are a network of landscaped, furnished outdoor spaces that create social spaces for relaxation and sharing ideas.

'The Landing' is part communal lounge and part event space. Here tenants come together to brainstorm over a midday game of pool or during a monthly lunch-and-learn.

Key takeaways for RMIT

- Co-location, porous environments and diverse spatial typologies can encourage cross-sector and multi-disciplinary collaboration
- An urban location is attractive to industry, which is relevant to RMIT's CBD North precinct
- Precincts can have non-academic engagement space for socialisation and flexible use amongst business and educational needs.

Images source: <https://industrialcity.com/about/>

Tonsley Innovation Precinct

Tonsley, South Australia



A South Australian (SA) State Government initiative, Tonsley was established as a venue for collaboration between industry, research and education to address State development objectives and to establish SA as a leader in innovation and technology.

Flinders University, the University of South Australia and TAFE SA each have an embedded presence at Tonsley. Flinders at Tonsley is home to the School of Computer Science, Engineering and Mathematics, Flinders Medical Device Research Institute and its Centre for Nanoscale Science and Technology.

campus and allied industries facilitates easy and reciprocal collaboration between industry, research and education and poses less impost on industry time than if the university campus were remote to Tonsley.

The significant benefit to the University is the ability to take projects from the laboratory into commercial application. The University has also established a New Venture Institute within the Tonsley complex as a hub for entrepreneurs and next generation start-ups.

A bus runs between Tonsley and the Bedford Park Campus so students are able to stay connected to the rest of the University.

Key takeaways for RMIT

- Co-location of industry and universities facilitates mutually beneficial collaboration
- Commercialisation can be aided by colocation with industry and an entrepreneurial ecosystem
- Enabling infrastructure (such as transport) needs to be included in precinct design



PROMPTER:

How could RMIT deliver greater value and impact through our place-based investments?

[Add your insights here.](#)

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