



The New Preshil e-Library

Preshil's new e-Library building suggests a shift in the notion of 'library'. It is a building for research and discovery, where 'the search' crosses media and is conducted somewhere between the physical book to the cloud.

The plan of the building is an intersection made manifest - a junction of three spaces - a Reading Room, a Presentation Room and a Meeting Room. It can be three spaces or one space, depending on the needs of the moment.

At the same time the building is an object. The object is interstitial - it is formed in part by the objects that surround it, namely Blackhall, the Cottage and the Technology building. It engages them. It cannot be fully perceived in one moment of the gaze, but rather it unfolds around corners and forms spaces external to itself. These spaces are important to the building and interact with the building. The inside spaces and the outside spaces 'talk' to each other. The outside 'play' spaces will come inside the building and inform the academic spaces. Books will be in rows, but the searchers will not, they will roam. The books are revered and will not be left on the shelf. Things will happen.

The recent master plan for the Blackhall campus suggests a vibrant future community of modern buildings that cluster and form spaces of diverse scales to nourish the spatial needs of the school body. The master plan is like a jig-saw puzzle. The e-Library is a piece of the puzzle, complete within itself, but waiting for the next piece and the emergence of the big picture.