

Marrickville Town Hall Forecourt Upgrade

History & Today

Project background

2007 Heritage advisory report and concept plan prepared for the site.
2011 Designs considered by Council. Preparation of a masterplan for the site in coordination with the Public Domain Study recommended.
2013 - 2014 Public Domain Study commenced.
Winged Victory Sculpture project and planning for 2015 Gallipoli centenary events (Marrickville Remembers) commenced.
April 2014 Council funds allocated to upgrade the town hall forecourt. JMD Design engaged to prepare designs in coordination with the Public Domain Study.

Project scope

Concept design for the whole of the site
Detailed design and construction of the Town Hall forecourt, the area between the building and Marrickville Road and tree planting Petersham Road.
Works to be coordinated with specialist restoration of the Winged Victory war memorial base and the sculpture installation

Key dates

2014
May: Concept design
Early June: Public display of design
June: Removal of Golden Cypress in front of Winged Victory War Memorial
June: Finalise design and submit Development Application
June - Aug: Detailed design including report to Council in July
Aug - Oct: Tender process
2015
Nov - Apr: Construction
Apr: Winged Victory unveiling and Marrickville Remembers events



Town Hall History



Directions from Town Hall Heritage Landscape Plan & Heritage Advisory Report (2007)

In 2007 a heritage advisory report and concept plan was prepared for the forecourt and included the following directions:

- Maintain the Winged Victory statue and plinth.
- Maintain some form of seating around the building so that the area can be used as a meeting point.
- Maintain the formal forecourt to the front of the building, reinstate the clarity of the space.
- The row of pine trees to the east of the Town hall are of excessive height for their location and are potentially impacting on the fabric. They also impact on the aesthetic significance of the place. Long term replacement of these trees with a more appropriately sized planting is recommended.
- Opportunity to conserve and capitalise on vistas from, into, through and around Marrickville Town Hall.
- Retain and restore the crenellated sandstone borders and garden bed dividers on the eastern side of the Town Hall.
- Retain the paved spaces between the beds along the eastern façade which allow entry to the lower ground floor, these are part of the original layout. Paving can be upgraded in these sections.
- Seating could be provided in the form of a solid concrete (or natural stone) bench.
- Install seating along the eastern facade (Petersham Rd).



Town Hall Today

Observations

- Photo 1: Town Hall facade obscured by outgrown Pencil Pines
- Photo 2,3,4: Forecourt used and obstructed by vehicles loading and parking for Town Hall events
- Photo 5: Forecourt paving patched, dated and uneven
- Photo 6: Steep ramp access between Town Hall entry and Petersham Rd
- Photo 7: Concealed Library entry on Petersham Rd
- Photo 8: Winged Victory monument obscured and foot-path blocked by outgrown Golden Cypresses
- Photo 9: Dated public domain furniture cluttering the space
- Photo 10: Concrete plinth to monument in need of repair
- Photo 11: Up-lighters to monument overgrown by Golden Cypress



Marrickville Town Hall Forecourt Upgrade

Site Analysis & Design Principles

Design Objectives

Create a civic space for the community

- Reinforce the ceremonial function of the space
- Create a sense of arrival to the building and town centre
- Create a functional public square that meets both community & town hall operation requirements
- Form a civic precinct around the Town hall, Library and School on Marrickville Rd
- Reinforce the different nodes and precincts (civic, commercial, local) with the Marrickville Town centre

People before cars

- Promote safe pedestrian access
- Facilitate access for all
- Facilitate deliveries and building operations

Respond to the heritage

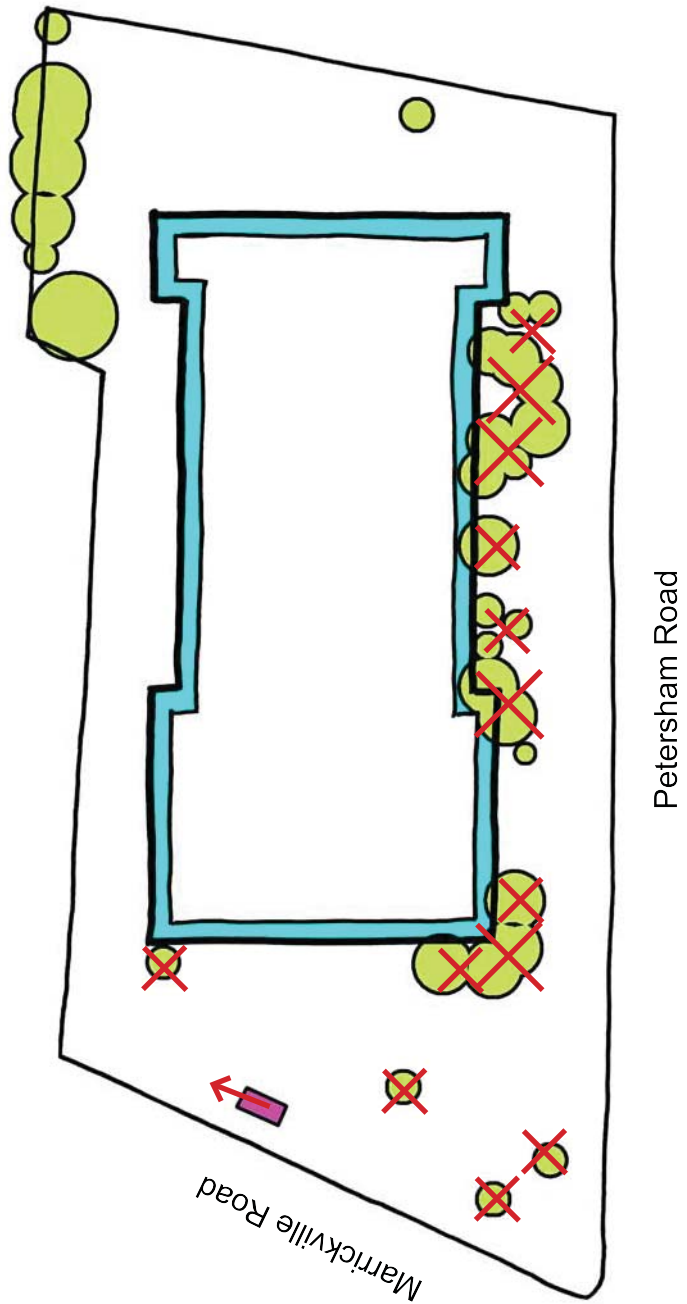
- Reinforce the notion of a heritage precinct
- Reveal the heritage facade
- Protect and enhance existing heritage items
- Reduce clutter and simplify the space to create an austere response



Town Hall site context

Observation: The Town Hall is located north-east of the Marrickville town centre. The Town Hall is situated within a heritage precinct that includes other heritage listed items such as the adjacent fire station and the former Marrickville Hospital site.

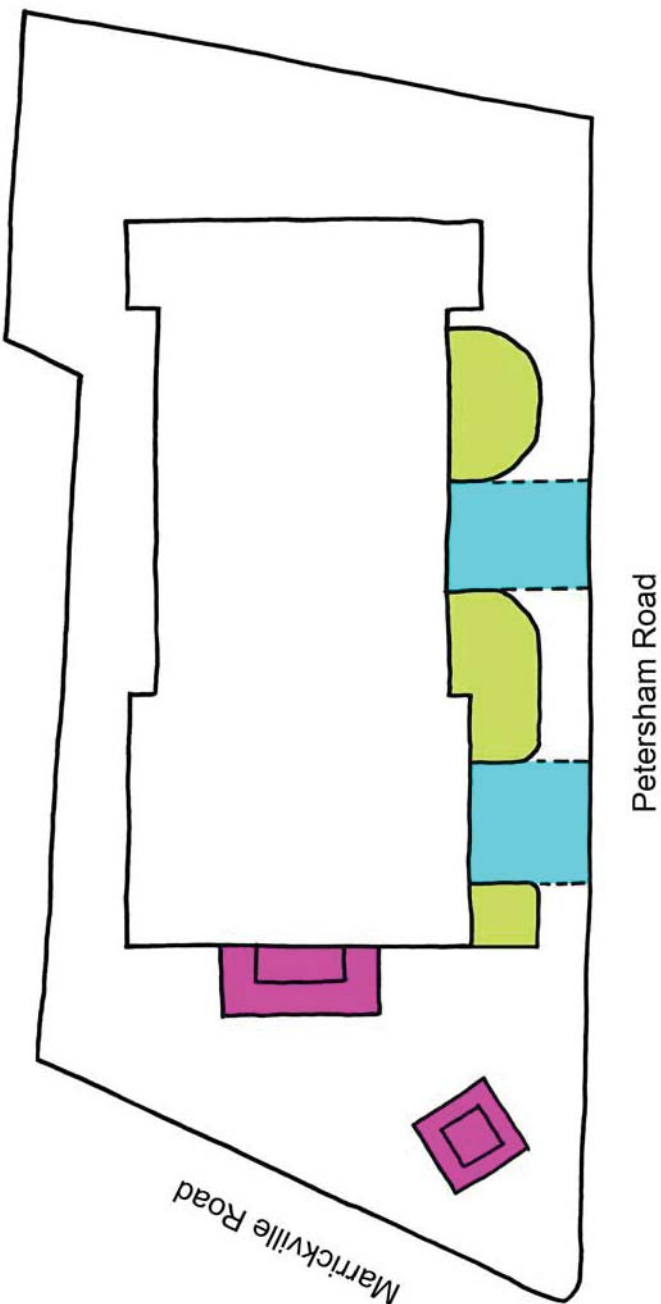
Design principle: Treat the Town Hall as a bookend for the Marrickville town centre. Distinguish the heritage precinct by using a consistent landscape treatment. The Town Hall is a special and unique place - the materials palette may be replicated in other heritage precincts or special places within the Marrickville town centre.



Reveal the heritage facade

Observation: The existing bus shelter and outgrown Pine trees currently hide the heritage facade and hinder building maintenance.

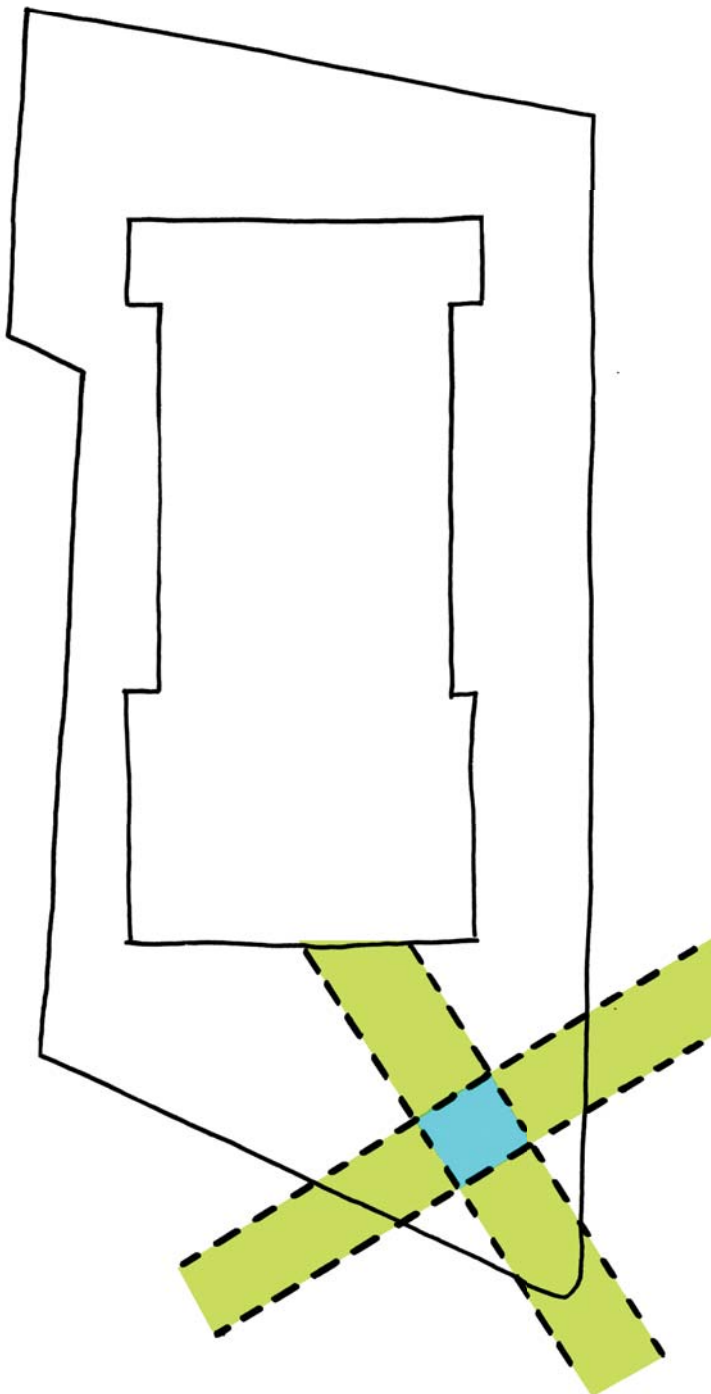
Design Principle: Remove trees which may hide the heritage facade and replace with appropriate species and with a set back from the facade. Relocate bus shelter to enable unobstructed views of the Town Hall main entry.



Protect original items of heritage value

Observation: The landscape surrounding the Town Hall has changed significantly since its opening in 1922. Items of heritage value include the crenellated sandstone garden beds, Winged Victory War Memorial, Town Hall sandstone portico and steps, entry spaces between garden beds.

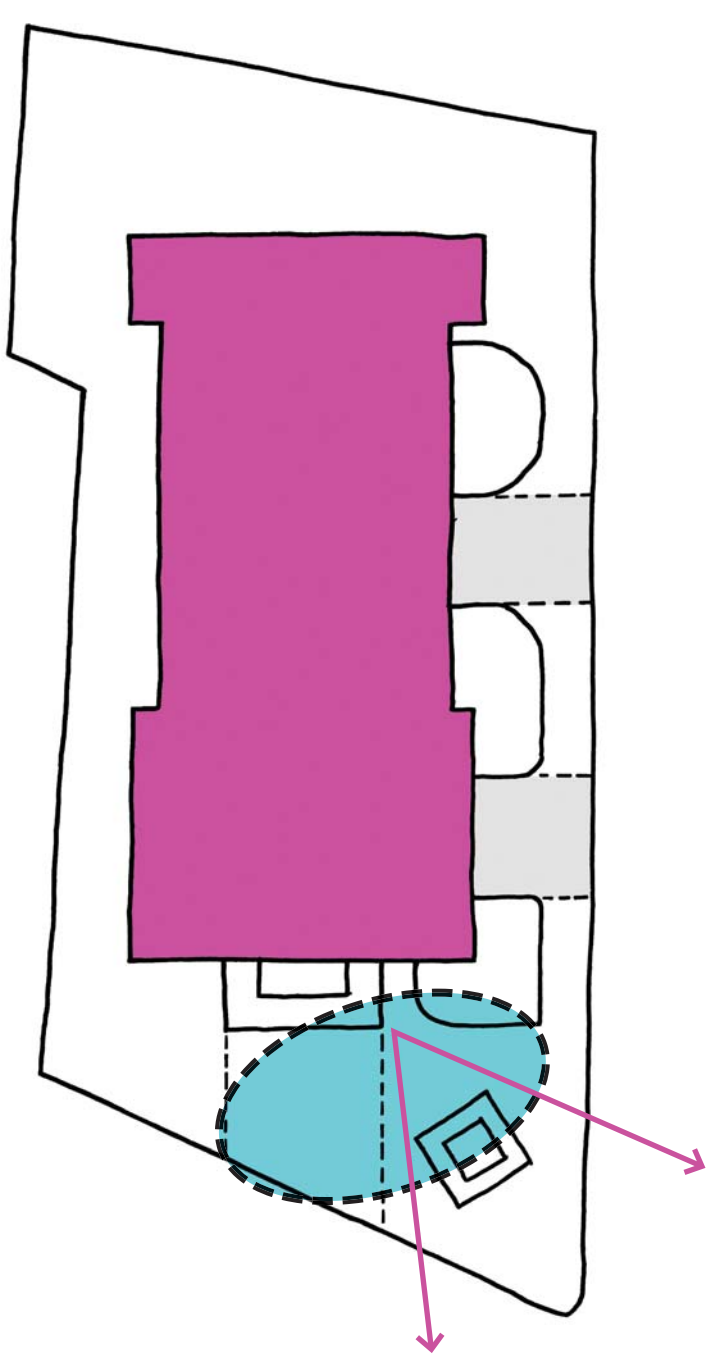
Design Principle: Identify and protect original heritage elements, and remove later additions which may clutter the site.



Respond to the geometry of the Winged Victory Memorial

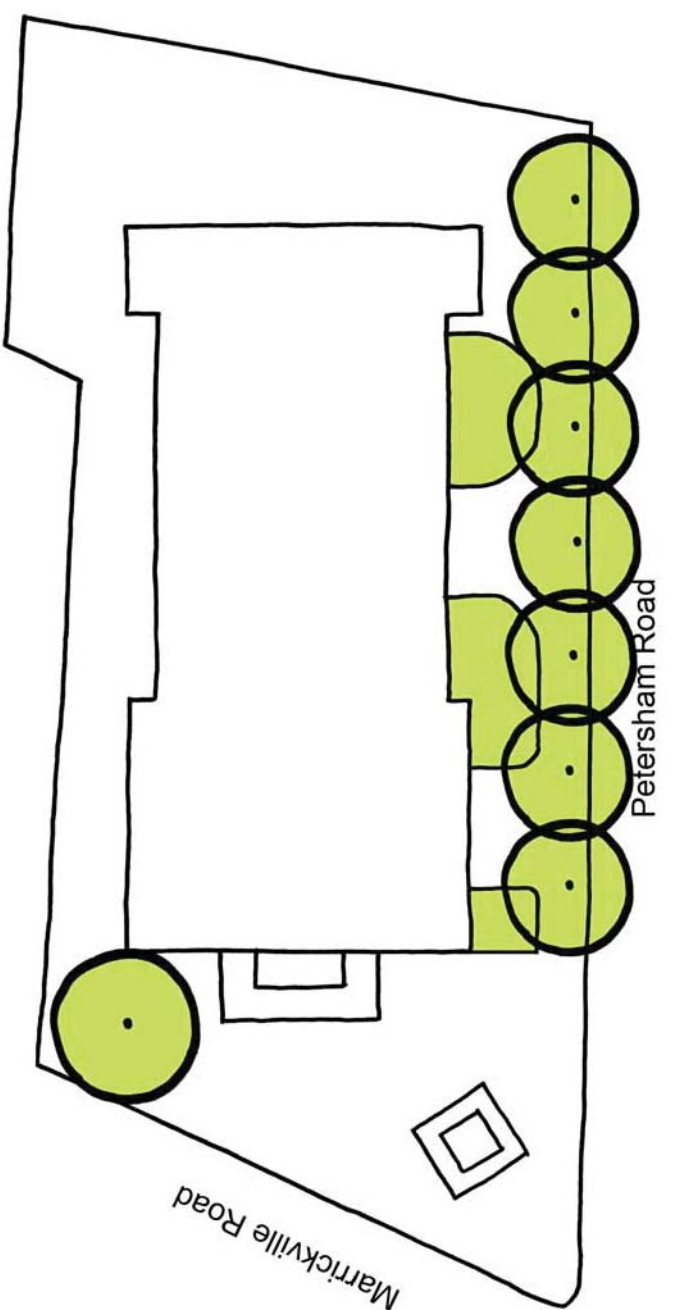
Observation: The Winged Victory War Memorial was built before the Town Hall itself. A specialist restoration of the Winged Victory war memorial base and sculpture has commenced.

Design Principle: Make the memorial a focal point for the Town Hall forecourt area.



Create a civic & ceremonial space

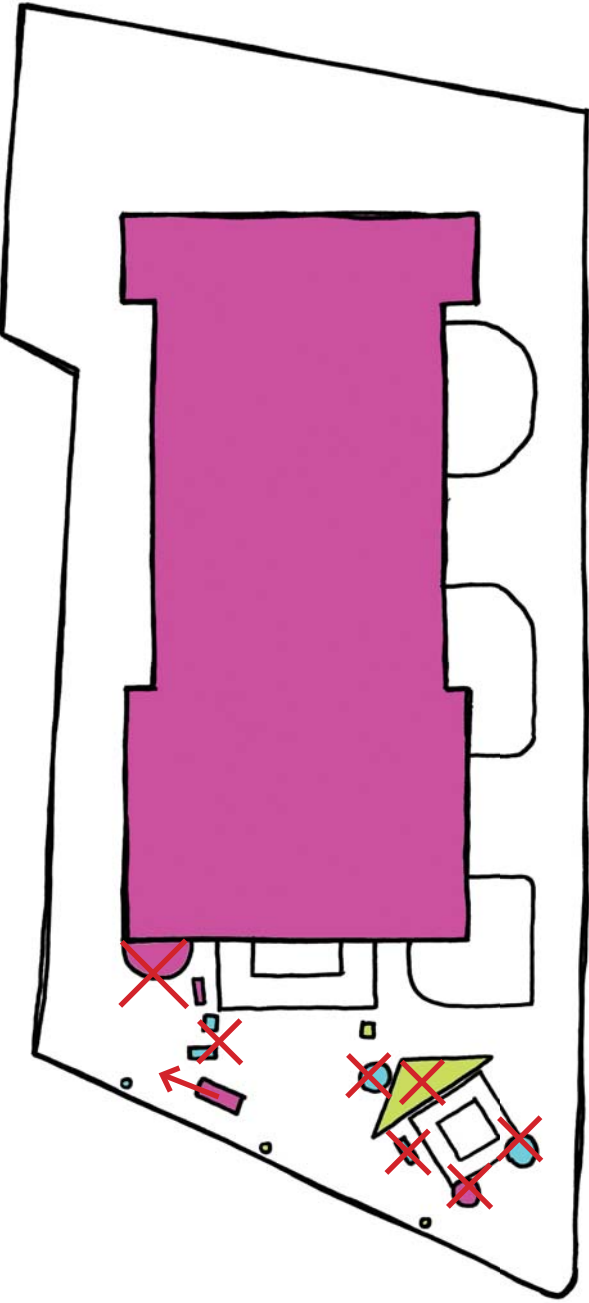
Design principle: Opportunity to create a ceremonial space and to delineate building entry areas. Reinforce existing views from Town Hall stairs and memorial across intersection to church tower.



Greening the site

Observation: The site is exposed to hot westerly winds in summer and cold westerlies in winter (unpleasant), north-easterly cooling winds in summer (pleasant) and south-east trade winds/rain in late Spring/Summer.

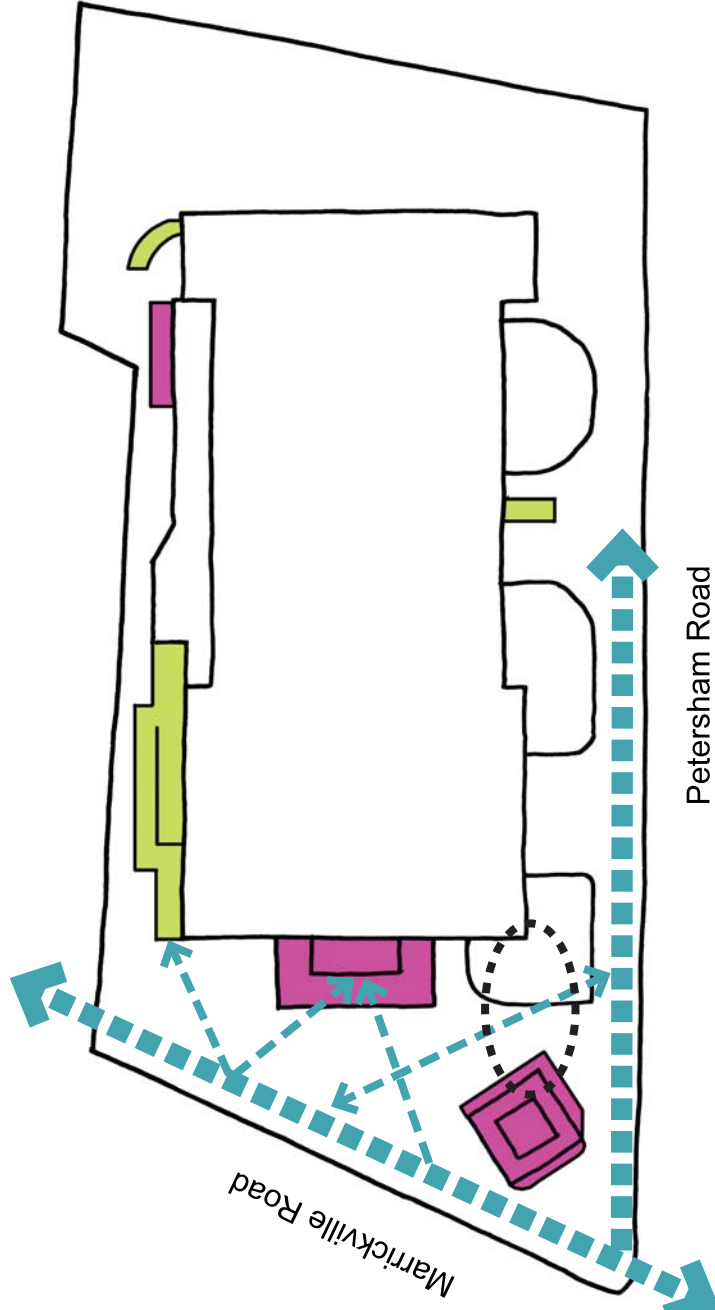
Design Principle: Create a refuge from the elements of sun and wind by providing shade and greening the site. Plant new trees that frame the building.



Remove clutter and alterations & reinforce the stately character

Observation: The forecourt is cluttered with street furniture and planter boxes. The existing bus shelter obscures the building facade.

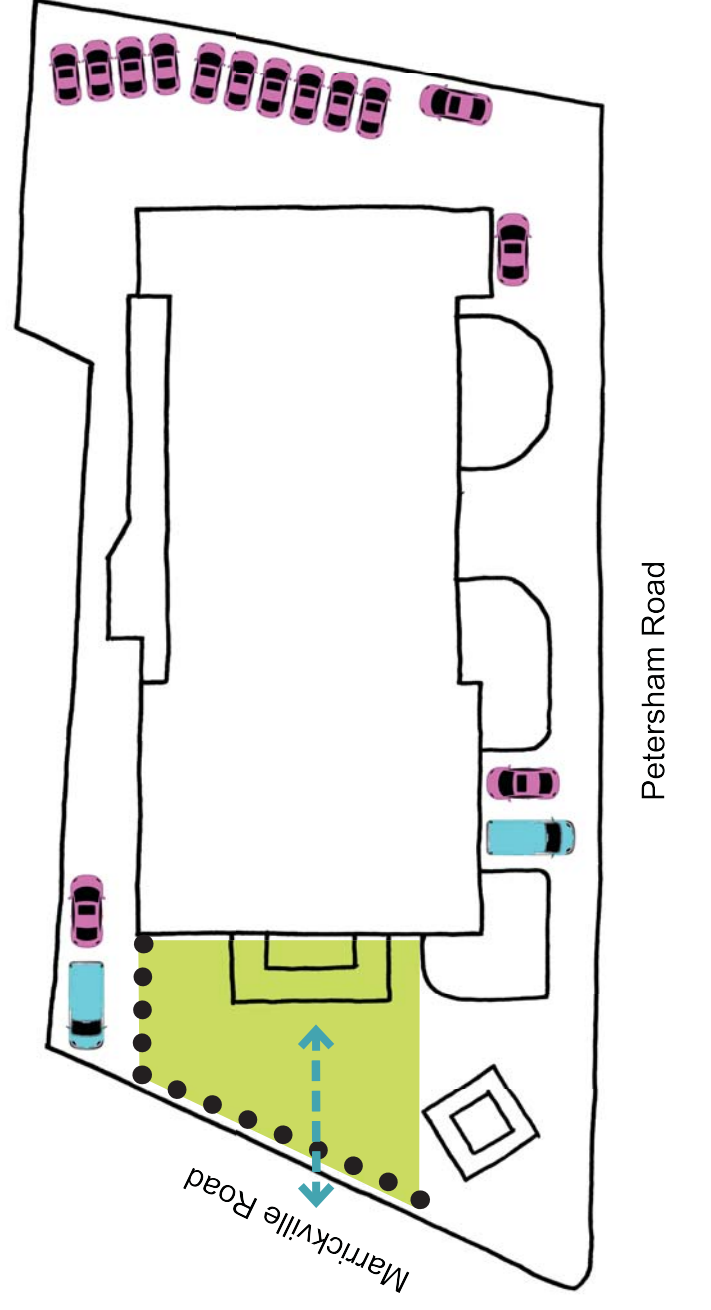
Design Principle: The forecourt should be free from clutter to draw attention to the Town Hall and Winged Victory War Memorial. Return the site to its austere, elegant, imposing, spacious and uncluttered state. Acknowledge and reinforce the Inter-War Georgian Revival style.



Facilitate accessibility & pedestrian movement

Observation: Accessibility is an issue throughout the site. The ground floor of the Town Hall can be accessed via the main stairs or an existing ramp access leading to the side entry of the Town Hall. The Winged Victory War Memorial can only be accessed via stairs. A significant level change exists east of the site between the forecourt area and Petersham Rd.

Design Principle: Address the level change and improve access and accessibility across the forecourt area.



Resolve vehicular access & circulation

Observation: On site parking is limited. There is no on-street parking on Petersham Rd. Informal car parking occurs in the forecourt, obscures the building facade and limits accessibility. Multiple access points and no vehicle barrier has led to the damage of heritage items.

Design principles: Restrict vehicular access to the Town Hall forecourt. Allow for required deliveries, loading and maintenance access.



Marrickville Town Hall Forecourt Upgrade

Landscape Proposals

Legend

1. Winged Victory Memorial
2. Plinth to base of monument
3. Town Hall main entry stairs
4. New bus shelter relocated to allow unobstructed views of the Town Hall portico and main stairs
5. Proposed feature tree planting (Magnolia or similar) with garden bed and seating
Review with possible future access ramp to main entry.
6. Existing ramp access to side entry
Review adaption to loading dock and main delivery point.
7. New high quality paving to forecourt areas
8. Proposed bollards to restrict vehicular access to forecourt area
9. Existing garden beds with crenellated sandstone edging to be modified, planting to be replaced with more appropriate species.
9a existing layout to be retained
9b existing layout to be modified
10. Proposed garden bed to base of Winged Victory Memorial
11. Proposed seating to forecourt
12. Proposed stairs
13. Proposed seating edge to Petersham Rd
14. Proposed columnar street tree planting to Petersham Rd (Chinese Poplar or similar)
15. Existing loading zone and mobility parking
16. Bicycle racks
17. Library entry
18. Widened access to library entry, levels to be consolidated and stairs removed
19. Existing library staff parking
20. Existing public car park
21. Existing secret garden



Liverpool Town Hall, UK



Geelong Town Hall



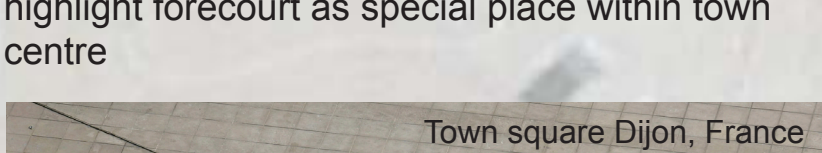
North Terrace Adelaide



North Terrace Adelaide



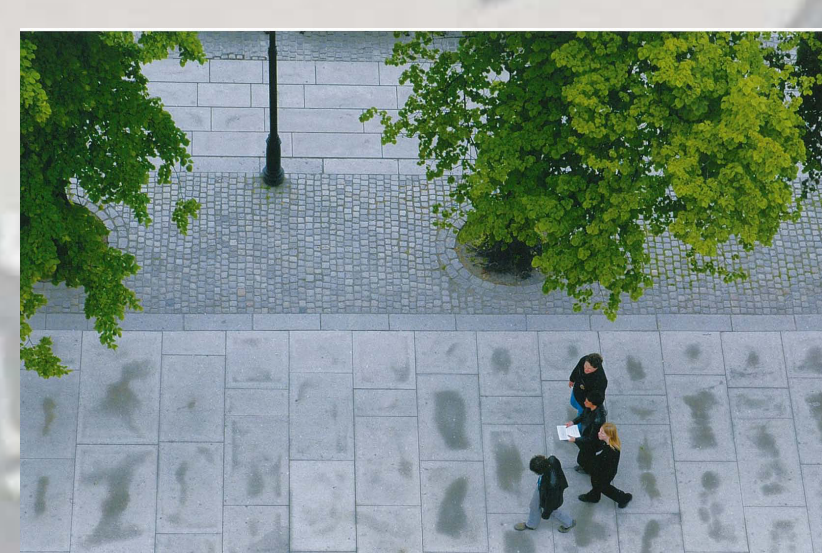
Town square, Germany



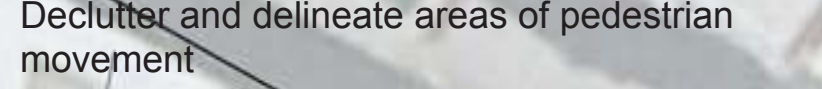
Town square Dijon, France



Town square Dijon, France



Oslo, Norway



Oslo, Norway



Oslo, Norway

Marrickville Town Hall Forecourt Upgrade

Landscape Proposals



Marrickville Road Elevation



Petersham Road Elevation

