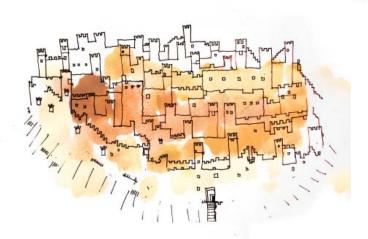# Imagining a greener campus

Walled City
- an analogy for the University

When asked to speak recently at the Higher Education Design Quality Forum, we tackled the topic of how University Design might change 'post-Covid'

Starting with how those visiting University for the first time might experience their new surroundings we came to a consensus that a 'walled city' was a good analogy:
- Hard to get into
- Somewhere to lock yourself in to study hard
- Once settled, a place to protect and envelope you

But spatially we thought this 'hard' edged model is perhaps not the most welcoming and outward looking, certainly if the tables are to be turned and we want to create a more positive, welcoming and inclusive feeling for students, staff and visitors from all backgrounds.

Walled Garden
- a model for transformation

As we always push the boundaries for sustainable solutions, we came to a simple 3-point plan on how to break open the walls and allow a greener campus to flourish:

1. Greening: wherever we can let's get rid of the tarmac and paving, plant trees and form soft landscaping areas.

2. Fabric First: rather than build new, let's creatively re-use existing assets, break down hierarchies to re-inhabit, extend, and open up available spaces to new uses.

3. Wellbeing: let's make buildings that breathe, respond to user control, and are low on mechanical systems by being highly insulated.