

JOHN MCASLAN + PARTNERS

London

Sydney

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Burrell Collection museum and landscape transformation

Civic Trust Award and Michael Middleton Special Award, April 2023



The Landscape and Urbanism Studio

Championing the role of landscape architecture, public realm and green infrastructure is a core design philosophy that permeates John McAslan + Partners' ethos for an integrated approach to the built environment, with specialists in urban planning and landscape design embedded within the practice.

Current landscape and public realm schemes include the recently completed reworking of the multi-award-winning Burrell Collection within Glasgow's Pollok Park, the transformation of Sloane Street for Cadogan Estates in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, the repair and renewal of George Square and its surrounding streets in Glasgow for Glasgow City Council, and a Masterplan for the 'ARC', an innovative new green pedestrian and cycle route linking Victoria Station with Parliament Square, for Victoria and Westminster Business Improvement Districts.

[read more here:](#)



Sloane Street, London

JMP's £40 million transformation of Sloane Street for Cadogan Estates (in partnership with the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea) is well underway, with construction beginning in January 2023, with works to the western side of the street. These follow the complex enabling works, including utility diversions, that commenced in September 2022.

When complete, the scheme will enhance the kilometre-long avenue, from a traffic-dominated artery into a pedestrian-friendly tree-lined boulevard. Widened pavements on the eastern side of Sloane Street and increased crossing points will re-address the balance of the street by 'putting people first'. Our vision will significantly 'green' the street, taking its cue from the verdant – but only privately accessible – Cadogan Place Gardens. The scheme will also incorporate over 100 lime and junberry trees, and planters with a carefully selected palette of ornamental planting for year-round interest.

The scheme will deliver high-quality public realm, which reflects the world class retail offering on Sloane Street and create a seamless extension to the in-store experience. This will reinforce the street as both a premier retail destination and as a green, activated and inclusive urban corridor.

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The Burrell Collection, Glasgow

The transformation of The Burrell Collection, one of Glasgow's finest museums of fine and decorative arts, is an exemplar of retrofit, balancing restoration and modernisation, whilst working with one of the few Category-A listed post-war Scottish buildings. With its intimate physical connection to the surrounding landscape park setting and woodland edge, The Burrell first opened to widespread acclaim in 1983. However, in recent years the building became unfit for purpose, with water ingress, poor energy performance, issues with accessibility and lack of flexibility. Legibility in terms of pedestrian access to and from the building was poor, with missed opportunities for the external spaces to contribute to the museum experience. John McAslan + Partners led the five-year £68m renovation project, restoring and retuning the museum to the highest standards throughout and bringing The Burrell into the 21st century, with the museum reopening to public acclaim a year ago. Since then The Burrell Collection has welcomed an astonishing 600,000 visitors, making it one of the UK's major cultural attractions.

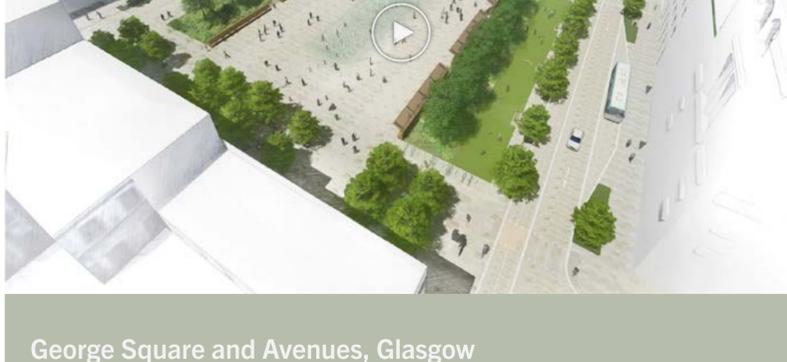
Addressing issues with the original entrance to create a more accessible, welcoming approach was added, accessed via a large piazza for external exhibitions and events. The landscape design looked to enhance the original design's intersection with the woodland and its imposing grass terraces, by providing new green spaces for socialising and relaxation, including a café terrace and amphitheatre.

Consultation with over 15,000 local people was undertaken in addition to statutory consultations with Heritage Environment Scotland, National Trust Scotland and Glasgow City Council's Conservation Team. Working with the GCC, JMP engaged with schools and community groups to develop an inclusive outreach strategy and consultations were held with representatives of sensory impaired and autistic spectrum groups in our quest to create the 'world's most accessible museum.'

Overall, the retrofit represented extraordinary value, with the renovation cost being some 30% of the benchmarked costs of major museum restoration internationally. The project is an exemplar for the intelligent and respectful retrofit of a listed museum, whilst also upgrading the external environment into a welcoming civic landscape fit for a new generation of museum visitors.

We are delighted that the project has this month been recognised with two Civic Trust Awards to add to the numerous design awards already won in the past year, including the highly prestigious BCIA Building of the Year.

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George Square and Avenues, Glasgow

George Square, first laid out in the 1780s, and with the monument to the writer Sir Walter Scott as its central focus, is the prime civic space in Glasgow and the setting for the monumental City Chambers. The square is a civic, ceremonial and cultural space where Glaswegians come to relax, celebrate – and sometimes protest – but equally a tired space in need of rejuvenation in tune with the twenty-first century city.

John McAslan + Partners was selected in March 2021 to lead an international design team commissioned to deliver the transformation of the square, and over three kilometres of surrounding streets, as part of Glasgow's £115 million Avenues programme. This will represent the city's landscape through new cycle lanes, green infrastructure and widened pavements, prioritising pedestrians over vehicles.

Glasgow hosted the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) in 2021, and the George Square project reflects the city's own commitment to sustainability. It has been closely examined at every stage in terms of its environmental impact. Sustainability and response to climate change were strong drivers of the brief, alongside a fundamental commitment to community engagement and dialogue, informing the process of design and involving extended public consultation. The aim is to reinvent George Square as a vibrant, culturally and socially relevant civic heart for the twenty-first century, accessible to all.

The third engagement stage has just commenced, providing the latest opportunity for the design team to consult with stakeholders and local communities before design proposals are finalised and the project progresses to technical development, with construction works planned to start in early 2025.

[read more here:](#)



The ARC, London

John McAslan + Partners is leading an expert design team in developing a strategic masterplan for The ARC, an ambitious public realm project area extending across ten streets in Westminster, London, between Storey's Gate and Cardinal Place.

The ARC will provide the first 'people-first' connection between Victoria Station and Parliament Square that avoids the traffic-dominated Victoria Street, with walking and cycling prioritised. Safe and comfortable for people of all ages and mobilities, it will be a green and healthy connection that will implement best practice sustainability measures whilst delivering resilient and liveable streets.

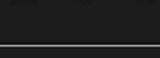
The team has just completed a successful and extensive public and stakeholder engagement, where residents and visitors were invited to contribute to the emerging strategic proposals.

BEFORE



image by John McAslan + Partners

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marketing@mcaslan.co.uk

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