

*\It is difficult to convey the flavour and excitement of working at Hammersmith in those early days. Gray was an inspired leader. Every week we expected new scientific horizons to appear. And, of course, they were appearing.\*

**L H Gray An Appreciation** Shirley Hornsey

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Design Strategy

4.1

Site Approach

4.1.1

An Institutional Presence

Hammersmith Campus - An Architectural Smorgasbord:

As discussed in the historic context section of this report, the Hammersmith Campus is an architectural compilation of styles, scales and orientations. It has grown organically over the past 100 years, the result is a series of interstitial spaces, keyhole views and difficult way-finding.

The new LMS building aims to be a celebration of the Institute, and a heart of the campus. It is however, situated to the north-east corner of the site, away from the main pedestrian routes and sheltered by the tallest buildings on campus (Commonwealth Building and Clinical Research Building). Despite the problems in way-finding that this creates, the organic nature of the campus provides joyful glimpses through the campus from ground level and when traversing between buildings via the series of elevated connection bridges.

To best understand these narrow vistas and the opportunities for architectural way-finding and place making, the team carried out a series of Isovist studies across the site.

Isovist Studies:

Isovists are a method by which 360° fields of view can be both visualised and analysed. The site was divided into a 1 x 1m grid and a viewpoint placed at each grid intersection. Each viewpoint can then be analysed against an 'open-space' and 'visual complexity' factor. A snapshot of some of these diagrammatic studies are shown here. (From the point which the study is focussing on, the mapping of colour shows the areas which this point is visible from.)

