MACKUNTOSH SCHOOL OF ARCHITECLURE

St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh

The research, design, specification and implementation of an award winning project for the conservation and redesign of the gardens of St Andrew Square Edinburgh in the setting of the first New Town within the UNESCO designated World Heritage Site.

Submitted by Brian Mark Evans Output No. I

THE GLASGOW SCHOOL! PART

RESEARCH EXCELLENCE FRAMEWORK 2014





NARRATIVE

The St Andrew Square project was established as part of a major initiative to improve the public realm throughout the World Heritage Site in Edinburgh. The programme was promoted by a consortium of public bodies and led by the Edinburgh City Centre Management Company later renamed Essential Edinburgh.

The Capital Streets programme was begun in the early 2000s after strategy work undertaken for Scotland's capital city found that the quality of the public realm in Edinburgh failed to live up to the quality of public space that was experienced in other major cities in Scotland, the UK and Europe.

Edinburgh's townscape is recognised worldwide as being of outstanding quality and this has been recognised by the designation of central Edinburgh on the World Heritage Register owned and promoted by UNESCO – the United Nations Environment and Scientific Committee. However, the cherished nature of this townscape also meant that improvements to streets and spaces became the subject of controversy as interested parties – usually but not exclusively – heritage bodies on one side and traffic authorities on the other.

The competing aims of heritage approval processes, traffic systems and the promotion of economic development had led to stalemate whereby little or no improvement work could be agreed to public spaces.

In 2002, the City of Edinburgh Council representing the people of Edinburgh and in particular the planning and traffic systems formed a consortium with Scottish Enterprise (the economic development agency) and the World Heritage Trust in order to establish a system whereby a consensus could be reached about the aesthetics and functional quality of public space in central Edinburgh in order for a series of high-quality improvement projects could be designed and implemented.

The work began with an exemplar project in Castle Street within the First New Town and this was followed by projects for St Andrew Square and the Grassmarket and is now continuing today with projects for Rose Street and Princes Street. The competition for the first projects was won by the Glasgow Studio of Gillespies LLP.



Narrative (contd)

St Andrew Square and Charlotte Square are the two public squares that lie at the east and west ends of George Street. Most commentators from Youngson onwards agree that this combination of street and squares at the centre of the Craig Plan for Edinburgh's new town represent the epitome of townscape quality in Scotland that is recognised internationally as an outstanding work of civic art.

The two squares were originally built as Georgian pleasure gardens owned jointly and severally by the owners of the properties around the square. Charlotte Square, with owners including the British Government (XXX House by Robert Adam is the official residence of Scotland's First Minister) was better cared for and is opened periodically for the benefit of the public. ST Andrew Square at the East end of George Street had more frequent public accessibility, but had suffered a series of inappropriate interventions over the second half of the twentieth century with inappropriate planting and the erosion of the setting of the Melville monument – the centerpiece of the square.

The St Andrew Square project was established to achieve permanent opening to the public,

The St Andrew Square project was established with the following objectives:

- I. To recovery of the original qualities of the Georgian Square;
- 2. To provide permanent opening to the public throughout the seasons and throughout the week:
- 3. To become a focal point for use during the Edinburgh International Festival;
- 4. To ensure that design and access was appropriate to 21st century standards; and
- 5. To fit the Square within the principal desire lines of the present new town to ensure activity in us.



OUTPUT

Physical Designed Artefacts (Architecture & Landscape Architecture)

Name: B. Evans

Output Type: Conservation Management Agreement, Design, Realised artefact Media of Output: Constructed garden & café

pavilion; written & photographic material, public

exhibition, award citations



RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Investigation of how to conserve an historic and dilapidated private garden within a public square (St Andrew Square) within the UNESCO designated World Heritage Site of Edinburgh New Town in order to establish an a priori case for the garden to be opened to the public. The research was X-fold:

- Investigation of the design intent behind the original scheme as an expression of James Craig's plan for the first Edinburgh New Town;
- 2. Investigation of factors required to conserve the character and quality of the original intent whilst establishing opportunities to open the garden to the public;
- 3. Interdisciplinary research with private owners and public heritage agencies in order to establish the objectives for design intervention; and
- 4. A designed response to achieve the objectives for conservation and use.



METHODOLOGY

The research output is concerned with:

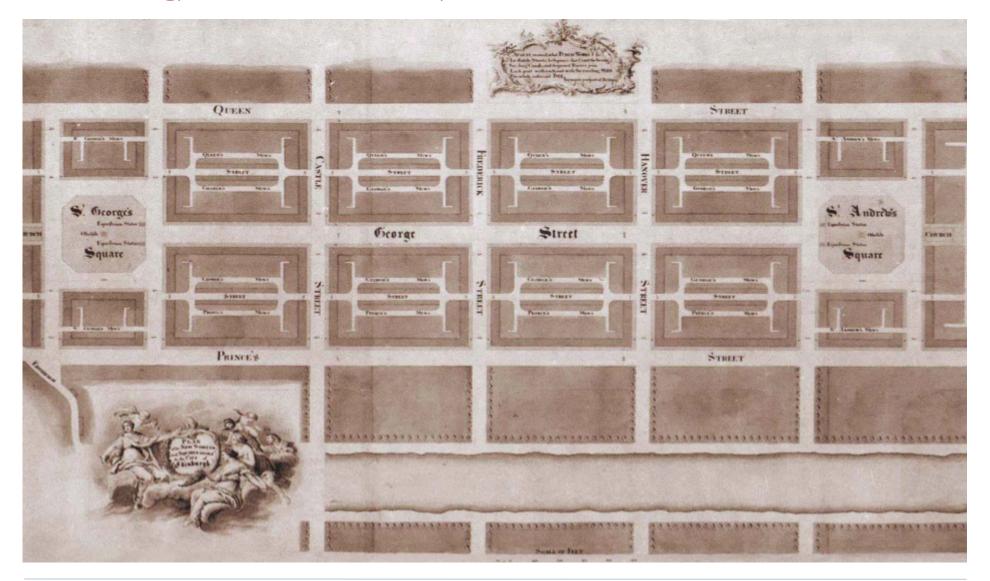
- I. An in-depth inquiry into the original design intentions for the Georgian Square;
- 2. Factors required to ensure the conservation and enhancement of the existing historic artefact;
- 3. Establishment of pre-conditions for designed intervention to ensure that a contemporary public square and the historic private square could co-exist.

Research collaborators included Gehl Architects, Urban Quality Consultants of Copenhagen, Denmark, the Edinburgh World Heritage Trust, Historic Scotland, the private owners of St Andrew Square.

- I. Contextual analysis
- 2. Investigation of historic intent;
- 3. Analysis of climate;
- 4. Precedent studies:
- 5. Design Development;
- 6. Overall Design;
- 7. Space in Use



Methodology I: Contextual Analysis

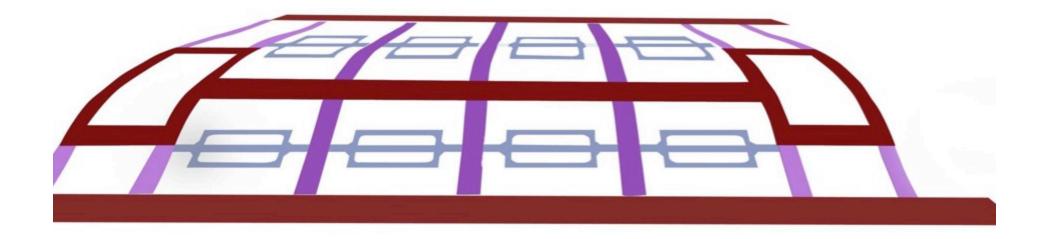




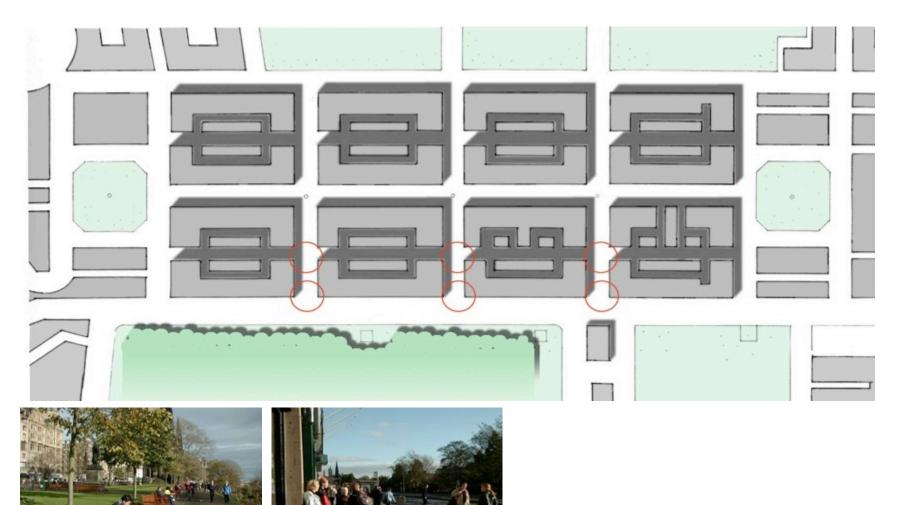












sun & shade





pedestrians saturday november 10am - 2 pm









Relative use

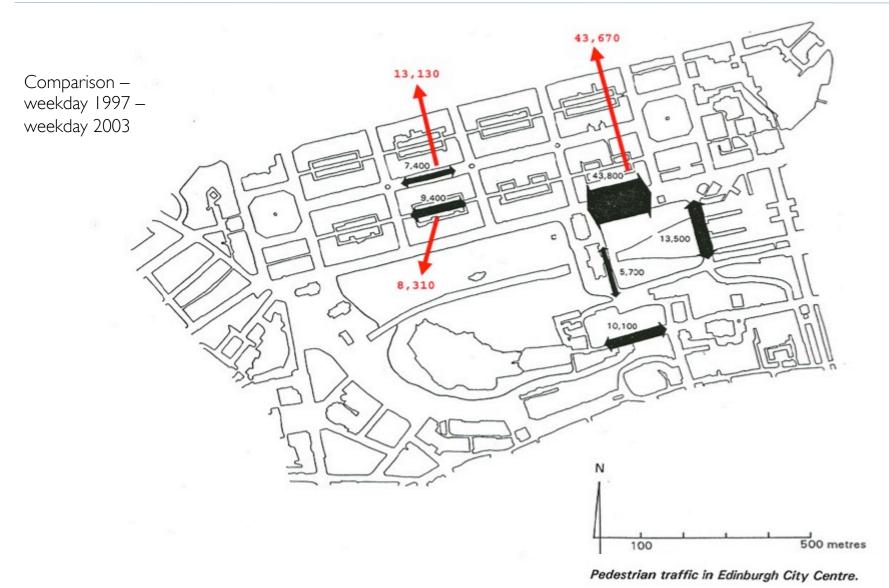
First New Town character & use





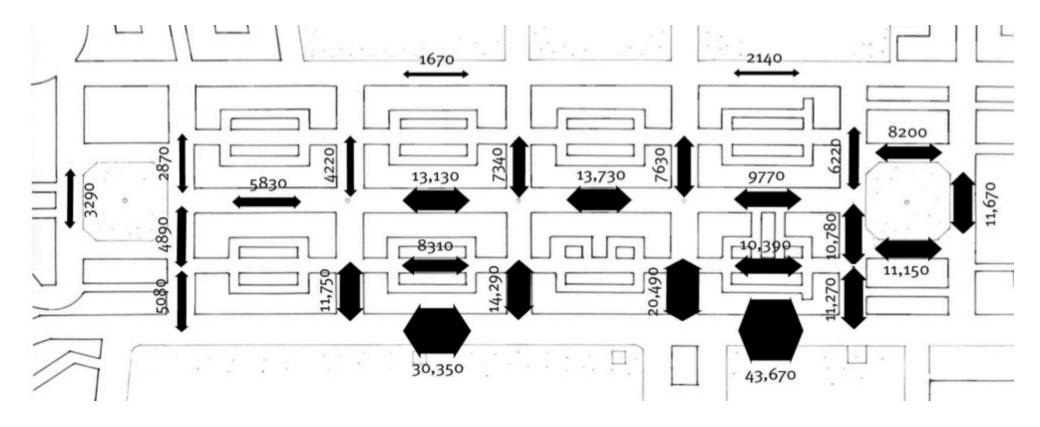
seating



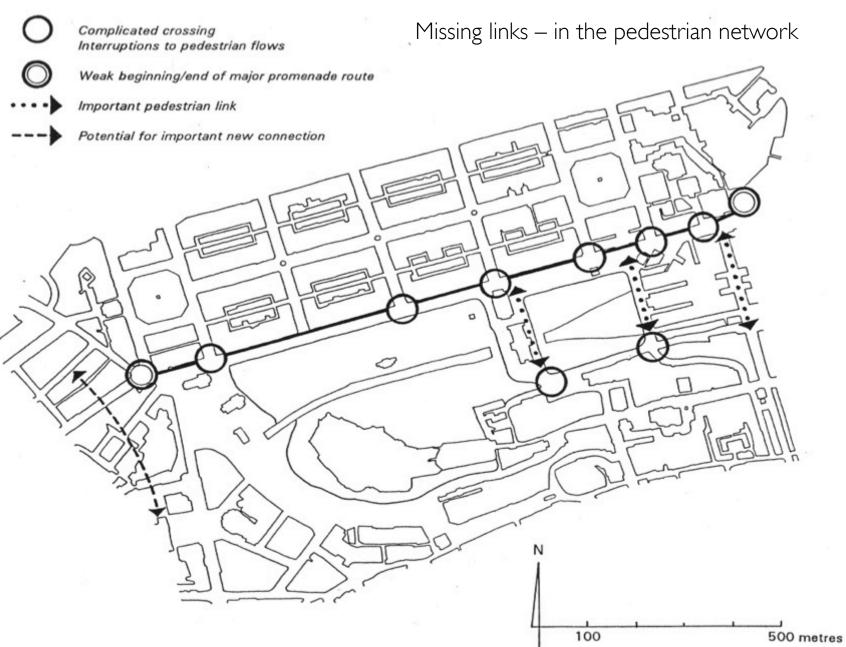




Pedestrian counts – 3 October 2003 – 10 am to 6 pm





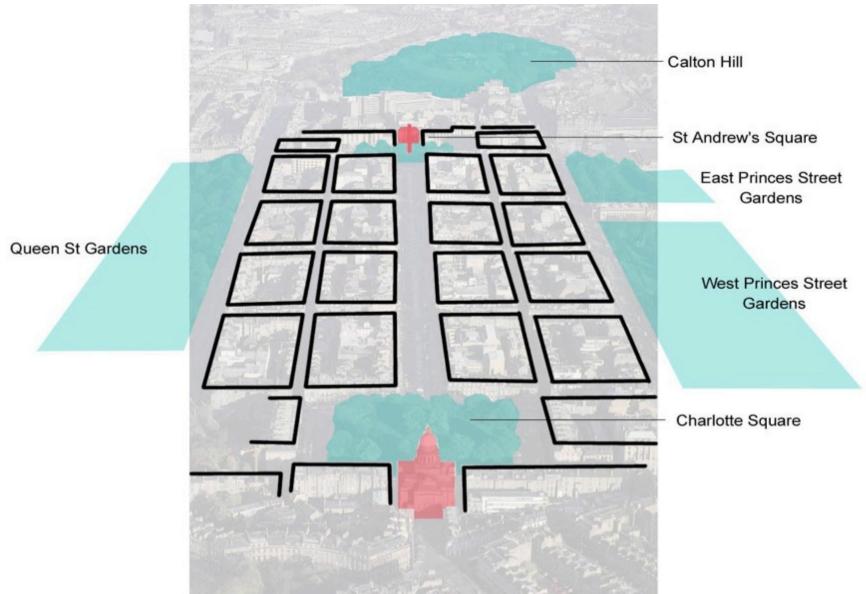




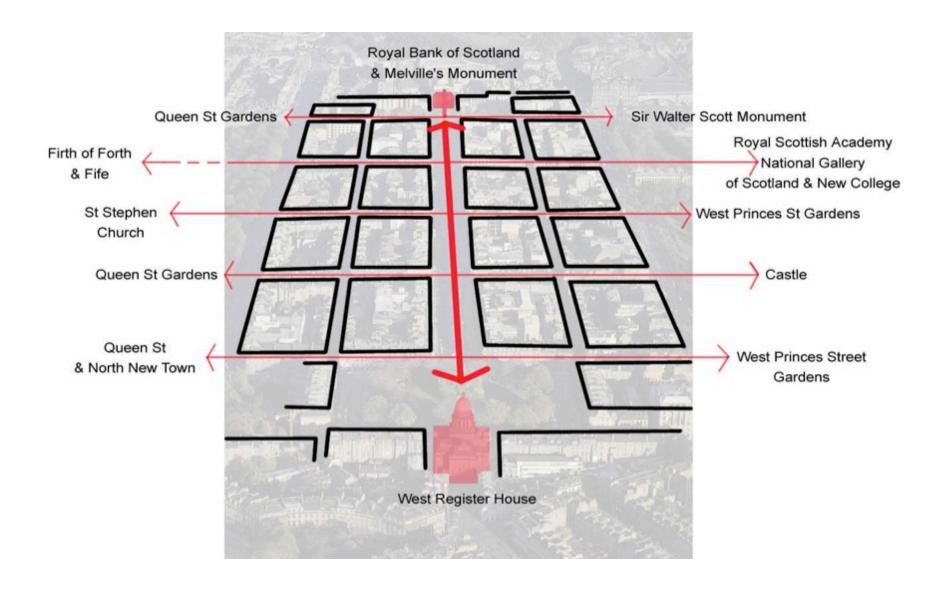


Photograph courtesy of Patricia Macdonald



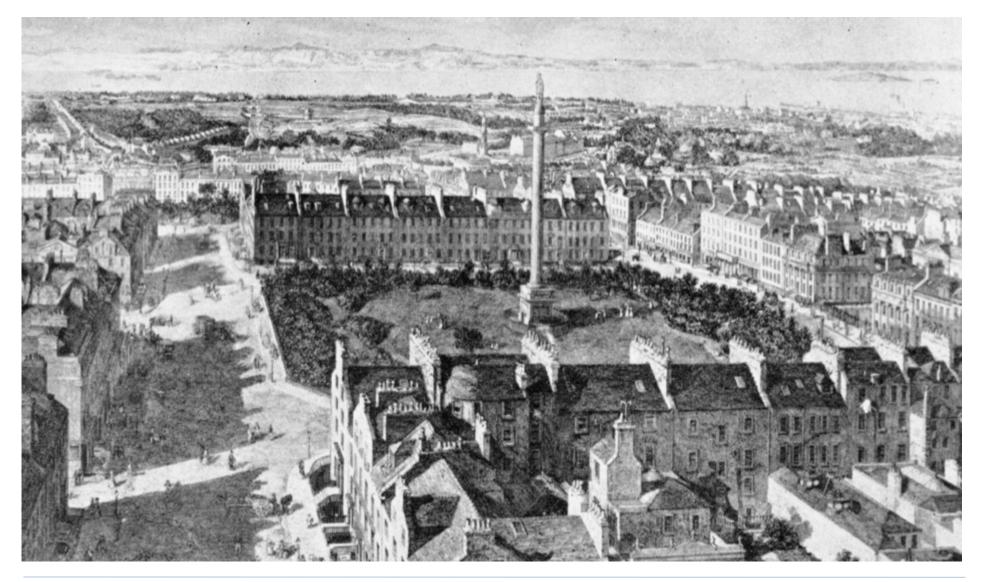








Methodology 2: Historical Investigation of Designed Intent



OLD AND NEW EDINBURGH.

(St. Andrew Square.

St. Andrew Square.)

MISS GORDON OF CLUNY.

Enlarge

CHAPTER XXII.

ST. ANDREW SQUARE.

St. Andrew Square-List of Early Zenidenta-Crust Borowlasid-Mina Gordon of Chany-Scotish Widows' Fand-Dr. A. K. Johns Spotish Provident Institution.—House in which Lord Broughan una Bara.—Southin Englands Smittery-Channels of Analedds Dra. Hotel-Dr Philip Annales-Drain March Lord Congrapy—National Baral-Republic March Philip March Happins Minamassan.—Anda

BEFORE its conversion into a place for public 33. Sir John Colquboua. offices, St. Andrew Square was the residence of 34 George, Earl of Dalhousie, Lord High Commissioner, many families of the first rank and position. It 1777-8a. measures 510 feet by 520. Arnot speaks of it as indeed, are small when compared with those in in 1807. London, but the houses are much of a size. They ' By 1784, when Peter Williamson published his are of a uniform height, and are all built of free- tiny "Directory," many changes had taken place stone,"

to modern conceptions, as strange as that of their living in the Mint Close."

The following is a list of the first denizens of 1784:-

- z. Major-General Stewart.
- 2. The Earl of Aboyne. He died here in his sixty-eighth year, in 1794. He was the eldest son of John, third Earl of Aboyne, by Grace, daughter of Lockhart of Carnwath, afterwards Counters of Murray.
- 3. Lord Ankerville (David Ross).
- John, Viscount Arbuthaott, who died 1791.
- 6. Dr. Colin Drummond.
- David Hume, afterwards Lord Dreghom.
 John Campbell of Errol. (The Earls of Errol have
- ceased since the middle of the seventeenth century to possens any property in the past from whence they took their
- 11. Mrs. Campbell of Balmore.
- 13. Robert Beswell, W.S. 15. Mrs. Cellen of Parkbead.
- 16. Mrs. Scott of Hordie Hill.
- 18. Alexander Measies, Clerk of Session
- 19. Lady Betty Cunningham. 20. Mrs. Boswell of Auchinleck
- Boswell," R. Chambers, 1824).
- 22. James Farquhar Gordon, Esq. 23. Mrs. Smith of Methren.
- 24. Sir John Whiteford. (25 in "Williamson's Directory.")
- 25. William Fergusson of Raith.
- 26. Gilbert Meason, Esq., and the Rev. Dr. Hunter. 27. Alexander Boswell, Esq. (afterwards Lord Auchinleck),
- and Eneis Morrison, Esq.
- 28. Lord Methyen.
- 32. Patrick, Earl of Dumfries, who died in 1803.

- 35. Hon. Mrs. Gordon. 38. Mrs. Campbell of Saddel, Gilbert Kerr of Stodrig, " the finest square we ever saw. Its dimensions, and Sir William Ramsay, Bart., of Banff House, who died
- among the occupants of the square. The Countess The entire square, though most of the original of Errol and Lord Auchinleck were residents, and houses still exist, has undergone such changes that, Thomas, Earl of Selkirk, had a house there before says Chambers, ." the time is not far distant when he went to America, to form that settlement in the the whole of this district will meet with a fate Gulf of St. Lawrence which involved him in so much similar to that which we have to record respecting trouble, expense, and disappointment. No. 1 was the Cowpate and Canongate, and when the idea of occupied by the Countess of Leven; the Earl of noblemen inhabiting St. Andrew Square will seem, Northesk, K.C.B., who distinguished himself afterwards as third in command at Trafalgar, occupied No. 2, now an hotel; and Lord Arbuthnott had been succeeded in the occupancy of No. 5 by the square, between its completion in 1778 and Patrick, Lord Elibank, who married the widow of Lord North and Grey.

By 1788 an hotel had been started in the square by a man named Dun. It was there that the celebrated Polish dwarf, Joseph Borowlaski, occasionally exhibited himself. In his memoirs, written by himself, he tells that he was one of a family of five sons and one daughter, " and by one of those freaks of nature which it is impossible to account for, or perhaps to find another instance of in the annals of the human species, three of these children were above the middle stature, whilst the two others, like myself, reached only that of children at the age of four or five years."

Notwithstanding this pigmy stature, the count, by his narrative, would seem to have married, performed many wonderful voyages and travels, and been involved in many romantic adventures. At thirty years of age his stature was three feet three inches. Being recommended by Sir Robert Murray Keith, then British Ambassador at Vienna, to visit the shores of Britain, after being presented, with his family, to royalty in London, he duly came to Edinburgh, where, according to Kay's Editor, "he was taken notice of by several gentlemen, among others by Mr. Fergusson, who generously endeavoured by their attentions to sweeten the bitter cup of life to the unfortunate gentleman."

The count, it would appear, did not exhibit- No. 4 was the residence in 1830 of Lieutenantof one of his advertisements ---

hotel or at the count's lodgings, No. 4, St. Andrew Street,

the county of Durham.

of John, seventh Earl of Stair. His house was to time ascertained, being allocated amongst them. 1808 contracted another marriage with Louiss, figures that are in marked contrast with the mar-daughter of John Manners, Esq., of Grantham vellous business the Society now does. in the pages of the "Hermit in Edinburgh" as various chambers and establishments. "Colonel Bobadil," or "Bob Devil," acted an un- No. 4 remained until :879 the premises of pleasant part.

burial-ground, simply inscribed-

JOHANNA, COUNTESS OF STAIR, WHO DEED 16TH FEB., 1847.

his "fine feelings" would not have permitted such Colonel John Gordon of Cluny, M.P., but, cona thing-he merely received in company. He gave bined with No. 5, afterwards became the office of a public breakfast, at which the small charge of the Scottish Widows' Fund, a society instituted in 3s. 6d, was demanded, and the following is a copy 1815-a period at which there existed scarcely any other life assurance office in Scotland; but the "Dun's Hotel, St. Andrew Square. On Saturday next, extraordinary success of the Equitable Society of the six August (1783), at twelve o'clock, there will be a London, which had then been in existence about public breakfast, for the beacht of Count Borowlaski, in half a century, led to the proposal on the part of the course of which the count will perform some select pieces various individuals to establish an Association in on the guitar. Tickets (at 3s. 6d. each) may be had at the Scotland based upon similar principles. Many where he continues to receive company every day, from ten in the morning till those, and from fivetill nine. Admittance, be accomplished, and after much consideration, in one shifling. The count will positively leave this place on which some of the most able men in the city lent their assistance and co-operation, the Articles of Count Barrel-of-Whiskey, as he was called in Constitution were finally adjusted, and the Scottish Edinburgh, was still alive in 1838, though close on Widows' Fund Society was founded on the original his hundredth year, and was the occupant of a model of the London Equitable, so far, at least, as pretty cottage near the Wear, at Prebend Bridge, in regarded the principle of mutual assurance—the policy-holders being members of, and in fact, con-Among the earlier residents in the square was stituting the Society, each member paying the pre-Charles Gordon, Esq., of Clupy, in Aberdeenshire, mium for his assurance into a common fund, the joint whose daughter Johanna became in 1804 the wife property of the whole, and the profits, as from time

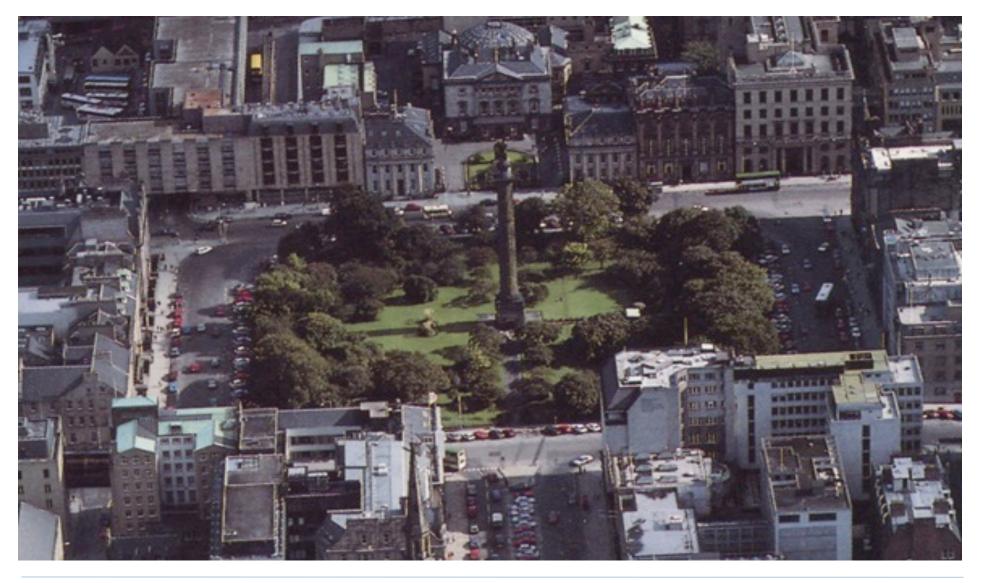
No. 4. a large one on the south side, and it was So little, however, was the system of life the scene for years of a dark and painful story, still assurance understood or appreciated during the remembered in Edinburgh, and which we will touch first years of the Society's existence, that four years with great brevity. The lady was beautiful, brilliant, after its institution the amount effected by those and witty, but the earl would seem to have tired who had become members, and the accumulated of her; and though his marriage was deemed a fund and the annual revenue, were comparatively valid one by the laws of Scotland (as Burke records) small. Thus at the close of 1818 the total sum of and though he was a Scottish peer and she the assurances effected had been only £7,900, the daughter of a Scottish landholder of ancient descent, realised fund amounted to no more than £3,500, he contrived to repudiate the ceremony, and in and the annual revenue from premiums to £2,500;

Grange, by Louisa his wife, late Countess of Dysart. On the failure of the Western Bank, the hand-In the following year this marriage was dissolved some and spacious premises in the Florentine style, in consequence of the Scottish one with Miss of that institution in No. 9, on the west side of the Gordon, and after years of misery and mortification square, were taken at a price greatly below the the latter alliance was formally annulled in June, original cost, for the Widows' Fund, where we find 1820. In this matter a noted gambler who figures it now, and Nos. 4 and 5 became broken up into

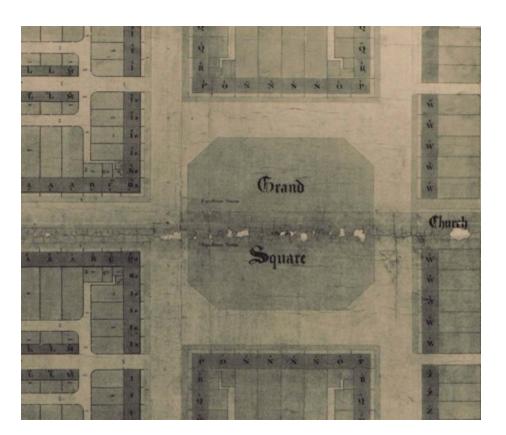
Messrs. W. and A. K. Johnston, the well-known The earl died at Paris on the 22nd of March, geographical engravers, who have acquired an 1840, when-according to Burke-that line of the artistic skill not yet surpassed. A. Keith Johnston, Dalrymples became extinct; and the once beautiful F.R.S., issued his great National Atlas in folio Johanna-the repodiated wife-died seven years in 1843, which procured his appointment as afterwards in No. 4, St. Andrew Square, aged, Geographer to the Queen for Scotland; but he is shrivelled, and utterly imbecile. Her tomb may best known for having made on a large scale the atill be seen on the north side of St. Cuthbert's application of physical science to geography. Founding his researches on the writings of Humboldt and Ritter, and aided by the counsel of the former, he produced "The Physical Atlas of

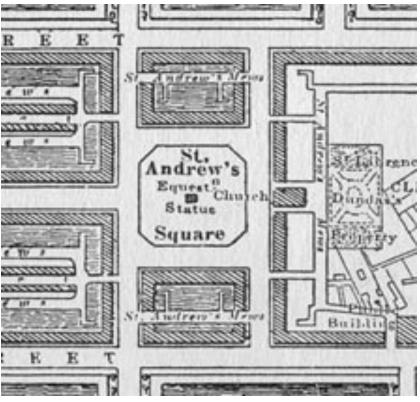


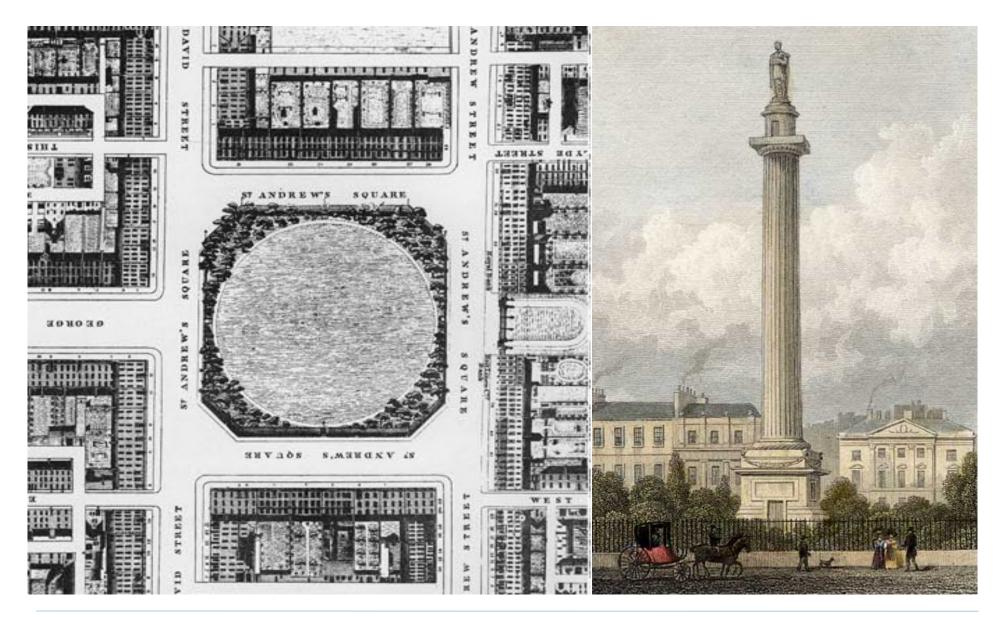








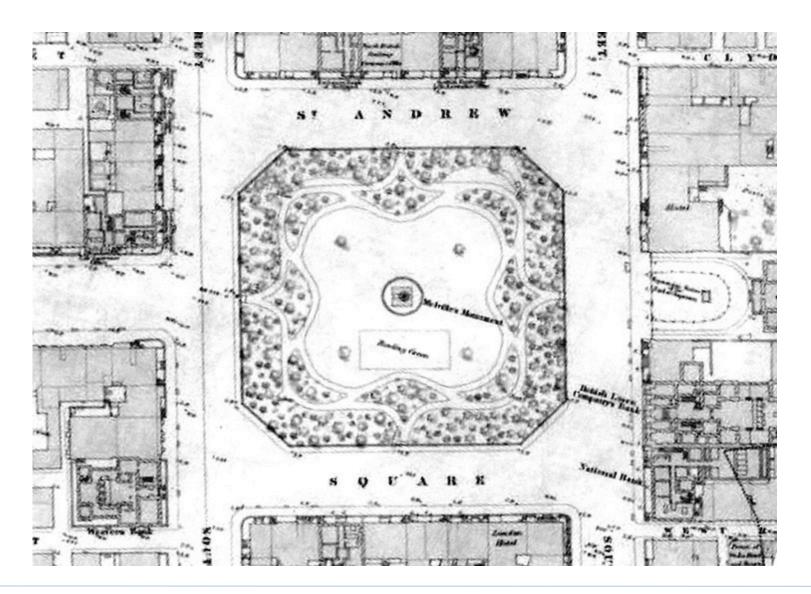




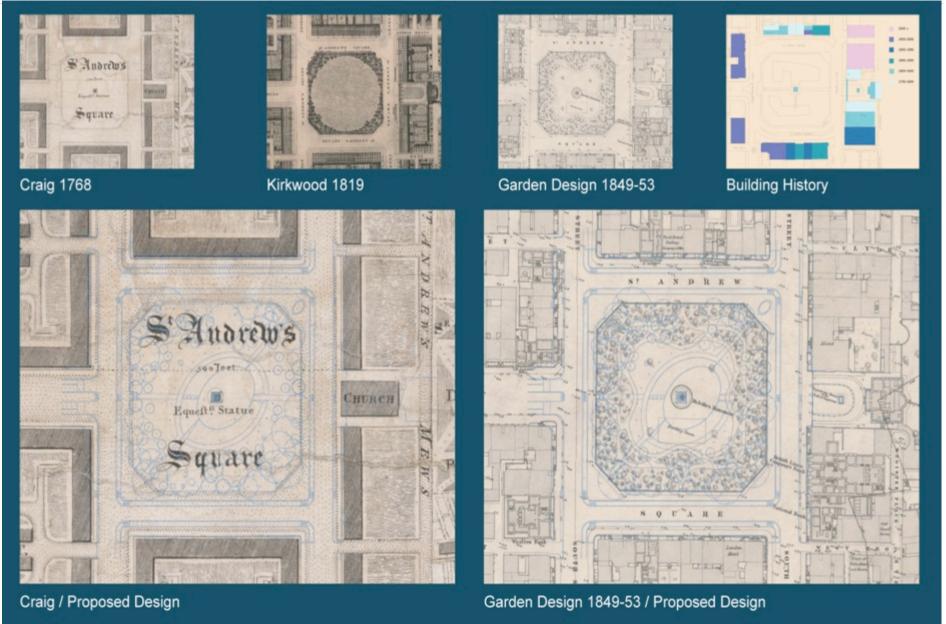






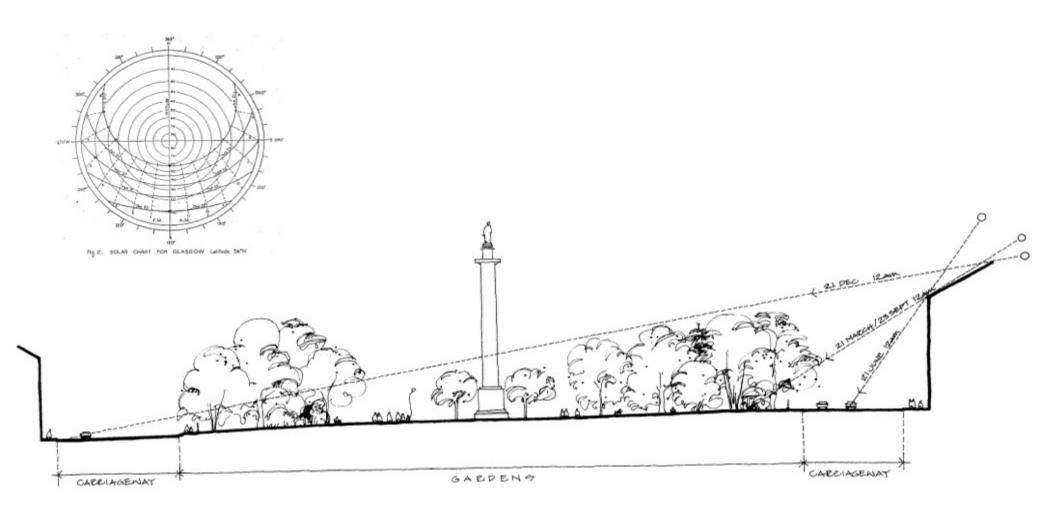








Methodology 3: Analysis of Climate



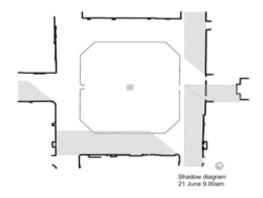


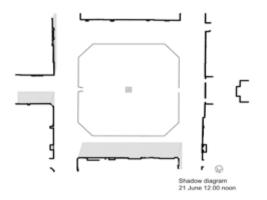




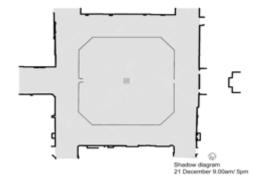
South side sunny North side shaded

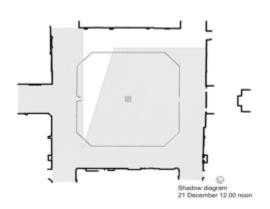


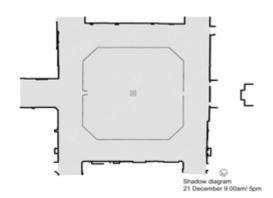




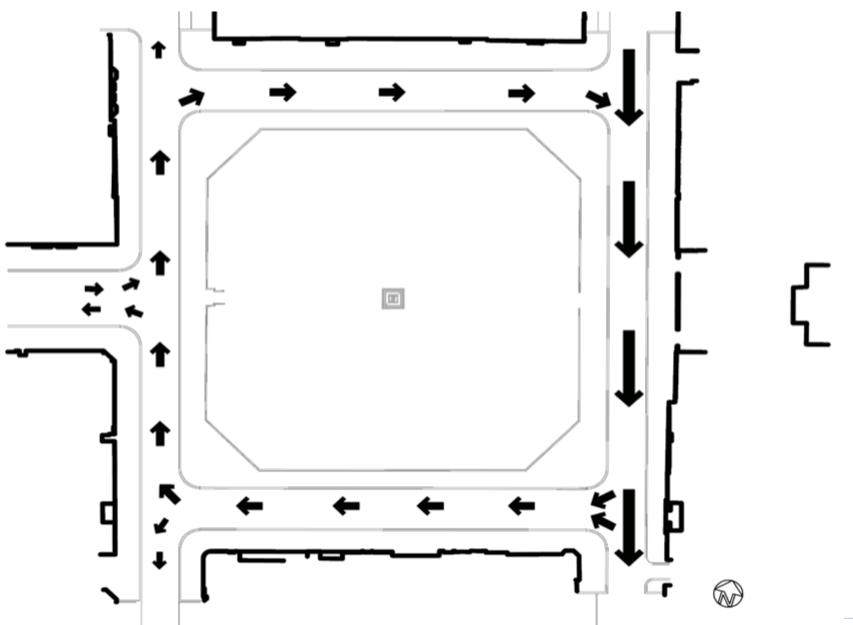




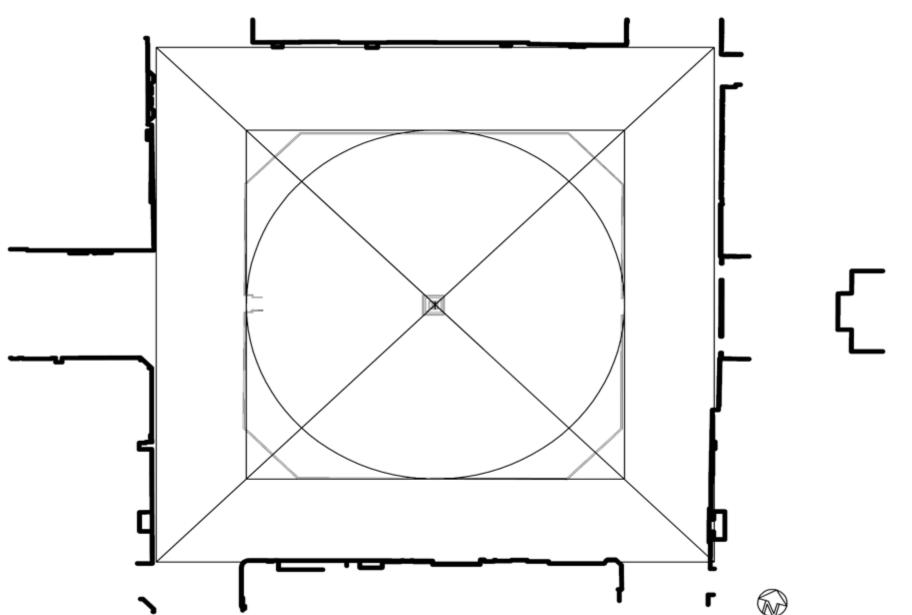














Methodology 4: Precedent Studies







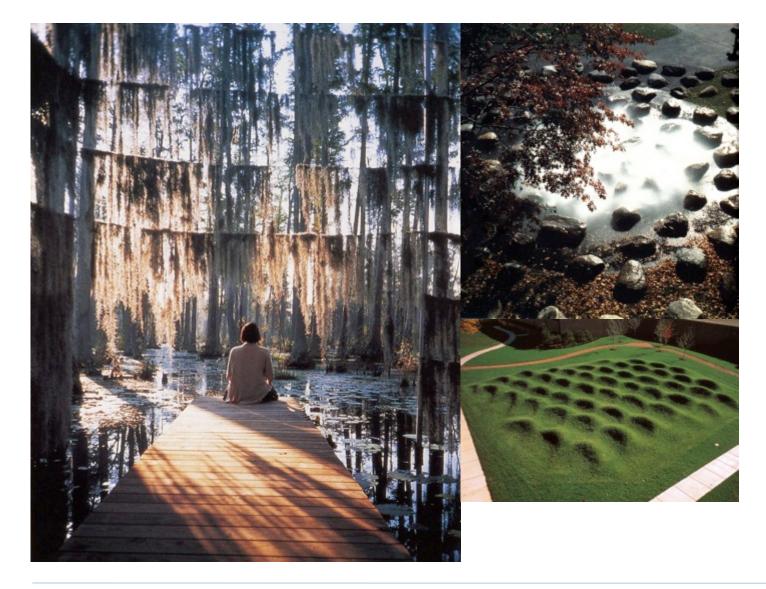


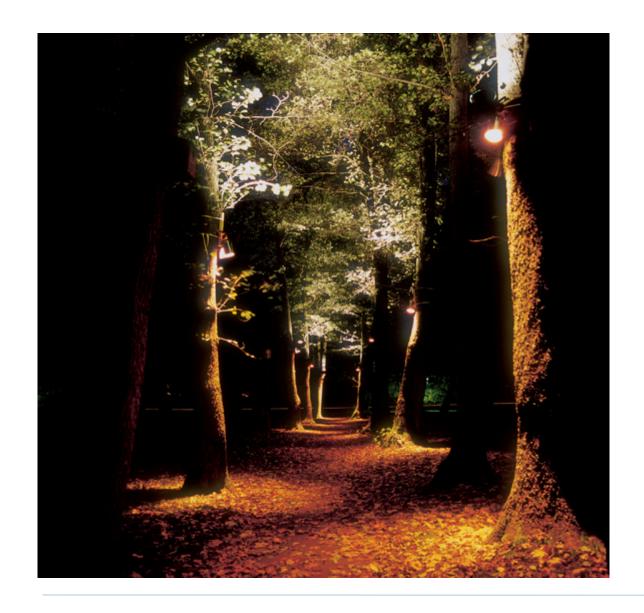






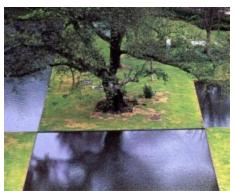




















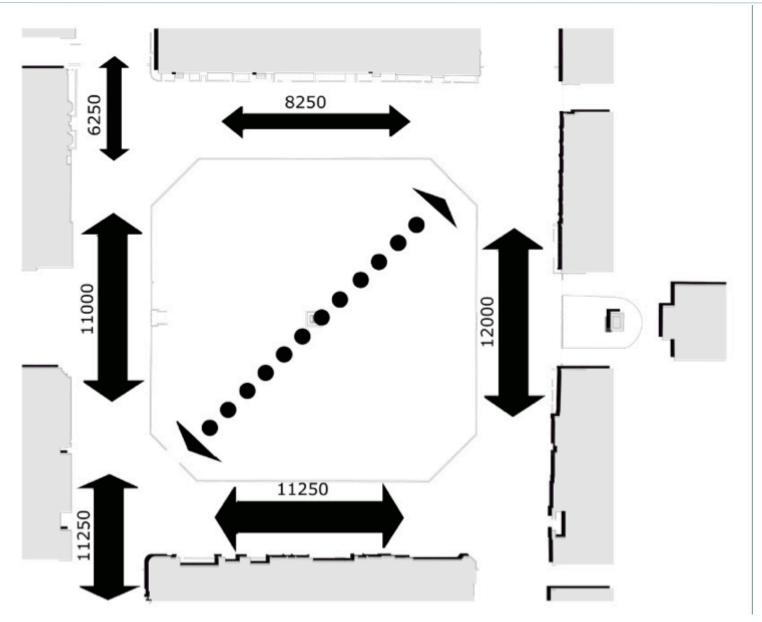


Methodology 5: Design Development – reconciliation of contrasts

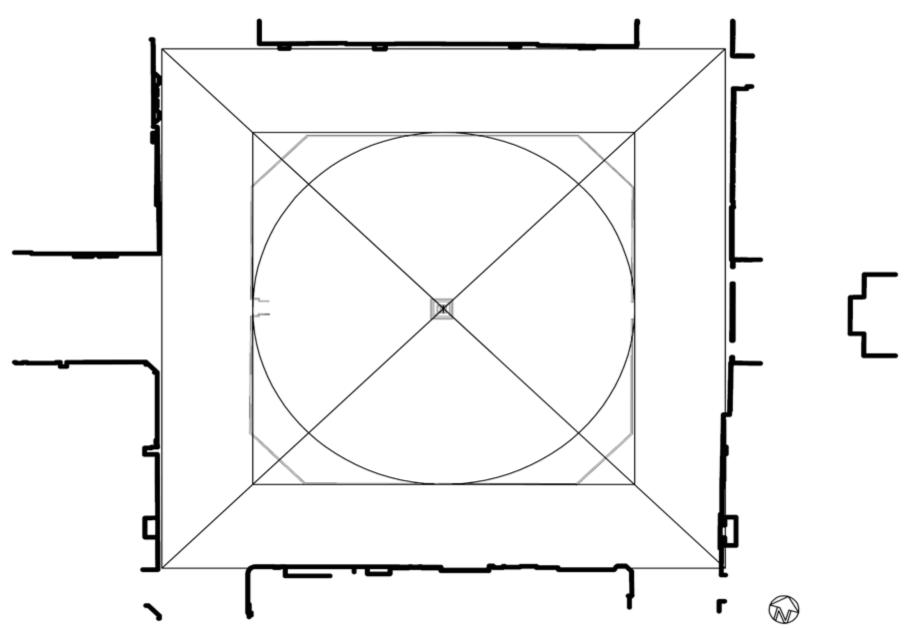
- Architecture
- Hard
- Formal
- Public
- classical
- Active Day
- Lively Movement
- Sun Dry
- Exposed

- Landscape
- Soft
- Informal
- Private
- contemporary
- Passive Night
- Tranquil Rest
- Shade Wet
- Enclosed

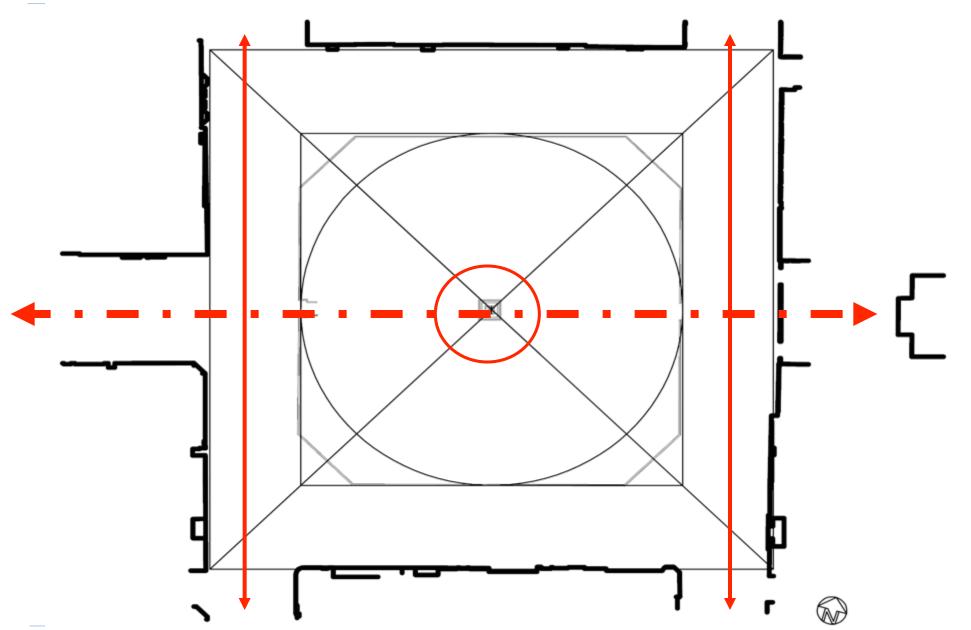




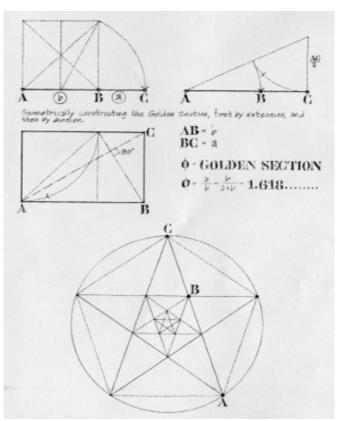


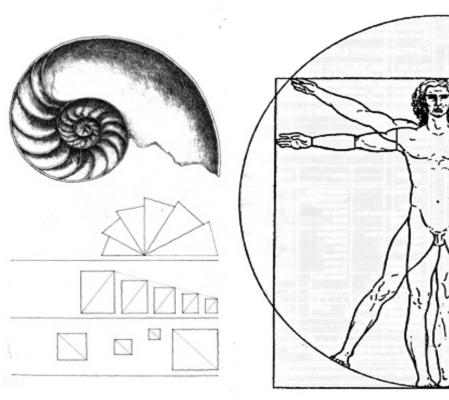




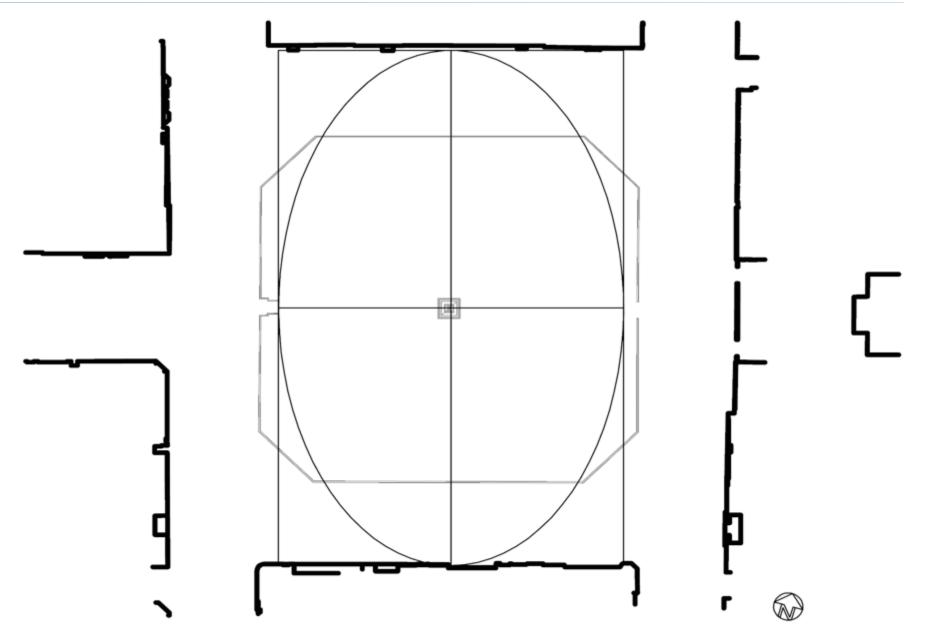




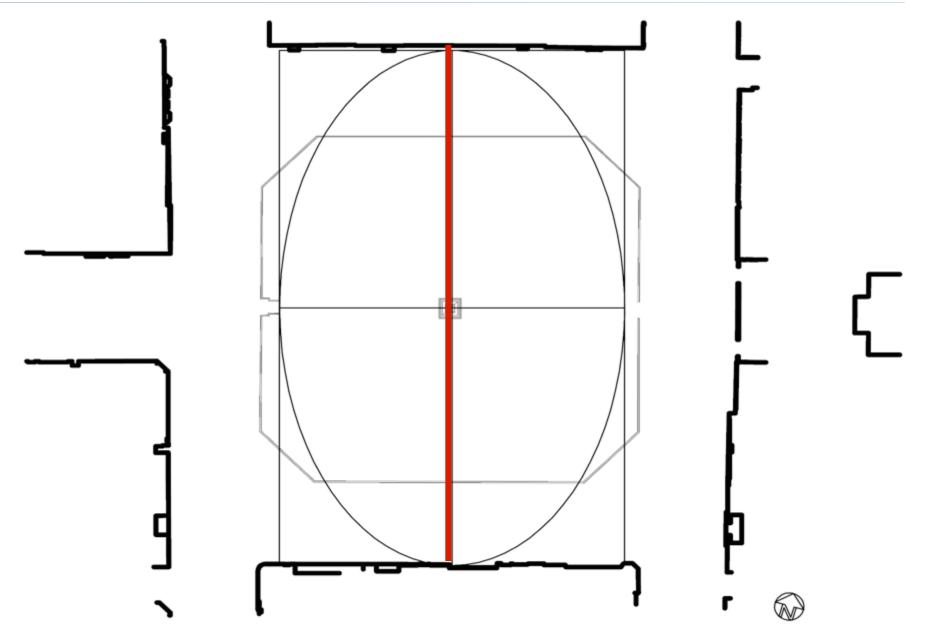




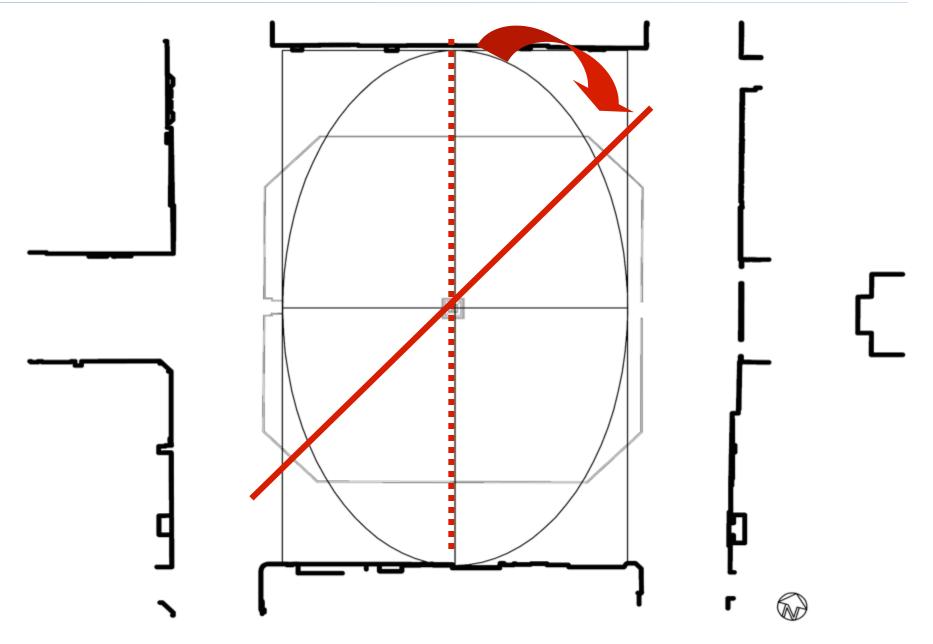




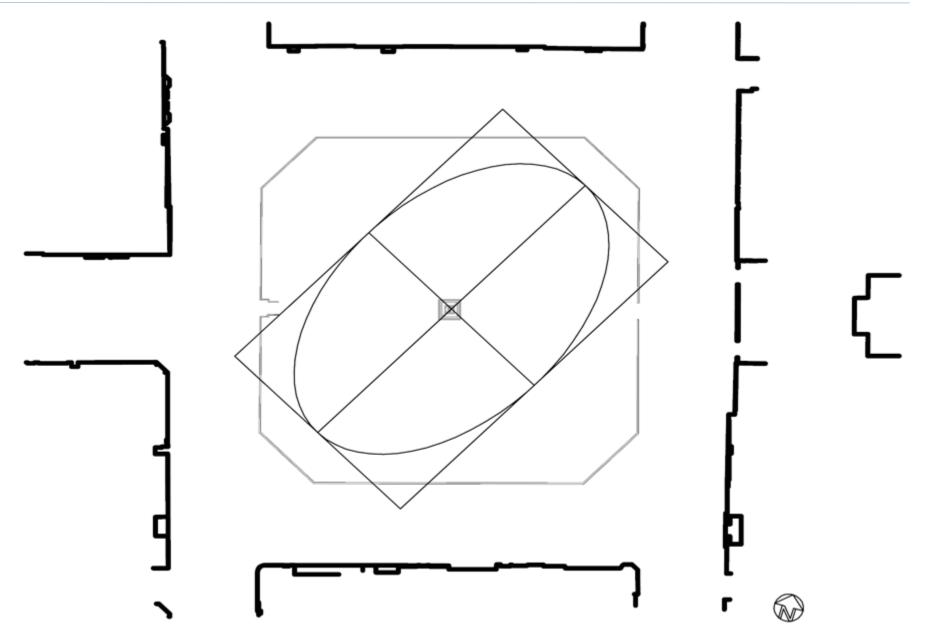














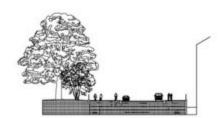
SECTIONAL ELEVATION D-0" INCLUDING PROPOSED TRAM ALIGNMENT



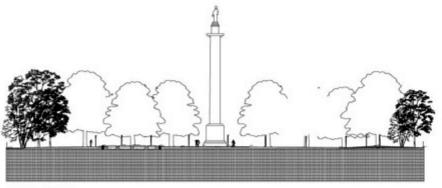
SECTIONAL ELEVATION D-D' EXCLLOING TRAMLINE



SECTIONAL ELEVATION E-E" INCLUDING PROPOSED TRAM ALIGNMENT



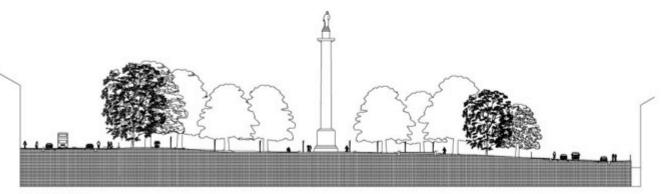
SECTIONAL ELEVATION E-E' EXCLUDING TRAMLINE



SECTIONAL ELEVATION A-A"



SECTIONAL ELEVATION B-B"



SECTIONAL ELEVATION C-C'





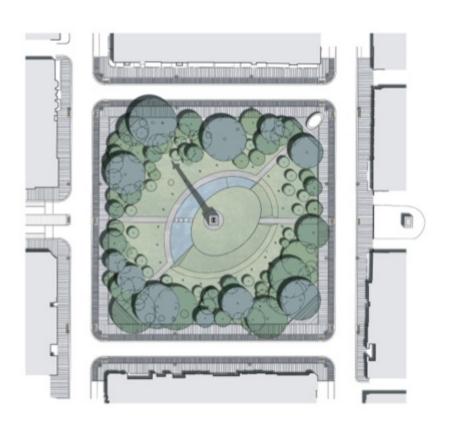


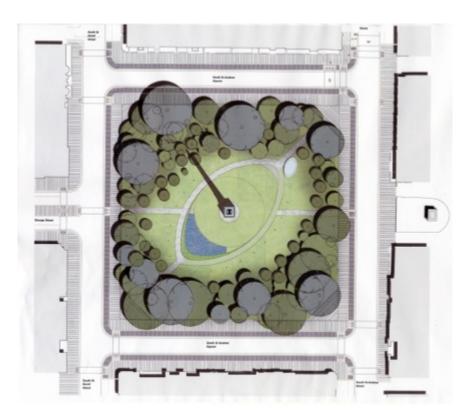
Methodology 6: Overall Design





Evolution of Final Design











SPACE IN USE













Edinburgh New Town 1945





Edinburgh New Town 2005





Edinburgh New Town
2012 – showing completed
St Andrew Square Garden as
a contribution to the
landscape of the UNESCO
World Heritage Site



DISSEMINATION

The project has received several awards and commendations covering all stages of its design implementation & use.

These include the inclusion of the design at the Royal Scottish Academy summer exhibition in 2007, awards for the design & implementation by the Landscape Institute, the Royal Town Planning Institute and the Civic Trust.

The project in use has been included in the Landscape Institute's Guide for Clients.

The Landscape Institute Guide for Clients, 2012

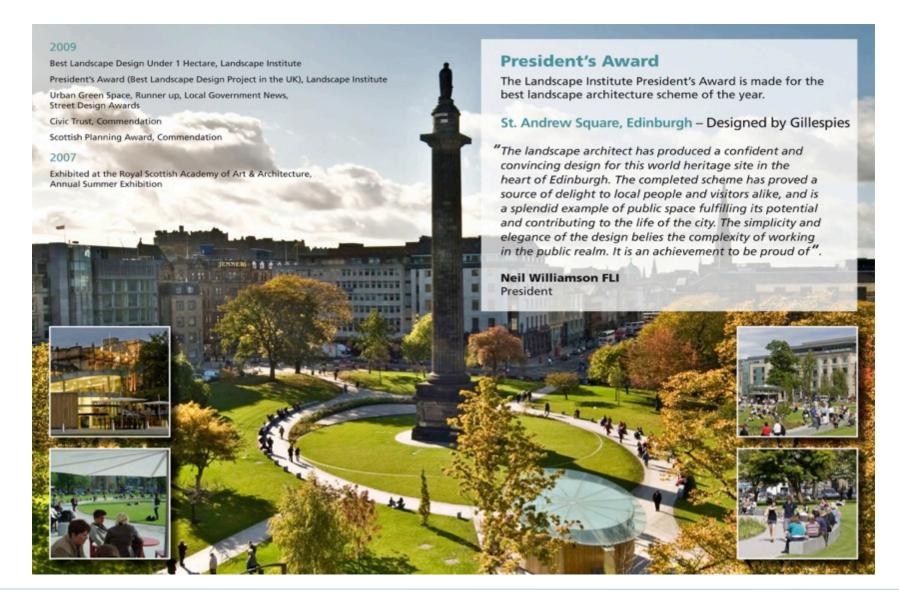
The Landscape Institute President's Award for the Best Landscape Design Project in the UK, 2009

Best Landscape Design Under 1 Hectare, Landscape Institute 2009

Commendation, Civic Trust Awards, 2009

Commendation, Scottish Planning Awards, 2009

Royal Scottish Academy of Art & Architecture Annual Summer Exhibition, 2007





APPENDIX – Web Coverage

http://www.landscapeinstitute.org/PDF/Contribute/
TOPLANDSCAPEAWARDSFOREDINBURGHSQUAREANDOLYMPICPARK.pdf

http://www.edinburghoutlook.co.uk/2010-01/yourarea/citycentre/2661.aspx

http://www.edinburgharchitecture.co.uk/st_andrew_square.htm

http://www.civictrustawards.org.uk/winners/2009/CTA006198/

http://www.landscapeinstitute.org/casestudies/casestudy.php?id=52

http://www.urbanrealm.com/practices/portfolio/357/pictures/ St_Andrew_Square,_Edinburgh.html/?next= I

http://www.urbanrealm.com/buildings/420/St_Andrew's_Square.html

http://www.landezine.com/index.php/2011/04/st-andrew-square-by-gillespies-landscape-architects/

http://www.landengineering.co.uk/Case_Studies/st_andrew_square_gardens

http://admin.localgov.co.uk/his_localgov/view/images/uploaded/Image/09UGSrunnerups1.pdf

http://www.essentialedinburgh.co.uk/ee-subpage.aspx?pageID=62



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St Andrew Square











Lead landscape architect



GILLESPIES LLP

21 Carlton Court Glasgow G5 9JP UK

Telephone: 0141 420 8200 Fax: 0141 429 8796

Email:

admin.glasgow@gillespies.co.uk Website: www.gillespies.co.uk

BIM Level: Undeclared Full practice details



Landscape Institute – Client Guide

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Case studies

Showing 1 to 1 of 1 case study matching your criteria.

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St Andrew Square

Edinburgh

Creation of a publicly accessible garden and major new space within Edinburgh city centre, providing an oasis of tranquility, and an improved pedestrian route. The scheme was also intended to address anti-social behaviour by improved lighting and planting.

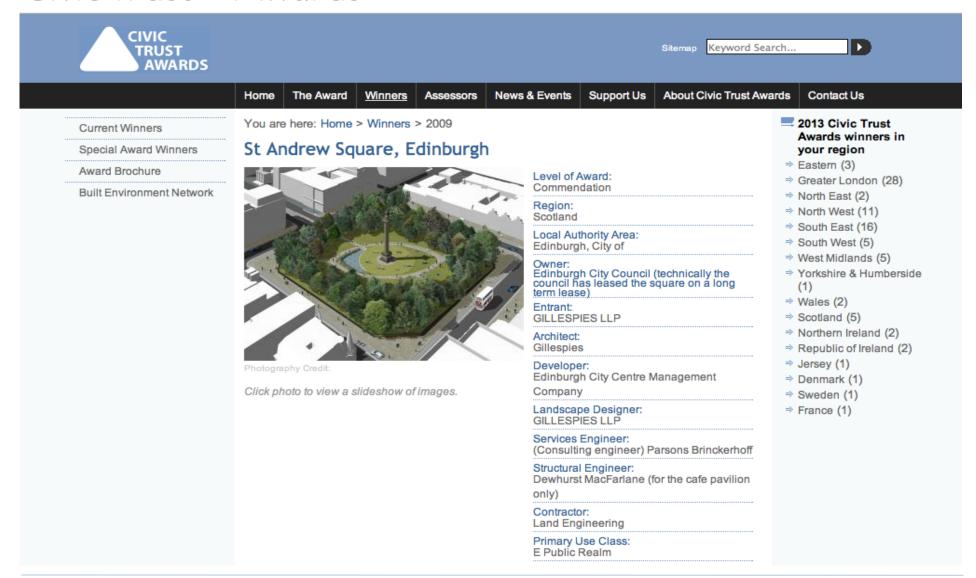
Full details of St Andrew Square



Showing 1 to 1 of 1 case study matching your criteria.



Civic Trust – Awards





Urban Realm - coverage



PPA Scottish Magazine of the Year 2010

Thrive for Property!

At last, the network relevant to you - exclusive to property professionals.





Blogs News **Features**

Diary

Jobs

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St Andrew's Square



2009

St Andrew Square Gardens had been privately owned by the surrounding property owners for over 200 years. The Gardens had fallen into disrepair in recent years and were rarely used. In 2007, the City of Edinburgh Council established a 50-year lease of the Square and put plans in place to preserve the green and tranguil space while providing greater access to the public.

PROJECT: St Andrew's Square

LOCATION: Edinburgh

CLIENT: City of Edinburgh Council

ARCHITECT: Gillespies

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER: Parsons

Nrinkerhoff

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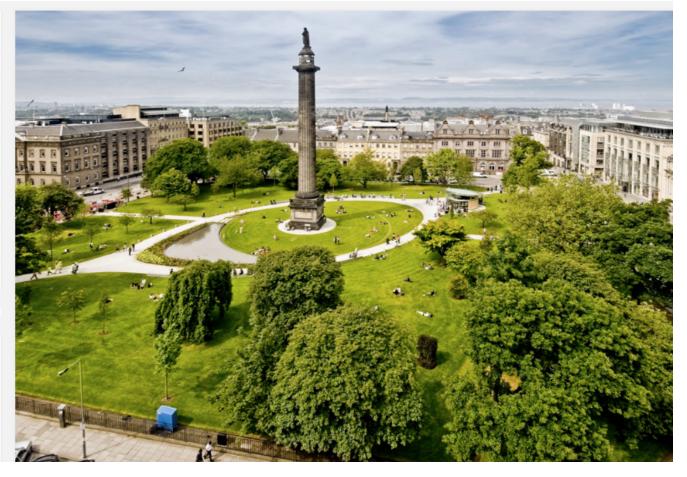














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St Andrew Square Garden

Dating back to 1770 and designed by James Craig as an integral part of his New Town Masterplan, St Andrew Square Garden was previously only accessible to residents and businesses in the surrounding area. Now everyone visiting or working in the city centre can enjoy the tranquil retreat.

St Andrew Square Garden was transformed into a haven in the heart of the city centre as part of a programme of improvement works funded by the City of Edinburgh Council and Scottish Enterprise. The Garden now features a striking modern pavilion, which houses a Coffee Republic Delicatessen. The £2.6million refurbishment has included extensive work to preserve the Melville Monument in the centre of the Garden, construction of a network of pathways through the Garden accessed through two existing and two new gates, a reflective pool and new lighting.

Filming

Essential Edinburgh manages and maintains St Andrew Square Garden. Permission is required from Essential Edinburgh to utilise the Garden for anything out with "normal" usage.

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Key info

Contract Value £2,600,000

Contract Form NEC Option C



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