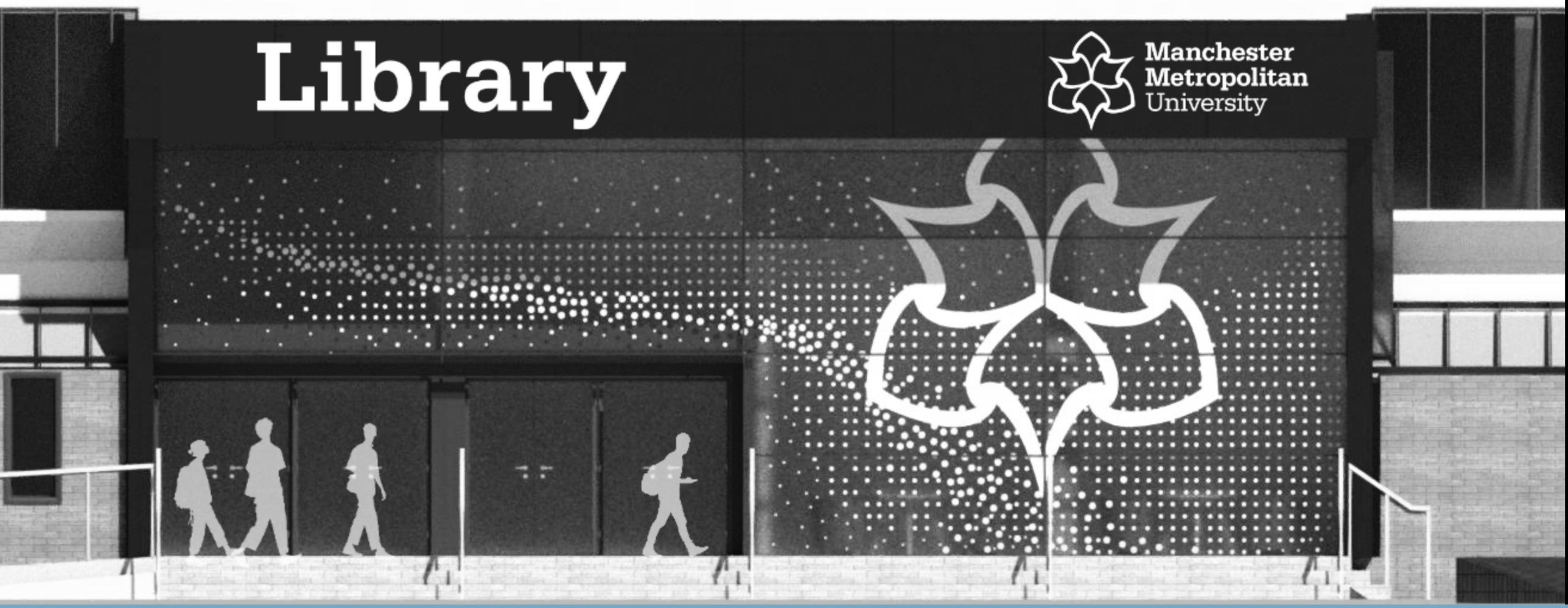


A+ Service

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Manchester Metropolitan University

Library Decant Project JDE

Entrance Proposal

May 2024

Existing

The John Dalton East building houses the Manchester Metropolitan University Faculty of Science and Engineering. It is a prominent structure along Oxford Road, forming part of the university's All Saints Campus.

The current entrance was designed in 2004, and since then, the glazing manifestation (the use of patterns or designs on glass surfaces) has been updated several times.

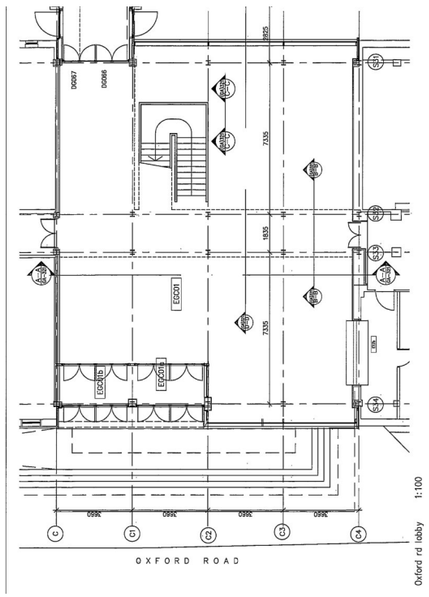
The current glazing manifestation is a one-way window film that features a multi-colored MMU branding design (with the university logo positioned to the top left side). This design allows street views out of the space while limiting the amount of sunlight that gets into the entrance foyer.

The building has four entrance doors, but only two of them are being utilized. A one-way system is in place for entering and exiting.

Key

1)Patinated copper panel

2)Curtain wall



Existing Plan



Existing Context- Macro Scale

Considerable thought was given to the character of the Oxford Road corridor, where the university is a prominent feature. To maintain continuity, we undertook a thorough analysis of the existing material palette and branding assets. This informed the palette for our proposal. The campus displays a recurring theme of white text superimposed on dark metal cladding. We adopted this approach to ensure legibility and continuity with the current brand identity. Additionally, we proposed a facelift for the key node of the 1974 building, facilitating its adaptive reuse in light of the newly commissioned Science and Engineering Building.



Proposal

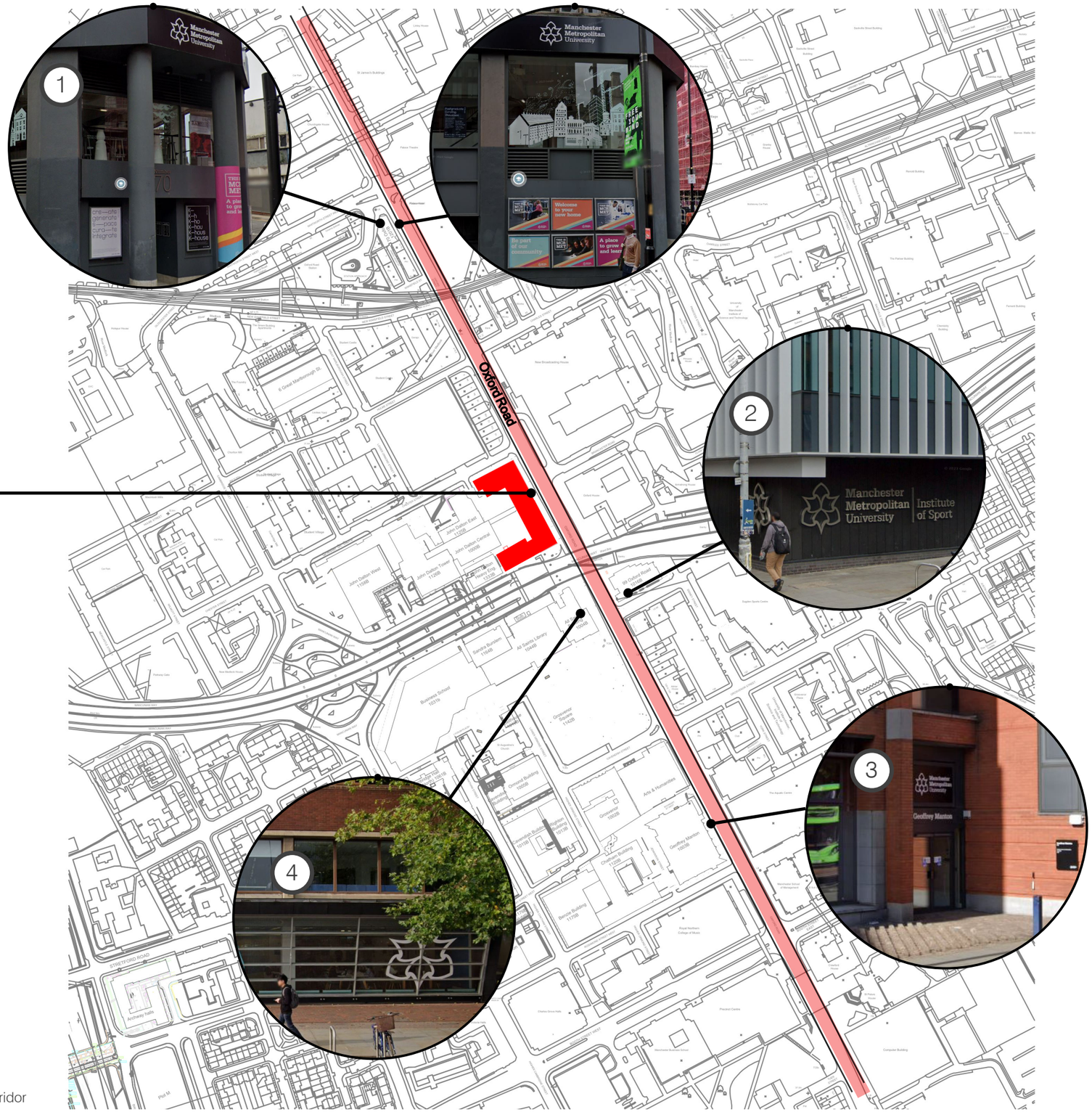
Key

1)70 Oxford Road Building

2)The Institute of Sports Building

3)All Saints Building

4)Geoffrey Manton Building



Oxfor Road Corridor

Existing Context- Micro Scale

The material palette for the proposed soffit draws inspiration from the John Dalton building. Most openings in that building feature black framing, a detail we have adopted. Our design removes the opaque manifestations and green patinated copper soffit added during an early 2000s refurbishment. This improves visibility into the building.

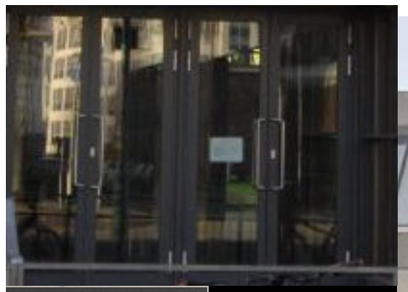
The aim is to create a muted, monochromatic, and modular aesthetic that celebrates the concrete materiality. It highlights the activities inside while promoting a connection to the street. Our approach reinterprets the original architect's intent for the building.

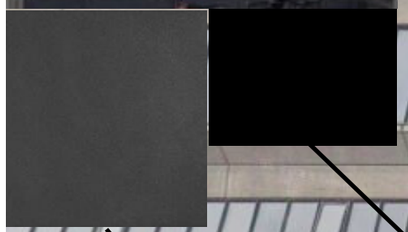


John Dalton College of Technology, 1967



Dark powder-coated doors with a black curtain wall transoms





Plaque to be removed

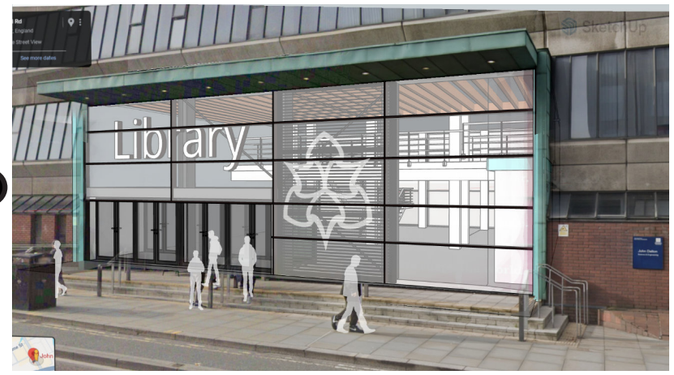
Proposal

Dark powder-coated window frames installed through-out the building

Design Evolution

Design 1

This option was dismissed as it did not align with the existing campus brand identity along the streetscape. Additionally, its orientation would have resulted in problematic glare issues. Furthermore, it failed to enhance the streetscape or address the worn copper cladding on the existing building.



Design 2

While the second option mitigated the issue of glare, it deviated from the campus brand identity. Moreover, the existing cladding partially obstructed the sign on approach, and the proposed lettering height was noticeably higher than the existing soffit height.



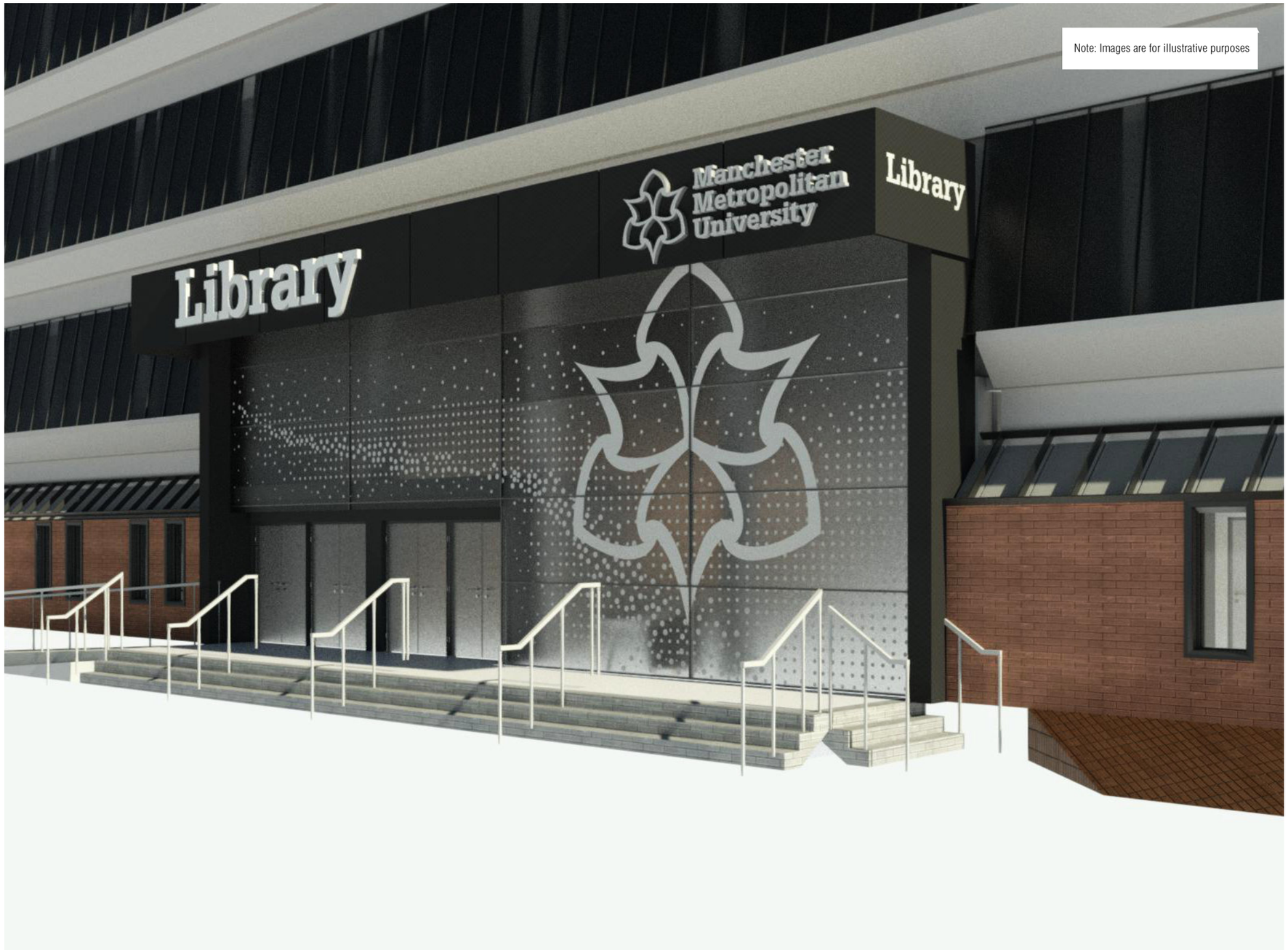
Final Design

The chosen design complemented the existing building and streetscape through its unimposing nature, drawing inspiration from the building's existing features.



Summary

The chosen design achieves a prominent visibility while seamlessly integrating into the existing streetscape. It thoughtfully considers the materiality and overall levels of the surrounding area, while also serving as a welcoming landmark for the Manchester Metropolitan University All Saints Campus upon approach from Oxford Road Station. Moreover, the design provides an iconic building with a new, sustainable adaptive re-use, as it will no longer function as the School of Engineering following the opening of the adjacent new-build facility.



Note: Images are for illustrative purposes

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