



THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

# THE NEST PROJECT

VISION DOCUMENT



WARWICK

# sustainable space by students for learning



## project vision

Our vision is born from an iterative process, involving minds all over Warwick University.

The Nest Project is a student-led initiative to construct a sustainable building on the University of Warwick's campus. Once complete, the building will be split between space to explore innovative teaching and learning practices, and space for students to meet, work and collaborate.

The building will be an incubator for concepts and practices that shape the future of pedagogical space in higher education.

Led entirely by students, The Nest Project is an opportunity to create a unique, contemporary building that reflects a new approach to higher education: placing the student experience front and centre.

Situated in the Warwickshire countryside, the building will utilise green design to maintain an intimate connection to nature and promote a holistic approach to sustainability and well-being.

## behind the name

Nests are nurturing structures that are built by and for its users, from natural and sustainable materials. This project likewise aims to provide a space for personal development built from strawbale; it is "The Nest."

## strategic objectives

Show that sustainable buildings can be modern and attractive, acting as a precedent for future buildings on campus;

Develop space for innovative teaching and learning at Warwick using new technology and design as pedagogical tools;

Develop a blueprint for Students to work collaboratively with the university on large-scale projects, becoming true leaders in their education.

## design

Through innovative design choices, the Nest can change the way we think.

### activity entrepreneurship

Learning is an active process; building design should reflect this and encourage a move away from traditionally passive teaching methods. To that end, both technological and natural resources will be utilised by the Nest to enhance learning.

The student experience goes far beyond academia: Warwick is home to start-ups, societies and charitable groups that have a real impact on the world around them, led by students. The Nest should support these activities in the style of an entrepreneurial incubator.

### discussion

It must be a playful and flexible space that acts as a hub for individuals to meet and collaborate. The design will aim to stimulate discussion on the importance of sustainability, innovative pedagogy and student leadership.

### leadership

The Nest Project is centred on the premise that a student-led approach can directly assess and address those needs by appealing to those at the heart of the learning experience. The Nest building meets the appetite for sustainable action.

## sustainability

The Nest will be a beacon of sustainability, so as to normalise the concept of environmentally conscious buildings. The space must look and feel different to others at Warwick whilst maintaining practicality and avoiding gimmicks.

Holistic sustainability is our primary motivation. Energy usage will be considered at each stage of the building's construction and use, and not as a second thought. The wellbeing of the Nest's users will be considered through natural design.

The WELL and Passivhaus standard represent ambitions beyond Warwick's current sustainability targets; the Nest should reach for those ambitions.

## autonomy

The building would aim to require no artificial lighting in the day and have minimal dependence on on-site services. "Lightly touching the earth" in this way shows a deliberate step towards non-traditional building techniques and develops Warwick's reputation as a leader of sustainability within higher education.

## interaction

All interactions with The Nest should be a learning experience: it should act as a 3D textbook. Sustainable building elements will be exhibited as an informative tool, not hidden away.

Likewise, building management systems can be combined with technology to display live usage data across a variety of media.

## connection

External teaching opportunities should be explored, particularly as the building is designed to open out into the Warwickshire countryside. The site along Warwick's spine route runs past a protected green site. The Nest will have a permanent green setting ensuring a sustainable legacy for the building.

## research

The Nest provides avenues for research for many different faculties. Sustainability as an interdisciplinary problem invites all users of the building to consider sustainability from their respective fields. Inviting collaborative discussions from the the users of the building will maintain the relevance of the Nest's on Warwick's campus.



