

5.0 Design Philosophy of Individual Buildings with Buxton Masterplan

5.13 Summary of Architectural Design Philosophy

The architectural design philosophy underpinning the Buxton Masterplan is rooted in a deep respect for the town’s historic character while confidently embracing a contemporary vision for its future. The proposal seeks to create a cohesive, elegant, and contextually responsive extension of Buxton’s urban fabric - one that draws upon the town’s architectural richness, civic pride, and distinctive topography to deliver a new place of lasting quality and identity.

The design approach celebrates Buxton’s architectural vernacular, characterised by its use of natural stone, rhythmical facades, curved corners, and refined proportions. These timeless principles have been reinterpreted through a contemporary lens, where proportion and materiality, remain central, but expressed with modern simplicity, restraint, and precision. The result is a family of buildings that are individually distinctive yet compositionally coherent, unified by a shared language of materials, scale, and detail.

At the heart of the philosophy is a commitment to placemaking and civic generosity. The masterplan introduces a series of new public squares, boulevards, and landscaped terraces that open up views of the surrounding hills and reconnect the town to the River Wye. Architecture and public realm are designed hand in hand, ensuring active ground floors, sheltered colonnades, and layered thresholds between private and public space that contributing to a vibrant, walkable, and inclusive town centre.

Materiality is carefully calibrated to balance authenticity and innovation. Traditional Buxton materials such as stone and brick are complemented by modern elements such as metal cladding and copper finishes - subtle gestures that acknowledge the town’s legacy of craftsmanship and the Duke of Devonshire’s historic copper mining heritage, while signalling a confident step into the 21st century.

The overall composition establishes a hierarchy of architectural expression: key gateway buildings (Blocks 1 and 7) act as visual markers and symbols of civic renewal, while most of the built form adopts a more neighbourly, contextual tone, ensuring a seamless dialogue between old and new.

In essence, the masterplan embodies a philosophy of continuity and reinvention that honours Buxton’s past, enhancing its present, and shaping a future that is sustainable, characterful, and unmistakably of Buxton.



station road street scene elevation



spring gardens street scene elevation

