

Practitioner's Statement

## ***Architectural Design – Nazareth***

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The starting point of my major included a meeting with the principle of the school, asking what requirements he wanted for a new building. From this certain constraints had to be considered and incorporated into the overall design. One of the main ideas in which was discussed was having a large area in which students could work and that meetings could be held in. Another idea was having lots of glass in classrooms, enabling students to work outside the classroom in the breakout space and still be supervised. Throughout the research process I looked at a variety a variety of schools around the world and looking at a wide range of ideas which I could take from their buildings and use in my design. A range of ideas such as the predominant curved glass and the front of the building and the vertical garden on the inside, came from this process.

One building which was particularly had an influence on the design of the building was the IMI International Management Institute in India. This building features a curved façade, with large coloured glass panels along the exterior. At one stage I was looking at putting strips of coloured glass on the inside windows in the house colours of the school (red, green, yellow, blue and white). However, this idea was later abandoned, but the influence of this design can be seen from the curve on the façade of my design. Being a student at this school, it was easy to ask around and see what people would want in the design of the building. It also meant that I knew what existing buildings were and what was needed to replace them. The audience of my design is aimed at a students of various ages. This had a major influence on the design as this meant I had to add more classrooms to suit the number of students. After a meeting with the client certain requirements were established, such as a total of 15+ classrooms, lots of glass enabling students to work outside of the classroom in the breakout space and still be supervised. This had a major influence on the design

The chosen media for the design was a range of architectural materials such as, scale model trees, grass, and plants. Balsa wood was used for the internal walls as this was easy to cut and shape into the desired length. 4mm mdf was used for the exterior walls as this was stronger and when painted it wouldn't warp, when compared to the balsa wood. For landscape elements such as the seating and the raised plant beds, oven bake clay was used. This was easy to sculpt and mold into the desired shape. Once it was cooked, it was sanded to clean up any edges which were not straight.

Majority of the media was applied well, however, there are certain aspects which could have been applied better. The existing area in white could have been painted better. Spray paint was applied to coat the rocks, plants and bark, but instead of placing newspaper along the shape of the bike path, I placed in in a straight line. This meant when I took the newspaper off there not only was a thick line of paint, but there was a section of mdf which was not painted. To fix this I attempted to sand the edge of the paint flat before spray painting again.

A challenge which I faced with the design was the placement of the curved glass. I was not sure how to get the polypropylene to stay curved when it was in place. To fix this, a curved line was engraved into the mdf and onto the yellow feature wall. The polypropylene was then fitted into each of the slots and glued into place with super glue.

Design principles such as function and form were looked at, with function being more important than form. The design needed to be practical but still had to be aesthetically pleasing to the eye.

The building which I was originally chose to build was the wrong shape for the existing area, making it a less suitable choice for the final design. However, the L-shaped building with curve throughout the middle proved to be a more suitable design for the area in which the building would be built. Throughout the building process I learned that you couldn't take short cuts when measuring, as this would be seen. I also needed to be more careful cutting as well as doorways and windows weren't as precise as they could be. I successfully met the design brief following the client's requirements, creating an original and unique design which fits in with the existing surroundings.