



G: Design Statement

G.1 - Design Statement



Barrhill Memorial Hall

DESIGN STATEMENT 2013

REFURBISHING BARRHILL MEMORIAL HALL
A Springboard to Make it Happen

This project is part-financed by the Scottish Government,
European Community and Ayrshire LEADER 2007-2013 Programme
Also part-financed by Barrhill Memorial Hall Community Association

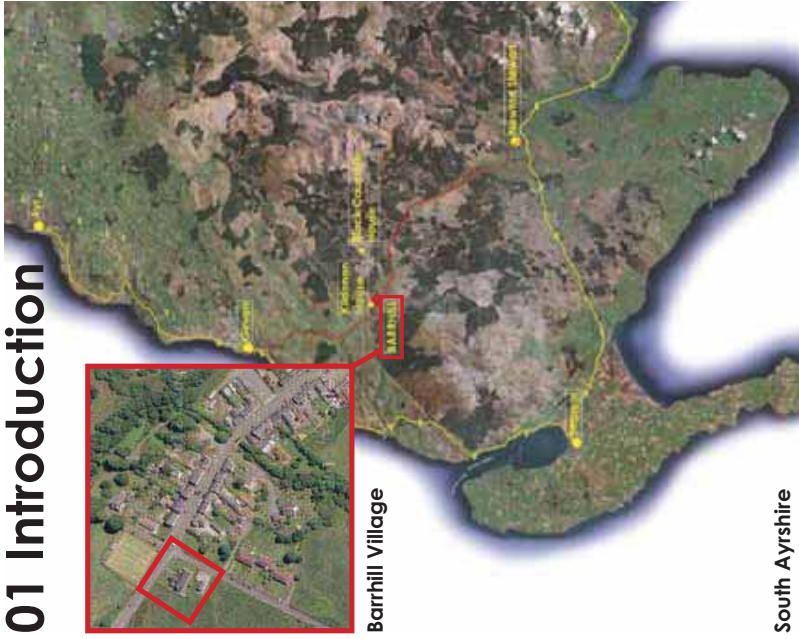


The European Agricultural Fund
for Rural Development:
Europe investing in rural areas

anderson bell+christie
architects



01 Introduction



Barrhill Village

South Ayrshire

Barrhill is a rural Scottish village in South Ayrshire located on the A714 between Girvan and Newton Stewart, nestled in the Southern Uplands and surrounded by farmland and woodlands.

Notable landmarks surrounding the village include Black Clauchrie House, a former hunting lodge and Kildonan House, an impressive mansion & former convent school, originally constructed as the home of Captain Euan Wallace, by the architect James Miller.

This Planning Application is for the refurbishment and extension of Barrhill Memorial Hall, also originally designed by Scottish architect James Miller, and built on the land gifted by Capt. Euan Wallace. The Hall lies on the only crossroads in Barrhill, and is a major focal point upon entering the village. The population of Barrhill is small and somewhat isolated from the larger neighboring settlements. The Memorial Hall offers the only community 'social gathering' space, providing a venue for local clubs and weekly events. This makes it a very important community asset.

02 Historical Context



1865



1924



2013

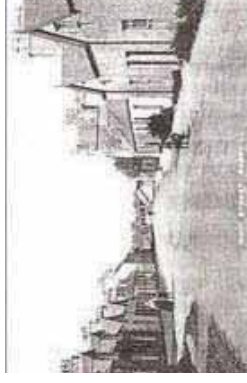
Architectural Identity of Barrhill

This tranquil village, close to the Ayrshire coast and the Galloway Forest Park, offers a perfect rural retreat for visitors. It is an ideal base for country walks and exploring the diversity of wildlife that can be found here. Unfortunately Barrhill is somewhat hidden and therefore not well known.

The village is a traditional rural Scottish linear settlement. In terms of building form and scale, it maintains the sense of character that is found throughout the Ayrshire countryside. Many of the original buildings along the main street still remain today. These are typically 1 & 1/2 storey, with some 2 storey terraced buildings, constructed in traditional local materials such as slate, stone and render as can be seen in the historic photos to the right. Sadly the population of Barrhill has significantly declined over the years.

There are several examples of post-Second World War housing to be found on the eastern edge of the village, heading towards Newton Stewart however the main amenities within the village are: the Bowling Green utilized by Barrhill Bowling Club (known to locals as "The BBC"); the Trout Inn public house; a train station; the Barrhill Primary School (due to start refurbishment and extension); and of course the Barrhill Memorial Hall.

Historic Barrhill



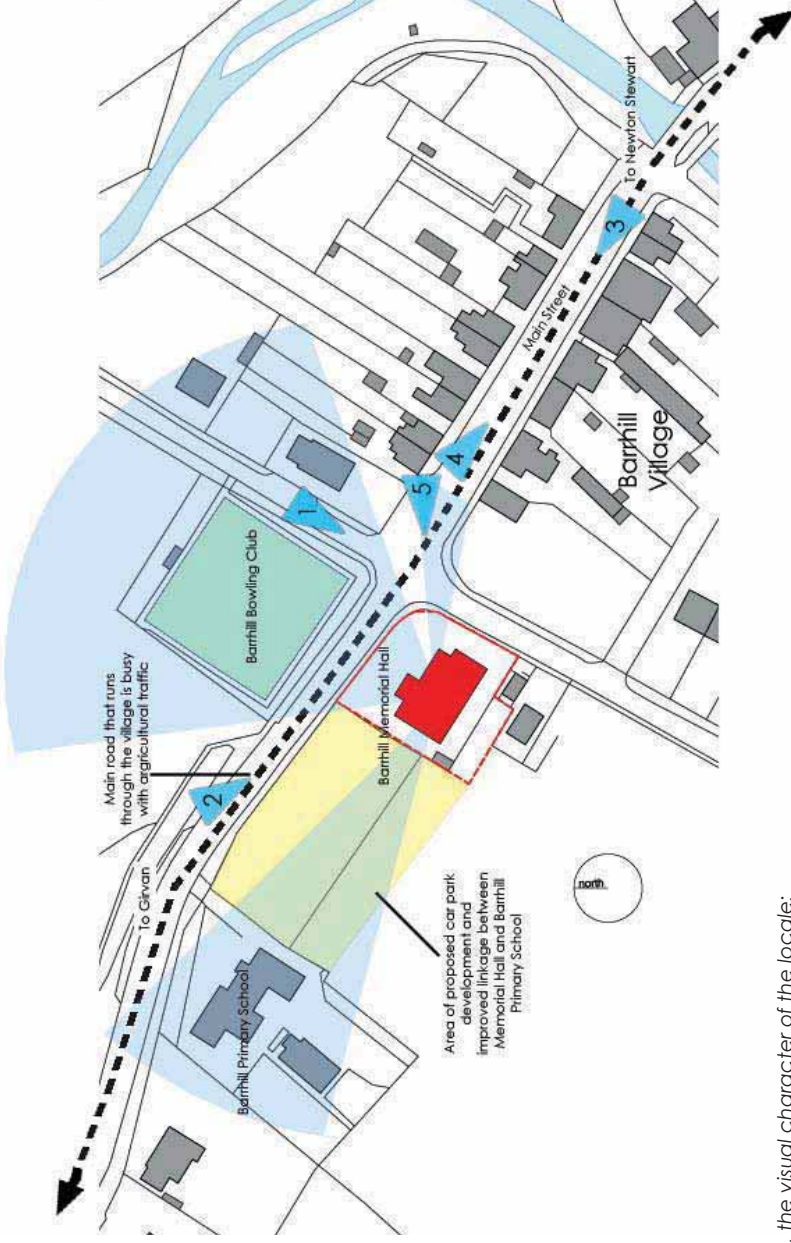
03 Site Analysis

Barrhill Memorial Hall was built in 1924 from public subscription as a War Memorial to the local servicemen who died in the First World War. It therefore holds significant social and historical value to the Barrhill community.

The Memorial Hall is located on the main thoroughfare (A714) that bisects the village, and occupies a prominent corner at the North West entrance to the village, greeting locals, visitors and passer-bys. There is a direct visual connection with Barrhill Primary School to the west and there will be a new car park between the sites to service the two facilities as well as creating new footpaths to link them together. The hall benefits from a connection with the Bowling Green to the north, with bowlers using the 2 facilities in tandem. This collection of important civic buildings identifies this part of the village as a significant junction, and a meeting point for all ages.

The building is given further civic importance within the village by the lack of buildings in its immediate vicinity. Set back from the road, it is one of the largest buildings in Barrhill. Any alterations to the existing building would be mindful of its current scale, providing additions that sit well in the locale and complement the Memorial Hall's aesthetic.

The prominent location of the Memorial Hall would attract visitors to the village and surrounding area, whilst providing a tourist information point with facilities that both encourage and celebrate local crafts. The new car park will also increase the accessibility of the hall to a wider group of visitors



Photos illustrating views towards site and site context demonstration, the visual character of the locale:



View of site approach coming from the centre of the village (1)



View of site approach coming from the east (2)



Looking north-west down Main Street (3)



View of site approach from Forest Road (5)

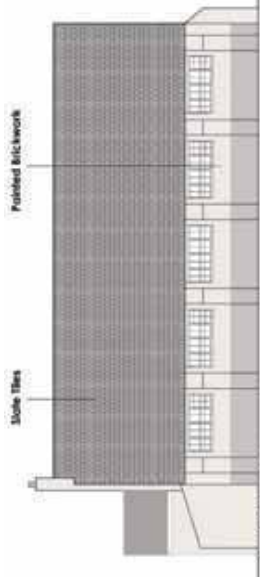


Looking south-east down Main Street (4)

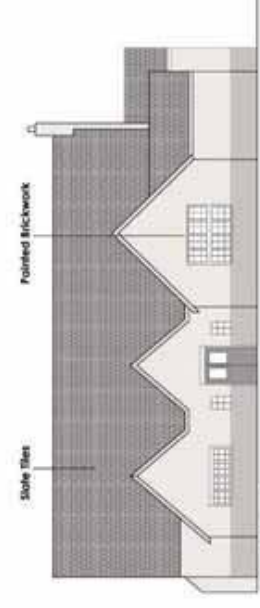
04 The Existing Memorial Hall



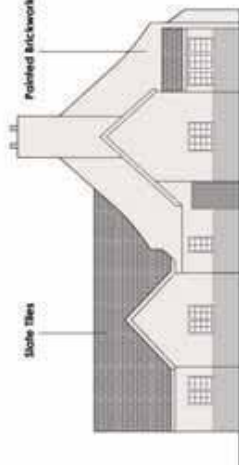
Ground Floor Plan



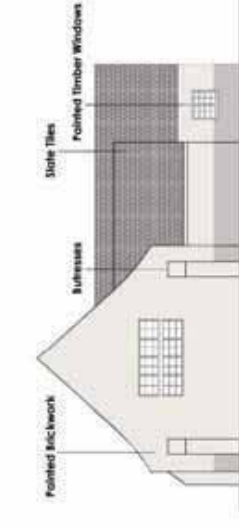
South Elevation



North Elevation



West Elevation



East Elevation

The Existing Memorial Hall

The Barrhill Memorial Hall is an example of one of the Arts and Crafts buildings in South Ayrshire by well known Scottish architect James Miller. The building is of traditional masonry construction with a monochrome render and paint finish. The roof is clad in Scottish slates and windows are timber with typical fenestration of this period.

The buildings form consists of a large dual pitch volume along the back of the site (stretching east to west) housing the main hall, with a series of three small gables facing north addressing the street. One of these small gables forms the entrance and another houses the reading room which has two Arts and Crafts, wooden and glazed cabinets containing parchment inscriptions.

There is a cluster of lean-to additions to the western elevation housing the kitchen and toilets which do not follow the pattern or symmetry of the buildings original massing.

Photos of the Existing Building in its Current Condition



As a result of the age of the building and minimal maintenance, it has become damp and cold. Surveys have established the presence of extensive rising damp and timber rot throughout the building which will require the replacement of rainwater goods, slates and windows, as well as replacing timber finishes internally in order to restore the building to its former glory. This would also be an opportunity to improve the thermal performance of the external envelope, to reduce running costs and make the building a more attractive venue for community activities.

The Barrhill Memorial Hall holds social and historic value to the local community. The repair and upgrading of the external fabric is therefore of importance so that it can be used by future generations of Barrhill and ensure longevity of the historic monument. Due to the building's character the refurbishment will be focused on conservation. Whilst Barrhill Memorial Hall is not a listed building, it is referred to as a building of interest due to its Arts and Crafts aesthetics, design and its design by well known Scottish architect James Miller.

05 Research

James Miller - Architect of Barrhill Memorial Hall

James Miller of Perthshire became an apprentice to the Perth architect, Andrew Heiton. He then went on to work for Hippolyte Blanc in Edinburgh and in 1888, he gained a post with the Caledonian Railway's Drawing Office in Glasgow. He eventually set up his own architectural practice in 1892, in Glasgow.

In 1893 he was commissioned to design the stations on the West Highland Railway, at the time under construction from Glasgow to Fort William. James Miller has also designed a variety of buildings in Glasgow, ranging from public and commercial, to factories and hospitals, churches, banks and schools, as well as a number of private houses. His style varied throughout his career, although the Arts and Crafts influence can be seen in projects such as Barrhill Memorial Hall and Kildonan House. Yet he became increasingly influenced by styles coming from America and many of his most notable buildings in Glasgow have a neo-baroque style.

Amongst the most notable of Miller's buildings were the 1914 Glasgow Royal Infirmary; the truly magnificent 1903 Wemyss Bay Railway Station; and the 1903 Turnberry Hotel. But what perhaps sets Miller apart from many other Scottish Architects was his combination of quality of design with quantity of output.

Barrhill is fortunate to contain a building by such a notable Scottish architect.

Weymss Bay



Kildonan House



Turnberry Hotel



Scottish Arts and Crafts Architecture

The main influence of the Arts and Crafts style was William Morris (1834–1896), who's ideas were influenced by the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, of which he had been a part.

Arts and Crafts Architecture placed great emphasis on local material, craftsmanship in construction, and allowed the function of the building to determine its design and construction, leaving out excessive ornamental features. Unlike the previous Gothic style, Arts and Crafts buildings tended to have graceful curved arches (rather than pointed) and many were designed on a modest scale, in styles reminiscent of the manorial halls and half timbered cottages of Tudor or Elizabethan England.

The Red House in Bexleyheath London, designed for Morris in 1859 by architect Philip Webb, exemplifies the early Arts and Crafts style based on British vernacular architecture expressing the texture of ordinary materials, such as stone and tiles, with an asymmetrical and quaint building composition.

The movement had an "extraordinary flowering" in Scotland where it was represented by the development of the 'Glasgow Style' which was based on the talent of the Glasgow School of Art. Celtic revival took hold here, and motifs such as the Glasgow rose became popularized. Charles Rennie Mackintosh and the Glasgow School of Art were to influence others worldwide.

Examples local to Barrhill are Black Cauchrie House and Kildonan House (by the Memorial Hall architect, James Miller). Both bear the characteristics of Scottish Arts and Crafts buildings, with their use of traditional materials and vernacular forms.

The Red House



The Hill House



Black Cauchrie House



Arts and Crafts Characteristics - Light, Shadow + Structure



Many Arts and Crafts buildings are characterized by their windows. The modular fenestration, with segmented panes of glazing distinctive of the Arts and Crafts movement, play with light casting shadows onto internal surfaces. Large areas of glazing bring light into spaces and open up views to the surroundings, contrasting with the heavy, vernacular, masonry construction.

'The Stone Lantern'



One of the most famous Arts and Crafts buildings is the Glasgow School of Art, by Charles Rennie Mackintosh, who worked at the same time as James Miller. Mackintosh manipulated the distinctive window framing to create large glazed openings which contrasted the thick stone walls, creating a 'lantern' appearance.

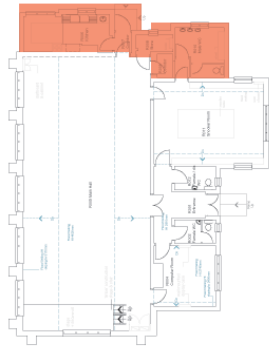
Modern Equivalent - Private House in Oban



There are very good examples of buildings that seek to replicate or preserve the Arts and Crafts character of their surroundings. This is achieved through careful consideration of form and a sensitive approach to materials, something we seek to emulate with the design of the refurbishment and extension of Barrhill Memorial Hall.

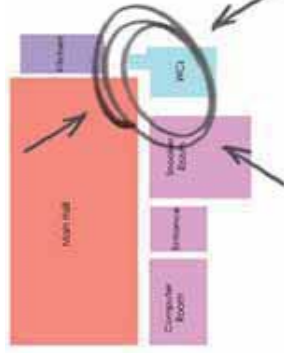
06 Design Approach/Concept

Previous Additions to the Hall



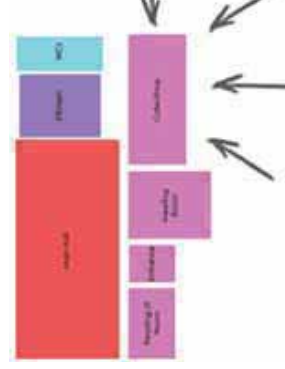
The kitchen and toilet areas were later additions to the Memorial Hall. Therefore their removal would not impact the preservation of the original James Miller design. These spaces and facilities no longer meet the community's requirements and do not conform with current building regulations. This western elevation is also the main elevation viewed when entering the village. Currently this is closed off and does not offer any visual connection to the school or to incoming visitors.

Identifying Problem Areas



The circulation & intermediate spaces is absent within the existing building. In order to access the toilets and kitchen, you are required to go through the hall or snooker room, interrupting any activity which may be taking place. Similarly there is no intermediate space to wait for hall/meeting room availability, which also provides an informal meeting space for community interaction.

A Civic Corner



The main north & west facades would benefit from an improved visual connection with the street & wider context to enhance the Memorial Hall's presence within Barrhill as a public and community facility. The prominent north-western corner of the building sits at a critical point of the village entrance and is an opportunity to connect with visitors and passer by.

The proposal is for a new extension along the western facade with a concept to place a glazed beacon or lantern at the corner signalling activity and welcoming visitors. An appropriate function considering its location within the village. This would provide a small hub within the building for an informal meeting space. The composition of the glazing and supporting structure would be reflective of the Arts & Crafts distinctive style, to tie it into the existing building.

A Lantern/Beacon



The Design Objectives

The refurbishment and extension of Barrhill Memorial Hall will enable the Barrhill community to gain maximum benefit from the Memorial Hall now and for many years to come. The aim is not only to conserve and repair the historic building, but build upon the potential that the existing facilities offer.

The proposed extension towards the car park area will rationalise the circulation, provide new kitchen and toilet facilities to meet community needs, and create a new multi-functional community space. The extension will be glazed to open up the building to the street and allow passers-by glimpses into the Hall.

The improvements to the existing accommodation & the addition of flexible space will encourage more community functions to take place and allow the possibility for new uses & groups to develop. The completed building will support new & existing local businesses; provide a hub for community health, education and support services. It will also become a place where visitors to the area can learn about the unique historical and natural heritage of Barrhill and the surrounding area. The open plan glazed extension provides the building with flexibility to adapt to future uses.

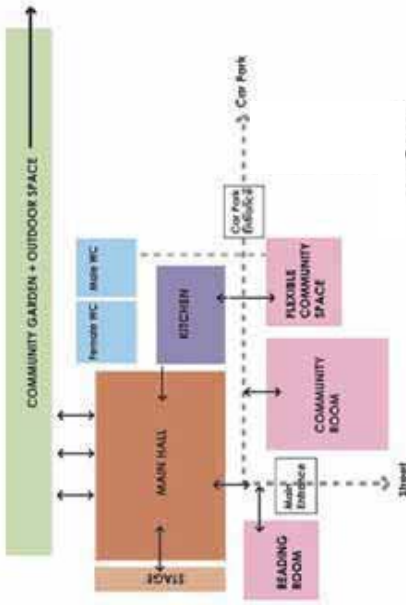
Lantern Concept

Barrhill Memorial Hall should act as a 'beacon' to the public, welcoming visitors and village residents alike.



07 Design Response

Proposed Spatial Organization



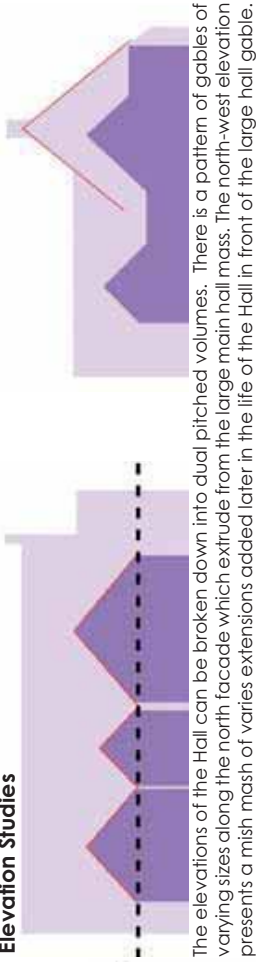
Form and Function

The proposals for the Memorial Hall refurbishment preserves the original architectural character, whilst the new extension along the western facade provides a modern face that reflects the aspirations of the community, but is reflective and influenced by the original design.

The internal organization of the accommodation places the public spaces along the front gable addressing the street and positions services such as the toilet and kitchen towards the back of the site. The main hall maintains its hierarchy and street presence due to its scale.

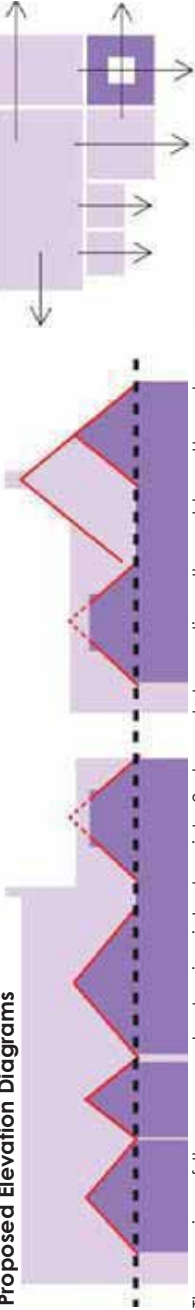
The vicinity of the flexible community space with the kitchen would open up the possibility of new uses. This could include creating a small cafe for the hall users and visitors; or creating a community enterprise offering locally made produce; or a gallery for local crafts and art work to be displayed; or a place to enjoy the fruits of labour following a cooking class in the commercial sized kitchen. The potential retail use of the flexible community space is aimed to compliment the existing facilities in the village rather than compete, and would hopefully encourage new businesses to start.

Elevation Studies



The elevations of the Hall can be broken down into dual pitched volumes. There is a pattern of gables of varying sizes along the north facade which extrude from the large main hall mass. The north-west elevation presents a mish mash of varies extensions added later in the life of the Hall in front of the large hall gable.

Proposed Elevation Diagrams



The massing of the proposed extension is broken into 2 elements to continue the gable pattern along both the north and west facades. It is of modest scale similar to the small gables, to ensure the main hall remains the largest volume from which the subsidiary spaces are extruded. The hipped pitched volume of the 'lantern' on the corner allows the gable pattern to be continued on both facades, whilst setting it apart as a public facility. The geometry of the roof with flat roof sections allows the extension to stitch into existing building.

Third diagram illustrates how the corner of the extension turns the corner of the building by presenting a gable on each facade.

Roof Preservation

One of the unique features of the Memorial Hall is the roof geometry and how it skews at the eaves, a characteristic of its Arts and Crafts style. The refurbishment proposals preserves this detail by insulating internally & proposing to reuse the original tiles once necessary repairs have been completed. This will be prioritized on the public elevations and conservation tiles will be installed at the rear elevation to make up for any deficit as well as the new extension to match existing.

Materials

Materials have been selected to compliment and conserve the appearance of the existing Memorial Hall. This includes the proposal for the application of a smooth silicone based render following the repair of the masonry structure, which provides a durable and minimal maintenance finish with a suitable long life span. Similarly the rainwater goods will be replaced with powder coated aluminium products.

The extension will be clad in fibre cement panels with a smooth cementitious textured finish to compliment the render. It will be grey to tie in with the monochrome colour scheme of the existing, whilst contrasting the white render, which provides a visual hierarchy of the accommodation & old vs new. Similarly the glazing bars and steel frame of the extension will be grey.



Glazing

Another distinctive feature of the building is the existing fenestration, which identifies the building's Arts & Crafts design. The existing windows are in poor condition and will be replaced with a like-for-like product to preserve the character of the Memorial Hall, whilst ensuring the building performs more efficiently for the use by the community.

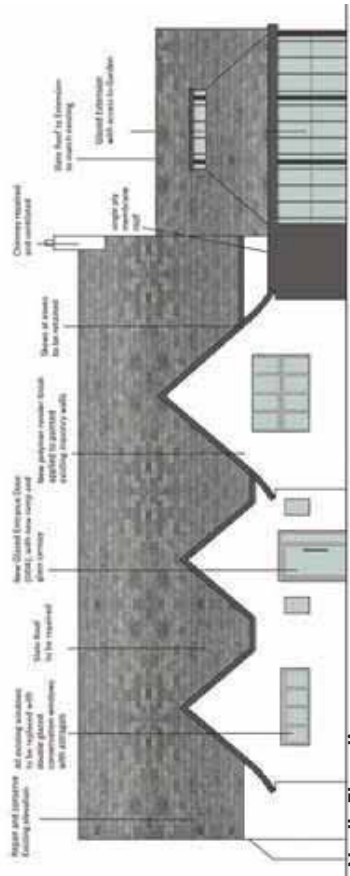
Maximizing Light

The glazed corner of the extension has been designed to maximise daylight & reduce the demand of artificial lighting, as well providing views out and offering passers-by a glimpse into the life of the community. It embodies the concept of the lantern, a light at the heart of the community, and relates to the Arts and Crafts principles that the original Memorial Hall was based upon.

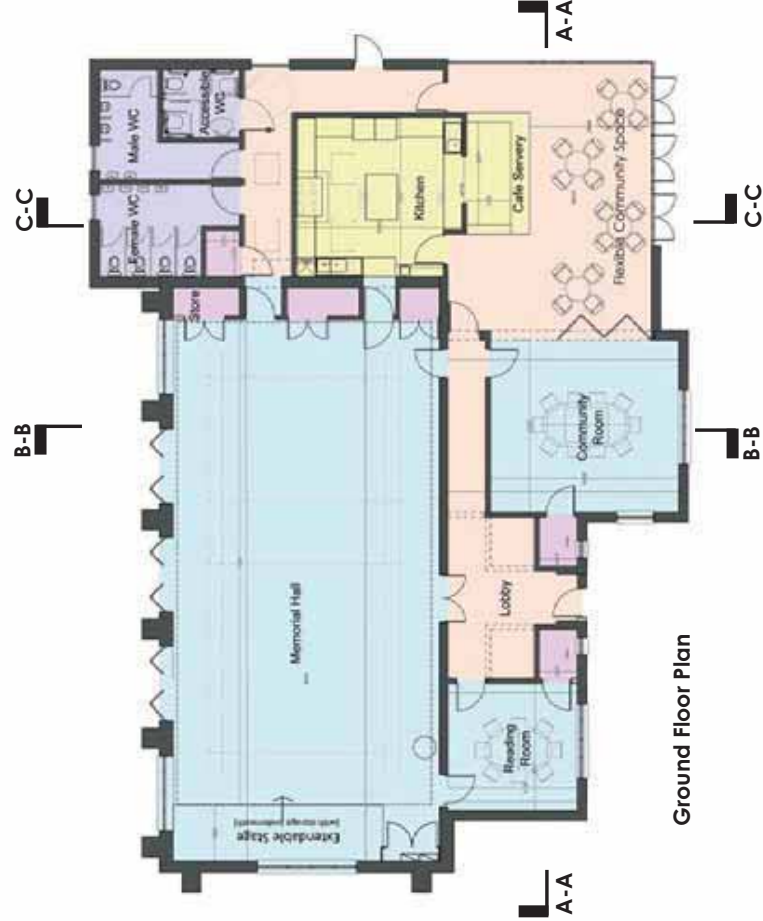
08 Final Proposals



Section A-A Through Existing Accommodation into Proposed Community



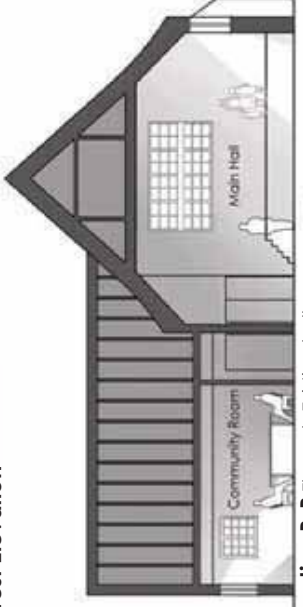
North Elevation



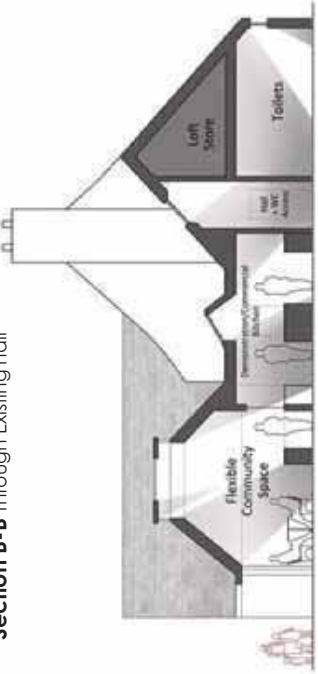
Ground Floor Plan



West Elevation



Section B-B Through Existing hall



Section C-C Through New Features

Anderson Bell + Christie have worked closely with Barrhill Memorial Hall Community Association to ensure the proposals embodied the aspirations of the community, and met their needs, whilst preserving the character of the existing Memorial Hall. The feedback and comments of the community were collated through community consultation workshops, presentations and distributed leaflets, illustrating the proposals initial proposals. The feedback which was received was then use this to develop the final proposals which are illustrated here.