

How to make the building visually appealing?

1

- I have chosen this design because it has a strong minimalist look due to the use of straight lines and it also has potential to be developed into a visually appealing senior common room since the use of straight lines on the glass panels will stretch over the stairs after an interesting look by creating pattern and repetition, capturing the eye. I will work around this concept of my design to aim to visually enhance the rest of the building while meeting the minimalist style.
- A door has been added in order for the occasional use of the building by providing user friendliness allowing access into the interior of the building. By making the door a glass material it will be visually enhancing the design.
- By extending the end of the building makes the senior common room larger which uses more space since the interior walls are more use since there can be larger rooms. This benefits the function of the senior common room.
- By adding a window horizontally visually enhances the building by reinforcing the look of straight lines. It also ties the minimalist style. It also ties the technique that 'detail meets function' with the window making the house look appealing with the strong look of straight lines and the window allowing natural sunlight into the interior from all possible sides of the building.
- The windows on the bottom story have been removed to allow the view of the horizontal window to be able to stretch around the entire perimeter of the exterior walls so it will strengthen the use of horizontal lines in my views as a designer I prefer a window under the balcony.
- Extending the building one a different side will emphasize/contrast the shape of the building and gives away the look. The key idea that it goes against the original shape of the building. In my view as a designer I prefer the box look rather than the shape look.
- A corner window extending vertically over 2 stories visually enhances the building by reinforcing the look of straight lines. It also ties the technique that 'detail meets function' with the window making the house look appealing with the strong look of straight lines and the window allowing natural sunlight into the interior from all possible sides of the building.
- Details such as doors and windows have been added by cutting inwards the building rather than pushing extra detail into the exterior of the building. This contributes to the minimalist look making it visually appealing by giving the building a skeleton look.

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2

- The box shape makes this design symmetrical giving a sense of balance and makes the building feel stable, emphasizing the minimalist style. Changing the shape will be no longer necessary.
- Splitting the top left windows into 3 parts creates repetition/pattern which captures the eye from this side of the building and harmonizes with the glass panels on the opposite of the building.
- Extending the window that is 2 stories high right down to the bottom floor will allow a door to fit as part of the window to make this feature to have 2 uses, giving more space on the rest of the exterior walls reinforcing the minimalist style and the idea that 'less is more'.
- By extending the 2 outer window widths and converging the center window width makes the sides of the shapes exactly the same as the glass panels on the opposite side of the house, strengthening the harmony of the line, repetition, pattern and size between the glass panels and the windows.
- By shortening the height of all 3 windows makes them all above the half way mark on the building, making the floor of the second story in the interior part of the building to not be seen from the exterior. This reinforces the minimalist style and the idea that 'less is more'.
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- A corner window extending vertically over 2 stories visually enhances the building by reinforcing the look of straight lines. It also ties the technique that 'detail meets function' with the window making the house look appealing with the strong look of straight lines and the window allowing natural sunlight into the interior from all possible sides of the building.
- Details such as doors and windows have been added by cutting inwards the building rather than pushing extra detail into the exterior of the building. This contributes to the minimalist look making it visually appealing by giving the building a skeleton look.
- No other walls have been cut away or extended for the sake of keeping the building's form stable with having not to much movement, reinforcing the simple and effective look due to the minimalist style and to my views as a designer to keep the box shape.
- The door being added is useful for the economical use of the building providing user friendliness from 2 sides of the building instead of only one side.
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How will the rooms be set out inside the building?

3

- Having 2 sets of stairs will allow students access to the upstairs area from 2 different sides of the room so it benefits the room's use by avoiding collisions with students walking up and down stairs.
- Research of the current senior common room has shown having 2 stairs is effective and incorporates the minimalist idea on society with less stress in the simple convenient within a room.
- Research also shows that in the current senior common room the large floor space is very helpful for year 12s to practice dance etc. and use their space effectively. Leaving space gives versatility in the function of the area which is a minimalist technique of concepts having more than 1 function. Space also emphasizes the minimalist style.
- The lounge and seating areas have been arranged on the bottom and top stories facing the direction of north/east where the sun shines during the day. This is effective as students prefer to sit in a warm area in sunlight. The upstairs lounge/seating area has been made open towards the bottom floor (with no walls) like the space in the current senior common room as it makes the room feel spacious which reinforces the idea of minimalism.
- The 2nd story has gone back into the original layout as it still offers an open space with the absence of walls and also allows access/use of BOTH stairs.
- A window has been added to allow more sunlight to reach into the kitchen in the morning as research shows sun comes from the east side.
- Making the seating area upstairs only one corner of the space is not as effective as it will not be exposed to sunlight the entire day. This also makes the stairs only give access to the deck which will make walking when it is cold and student's strokes around the lounge area in the morning/winter or students will still sit in the lounge/seating area in the interior.

How will the structure of the building be effective in holding it up?

4

- The structure of steel beams will be attached together by being welded and bolted. This offers stability and strength for holding up the building.
- The window is too small and too narrow on the building so it would be more eye catching. This will make it more eye catching.
- Smaller bars have been used for the corner (top left of this bird-eye view) so they are more discreetly seen through the window contributing to the minimalist style.
- Steel beams have been used for the structure as they are strong and suitable for 2 story buildings rather than just using metal bars.
- Metal bars are used for other parts of the structure where less strength is required.
- Stairs need to be shown in structure.
- The width of stairs and the walkway is 1 metre, allowing enough room to comfortably walk across, and also offers more of an open space between the bottom store and the second story.
- The window on the top left corner of this bird-eye view of the structure has been extended from 3m by 3m to 4m by 4m each side which will make this feature larger and therefore more eye catching from the exterior view.
- By extending the top left window this affects the placing/position of the steel frames and also the size of the second story floor area so that they match around this window size. This offers more order to the structure and also makes the structure more stable by matching up the frames, floor size and window size on left corner.
- Steel beams will also be used under the 2nd story floor to provide stability and increase strength in holding it up.

DESIGN DEVELOPMENT

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A bad point for the current senior common room is that students complain about the kitchen being too small. In order to meet their needs the kitchen will need to be larger to be able to provide a table/eating area as well as enough space to move around the kitchen bed.

A study area will need to be added as students have requested a study space for the new senior common room (shown in research).

The lounge and seating areas have been arranged on the bottom and top stories facing the direction of north/east where the sun shines during the day. This is effective as students prefer to sit in a warm area in sunlight. The upstairs lounge/seating area has been made open towards the bottom floor (with no walls) like the space in the current senior common room as it makes the room feel spacious which reinforces the idea of minimalism.

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A window has been added to allow more sunlight to reach into the kitchen in the morning as research shows sun comes from the east side.

Making the seating area upstairs only one corner of the space is not as effective as it will not be exposed to sunlight the entire day. This also makes the stairs only give access to the deck which will make walking when it is cold and student's strokes around the lounge area in the morning/winter or students will still sit in the lounge/seating area in the interior.

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- Steel beams will also be used under the 2nd story floor to provide stability and increase strength in holding it up.

Pure concrete has been used for the walls, they create an unfinished look by using raw materials. It goes by the minimalist technique that designers such as Tadao Ando and John Pawson use. The material is also suitable for concrete as it is able to withstand harsh weather in Auckland's environment of rain/windy weather as it is a strong material

Dark brown wood is made out of solid timber for all of the flooring on the bottom and second story as it is strong/durable which is suitable for outdoor and indoor environments. The colour is darker to be bold and effective in the visual appeal of the design

The ceiling and walls are bolted onto the structure using bolts will provide stability and contribute to a raw look that as they will be able to be seen which gives a skeleton look, which is a minimalist technique

The glass windows will be slightly frosted providing privacy for the students which is an important value for them to have in the senior common room. They are still effective with being able to let natural sunlight inside

The glass panels will remain fully transparent to allow the balcony to be viewed from the exterior

By just using a small amount of raw materials - wood, concrete and glass, the building achieves the slender look and reinforces the minimalist style that 'less is more'

The steel frames now go through the 2nd story instead of being fit around the flooring and go underground at the bottom to increase stability of the building's structure. This is related to concrete foundation. The flooring will be cut into fit the gap of shape of the steel beam in order for the beams to slide through the flooring.

The windows have been made into branch sliders as it shows effective in the research of the current senior common room, allowing access to the balcony and making the room feel more spacious

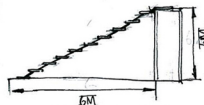
Visual appeal
The glass panels that stretch over 2 stories offer an interesting look by creating repetition, capturing the eye. It follows the minimalist style by 'detail meeting function' as it is used as a safety barrier and wall barrier around the balcony but still being visually appealing. Making it offers more than function which makes this an effective feature of the building.

The box shape makes this design symmetrical giving a sense of balance and makes the building feel static, emphasizing the minimalist style.

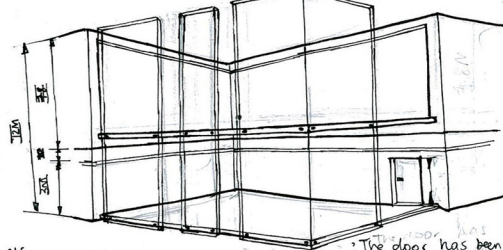
The small amount of raw materials - wood, concrete and glass gives this design a naked and unfinished look that makes it slender, reinforcing the minimalist style that 'less is more'

The absence of bright colours emphasizes a simple and effective look, the darker grey and brown colours (shades) are bold and striking which makes the building contrast with the natural colours of the environment. It makes the building feel industrial and modern - contributing to the minimalist style

How will materials contribute to the building?



The building will be made 4m high as the stairs is half the height, going up at a 45° angle extending 6m which makes the building tall - stand out in the school environment



There needs to be a way to be able to open the top story windows to allow access to the balcony

The door has been made no longer being attached to the horizontal window as that makes the high too tall and un-proportional for the function of the back door to be over 3m high so it will be now around 2m

The glass panels will be bolted down just like the concrete panels as it provides stability and will be seen from the exterior, reinforcing the minimalist style

The concrete panel walls have been made darker because in with my colour as a designer I prefer a darker shade to be more striking and bold in the environment to stand out in the school

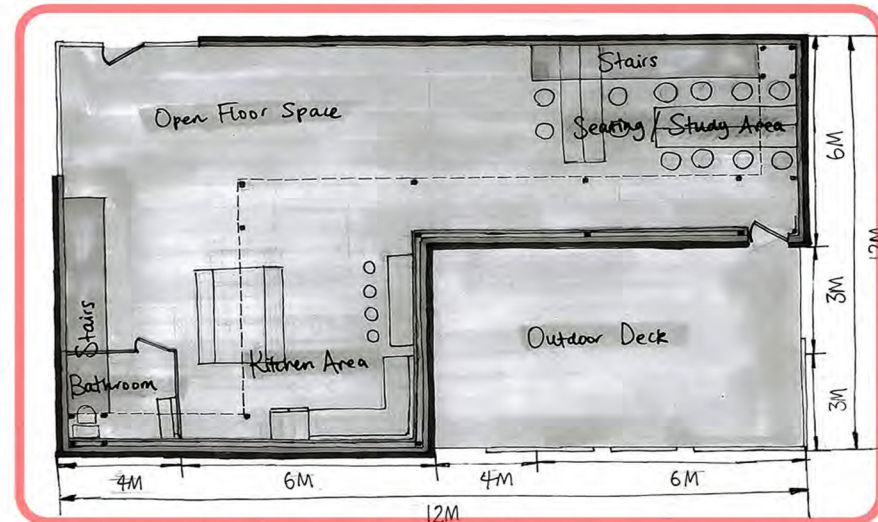
The front door is made out of wood to harmonise with the deck/balcony on the opposite side, making the building visually appealing by creating repetition

The absence of walls in the interior floor plan makes the room feel open/spacious giving a minimalist style of only using features that are a necessity to the building's design. The only walls inside the floor plan are used for the bathroom for privacy. It makes the room feel less cluttered and follows the minimalist technique that 'less is more'

The area of the kitchen is 6m by 6m, it is a large proportion of the floor plan on the bottom story as it also includes an eating area for students. Research shows that students prefer a much larger kitchen area as it was too cluttered and they also wanted an eating space so the size of this area is efficient in meeting their values.

The bathroom area is 4m by 3m which is an ideal size, it is on the bottom story which makes it easy to access from students close to the senior common room, reducing the kitchen to make it effectively close by when students require it after leaving.

Having 2 sets of stairs allow the students access to the upstairs 2nd story from the 2 different sides of the room so it benefits the room's usability avoiding collisions with the girls blumping into each other while trying to get up and down stairs. The stairs also save time in students having to walk to the other side of the room just to get upstairs since the floor plan is quite a large area



The seating/study area has been made 6m by 6m which is enough space for students to study in their break times. This meets the students' values of want an area to be able to study in peace. It is tucked away in the bottom story corner instead of in the center in order to allow students to focus in a quiet area away from the kitchen/bathroom.

With the balcony being 10m by 6m makes it a quarter of the size of the building, therefore it is a large proportion on the site. Research from the current senior common room shows that year 13s use the deck to study, or sit at lunch intervals very often to be in an outdoor area. If it were most students spend their time while using the senior common room. The large proportion of the balcony is an efficient size so many students can use this space at once.

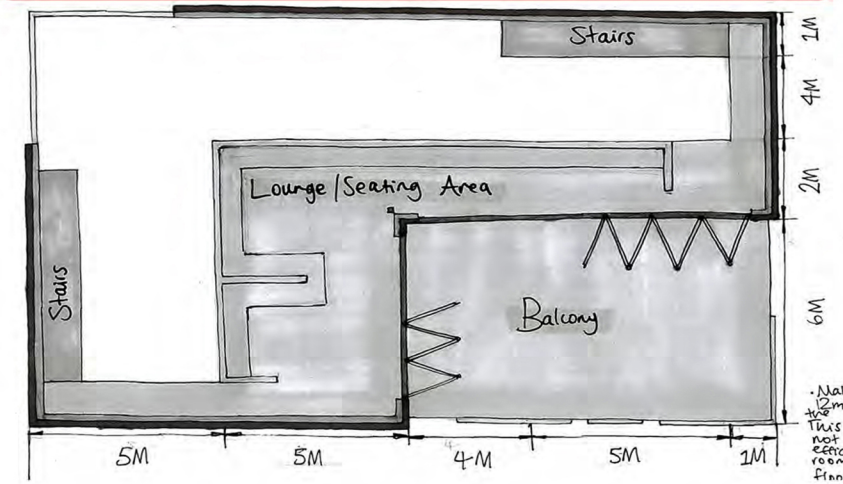
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The width of the stairs and walk way to the lounge/seating area on the 2nd story has been made 1metre. This allows enough room to comfortably walk across and also offers more of an open space between the bottom story and the 2nd story since there are no walls

The width of the lounge and seating area next to the balcony is 2 metres which gives enough room for students to sit on a bench going along it and students to walk along it at the same time.

Branch sliders will open up the walls of the balcony just like in the current design of the senior common room as it shows effective in research - allowing access to the balcony and making the room and the seating/lounge area feel open, spacious and larger

Making the building measurements 20m by 12m gives an area of 240m² which meets the specification for the building's floor space. This is a suitable size as the building is not too narrow, nor too wide, making it efficient to arrange the kitchen, bath room, lounge, seating area and balcony in the floor plan.



Environment

By placing the side of the glass panels and balcony facing the north-east direction is effective as this is an eye catching feature, creating a positive aesthetic contribution to the school environment that can be seen by the public's view on Manukau Road (on the east side) where cars drive past on the way to and from New Market

The sun starts shining from the east side, travels around to the north side by mid-day and through to the west side by the afternoon. By placing the deck/balcony on the north-east side it will allow exposure to sunlight most of the day. This will effectively be used by students to sit at lunch time or study during the day.

Research shows that students have much use out of the deck during lunch intervals and study break periods in the course of a sunny day, therefore makes the position of the building effective.

Other student work was submitted but not included in this exemplar

5



Size
The measurements 20m by 12m gives an area of 240m² which meets the specification for the building's floor space. This is a suitable size as the building is not too narrow nor too wide, making it efficient to arrange the interior floor plan rooms such as the kitchen, bathroom, study area etc. This is shown on the final floor plan.

Spacing
The spacing of the rooms of this design match up with the exterior layout of materials/features. For example the kitchen has a window on the bottom story that opens to allow fresh air inside. Natural sunlight to reach through and the balcony has branch sliders which slide and make the building feel spacious and make the building feel spacious. More of the spatial planning has been mentioned in the final floor plan

Material / Structure

The frosted windows allow privacy for the year 13 students which is an important value for them. Stated in research of the old current senior common room. They are still able to let sunlight inside which make them effective in function

The bolts are still able to be seen from the exterior which gives a skeleton look, reinforcing the minimalist style that 'less is more'

The metal bars are used to hold up the 2nd story and are also supported by steel beams which are suitable for building 2 story buildings up and withstand heavy weight like concrete.

The steel frames are made for concrete foundation which means they go underground to increase the building's stability

Pure concrete is used for the walls as panels. They create an unfinished look by using a raw material. It follows the minimalist technique that designers such as Tadao Ando and John Pawson use. The material is also suitable as it is able to withstand Auckland's harsh weather of rain/wind.

The wood is made out of timber which is suitable for an indoor/outdoor environment. It is strong and durable for the use of all flooring in the building.