

A vision for education, community space and public art.

This 10-acre Radcliffe Observatory Quarter – known as ROQ – was sold to the University of Oxford in 2003, although the hospital on the site continued to be used until it was located to the John Radcliffe Hospital in Headington in 2007.

The vision for the ROQ is that it will work as an integrated whole and provide the local community with attractive public space to enjoy. A programme of public art, including art events on the ROQ site and workshops in local primary schools, is part of the University's vision for inclusion and benefit to the community.

Although development of the site will be phased over several years, the University is keen to ensure that all the buildings work well together. The listed buildings on the site are all being restored and refurbished. The new buildings are being created by prestigious architects with a track-record for high-quality work.

www.ox.ac.uk/roq

Art has a key role to play in creating the new Quarter, forming the backbone of its future cultural life and linking it with the wider city.

Professor Andrew Hamilton, Vice-Chancellor





Artist-in-residence, Weimin He, has been chronicling the development of the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter since 2009.

Weimin trained in both north-eastern China and Northern Ireland. His work has been exhibited worldwide, including at the British Museum, the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the China National Museum of Art. He also teaches life drawing at the Ruskin School and the Ashmolean Museum.

Follow the journey of the redevelopment of this important Oxford site through a selection of Weimin's highly individual drawings, created with ink and brush.

My work is inspired by both western and eastern elements but is highly individual. The black bold lines are seemingly “written” on paper rather than drawn, reminiscent of Chinese calligraphy – especially the seal characters of the Han dynasty.

Weimin He



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Ground breaking, following the demolition process, reveals a diverse range of fascinating debris, from different periods, including wood, metal, glass and brick.

An Artist Observes

In Oxford, a solitary observer looks to the stars
dreaming points of painted time.

Omens from past or future?

Below lie bony shards of plagues past.
Silence splinters. Beneath the debris,
some new or antique vision stirs.

Swirling winds bring buried memories
of burning martyrs and murderous riots;
nightmares of prejudice and hate.

As dawn breaks, glimmers of hope emerge.
The past another world: day lights possibilities
as men in hard hats build the future.

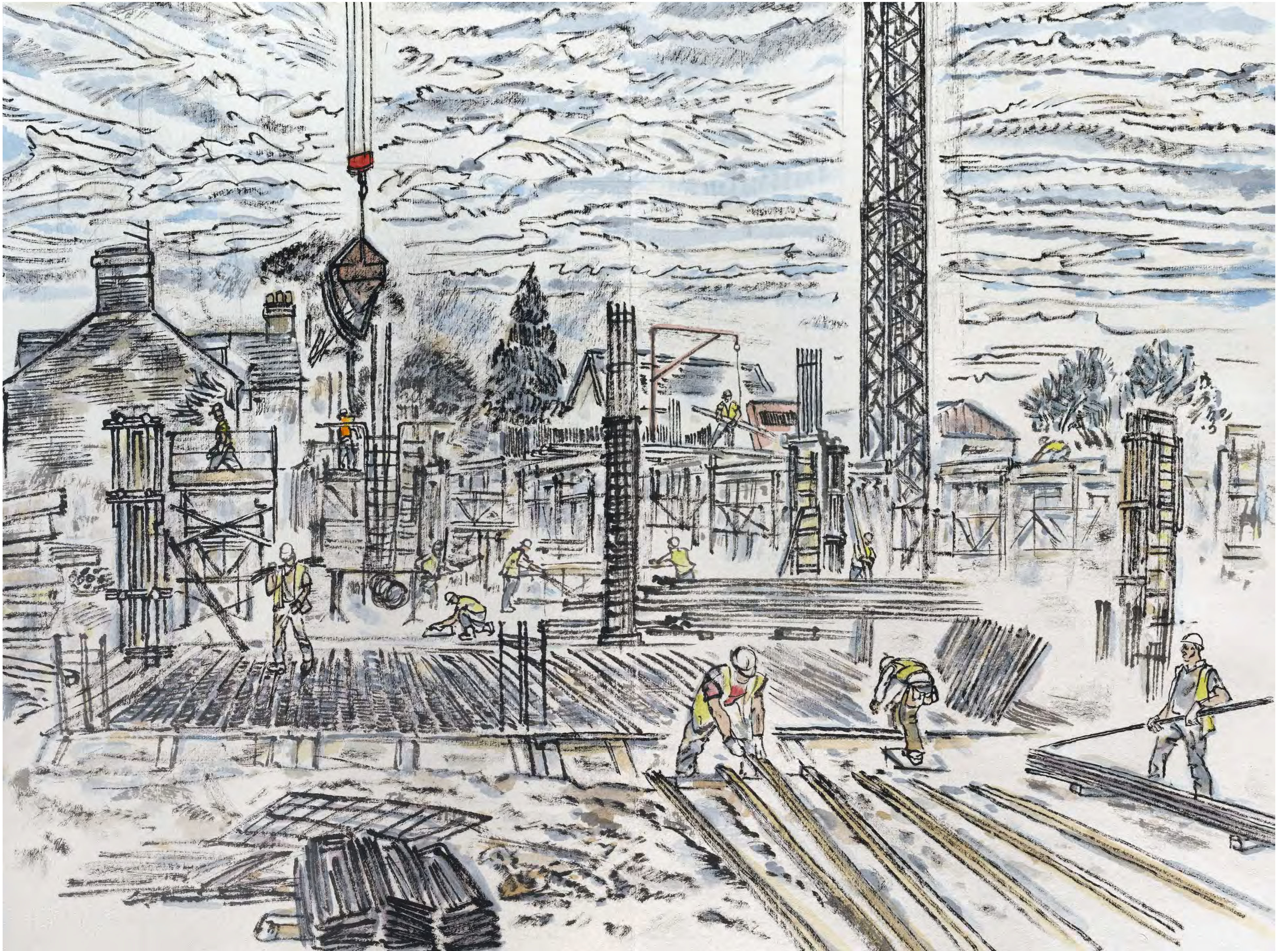
A future of understanding; of cultures crossing
where East meets West with brush and pen,
and mathematicians plot new pathways.

© Sylvia Vetta

Weimin He was Sylvia Vetta's 40th
'castaway' in *Oxfordshire Limited Edition*
and the inspiration for her poem.



The site of what will become New Radcliffe House – home of the Jericho Health Centre – in June 2011.



The Health Centre contains three GP practices which provide a range of health care services to the local Jericho community.

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The Blavatnik School of Government building
is due to open in September 2015.

Building started on the
Radcliffe Observatory
in 1772.

It was funded by John
Radcliffe's legacy,
which also financed the
Radcliffe Camera and
Radcliffe Infirmary.

In 2014, it watches
over a new construction
– the Blavatnik School
of Government.





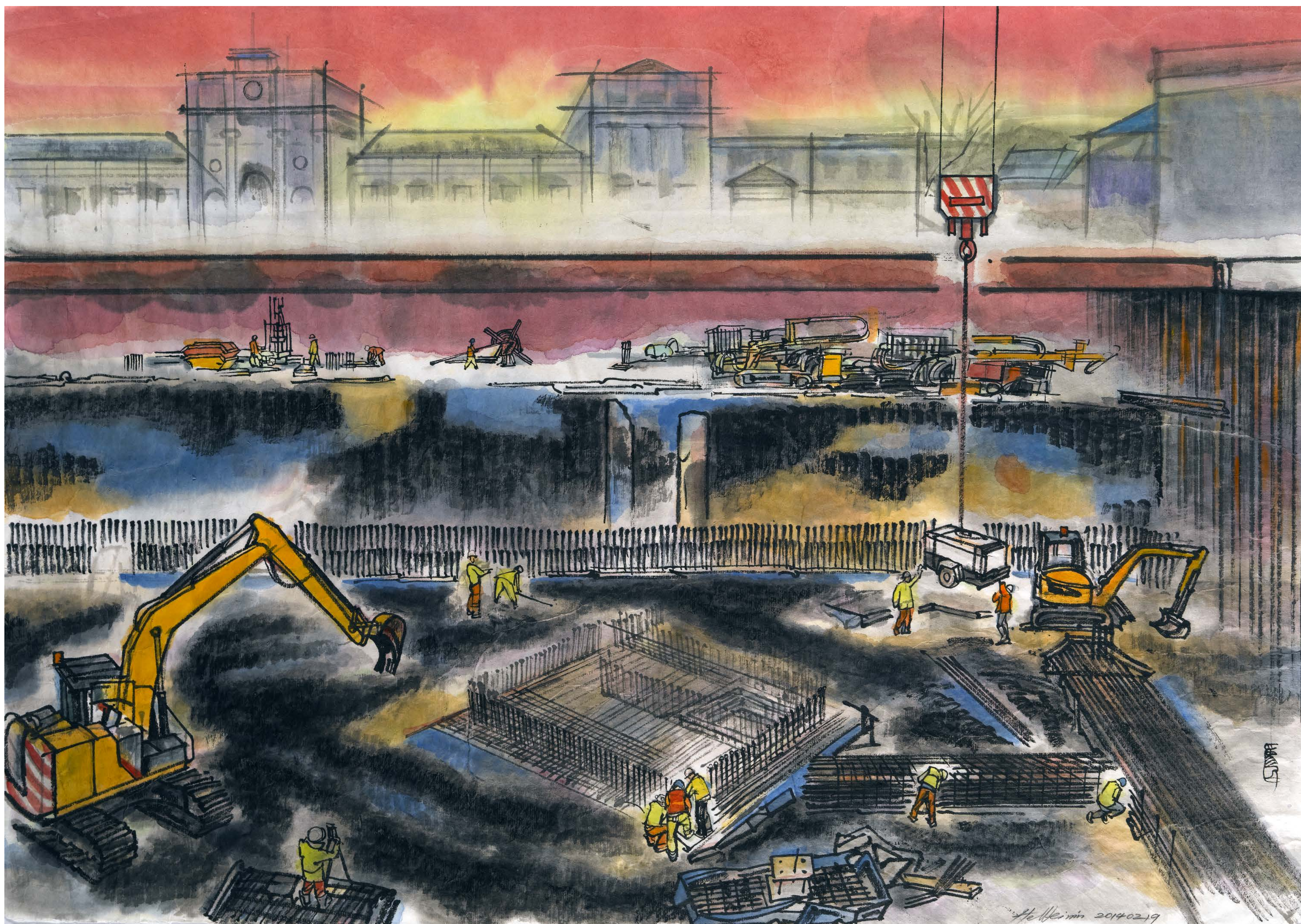
The Blavatnik School of Government was founded in 2010 thanks to a donation of £75m from American philanthropist, Leonard Blavatnik.



The Blavatnik School of Government will face Oxford University Press across Walton Street.



The School's vision is to support better public policy and government around the world.



Much of the Blavatnik School of Government's programme of events, conferences and seminars will be open to the general public.

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The iconic Radcliffe Observatory dominates the site – its presence felt from every direction.

Drawn by Weimin He in 2011 from one of the Somerville College student accommodation buildings.



The old Radcliffe infirmary being refurbished
... it's roof repaired.

The building was re-opened as Radcliffe
Humanities in October 2012.

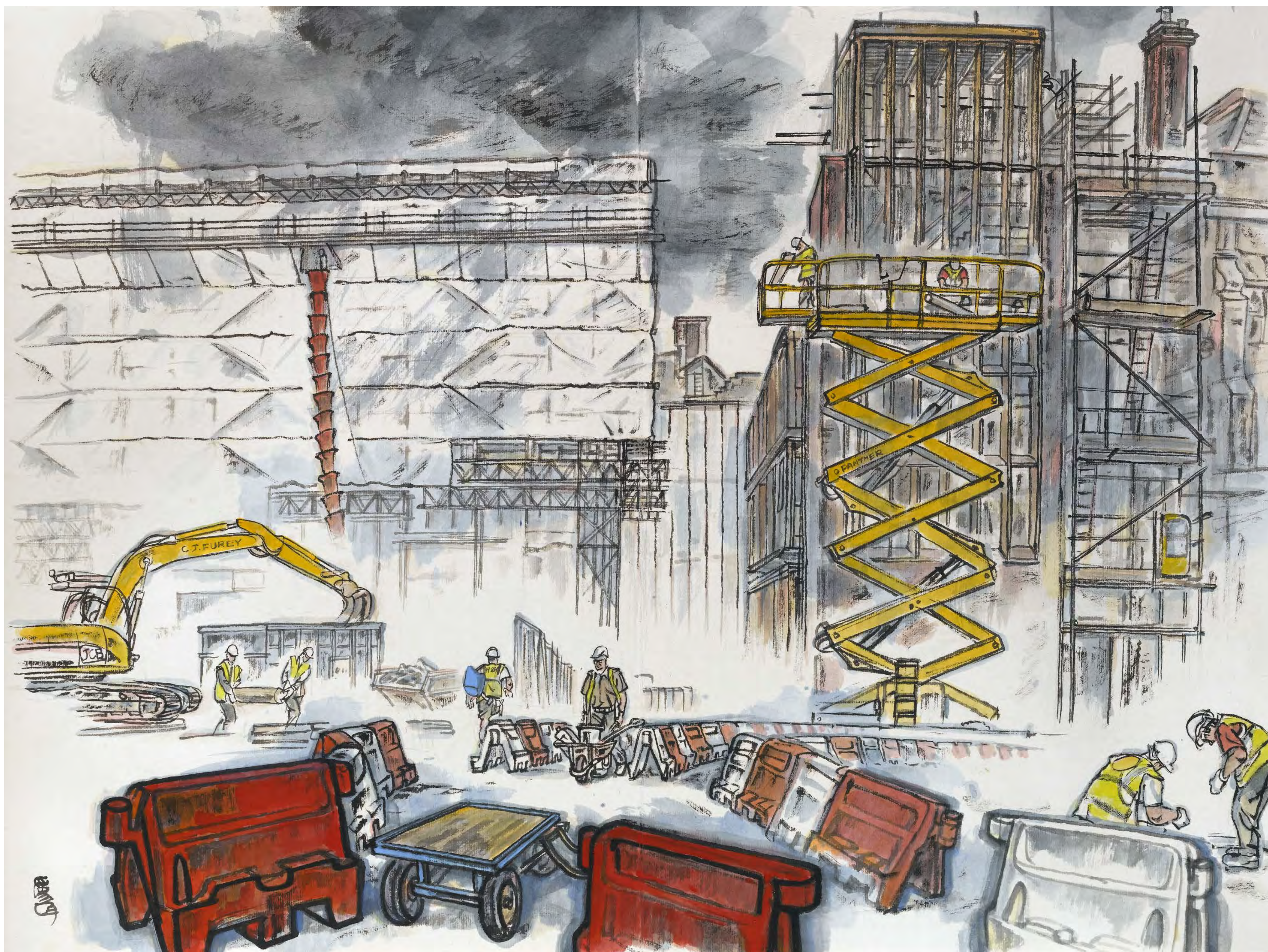
Blessing

Our ghost-bodies blur
into veils of cement dust,
blown through crushed
arteries of corridors
and carbolic-washed wards:
Briscoe, Lichfield, Marlborough.

We sweep past Triton's fountain,
no longer bending water,
cling to scaffolding behind the façade,
and leave mist-fingerprints
– our oblique blessing –
on every pole, ladder and spike.

© Caroline Ashley

Caroline Ashley is a Jericho poet and was
featured in *Contemporary Review* (Oxford).




On the left, the Radcliffe Infirmary swaddled in protective sheeting for its refurbishment in 2011.

On the right, one of the Somerville College student accommodation buildings which were officially opened in September 2011.



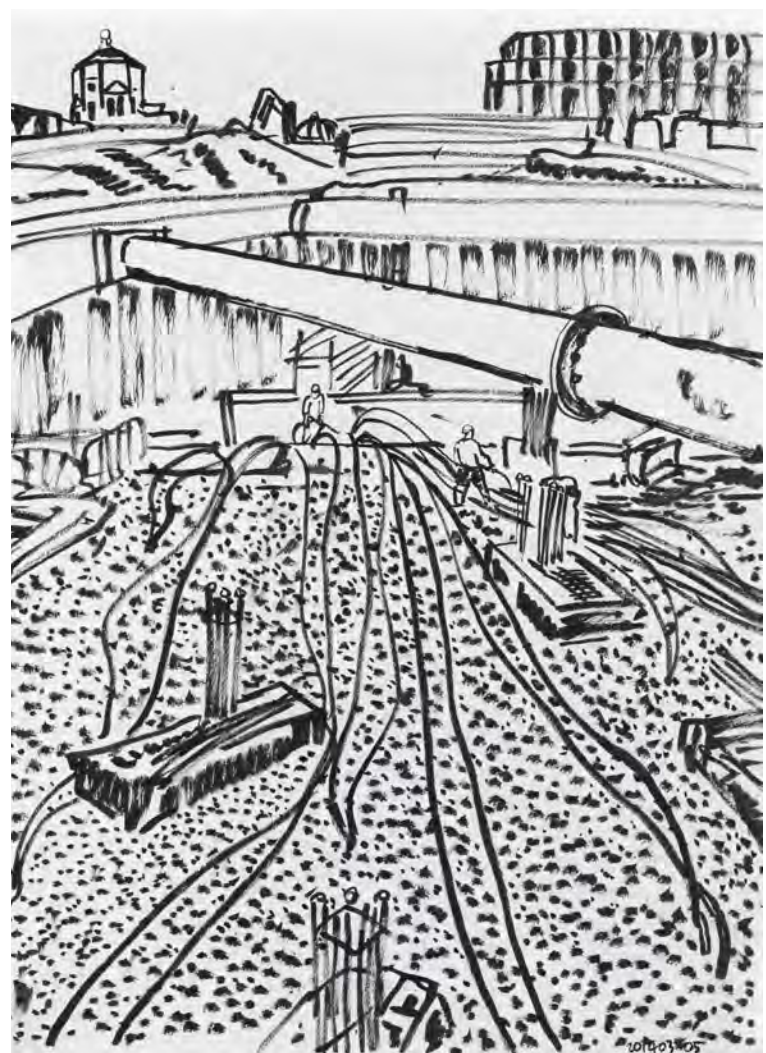
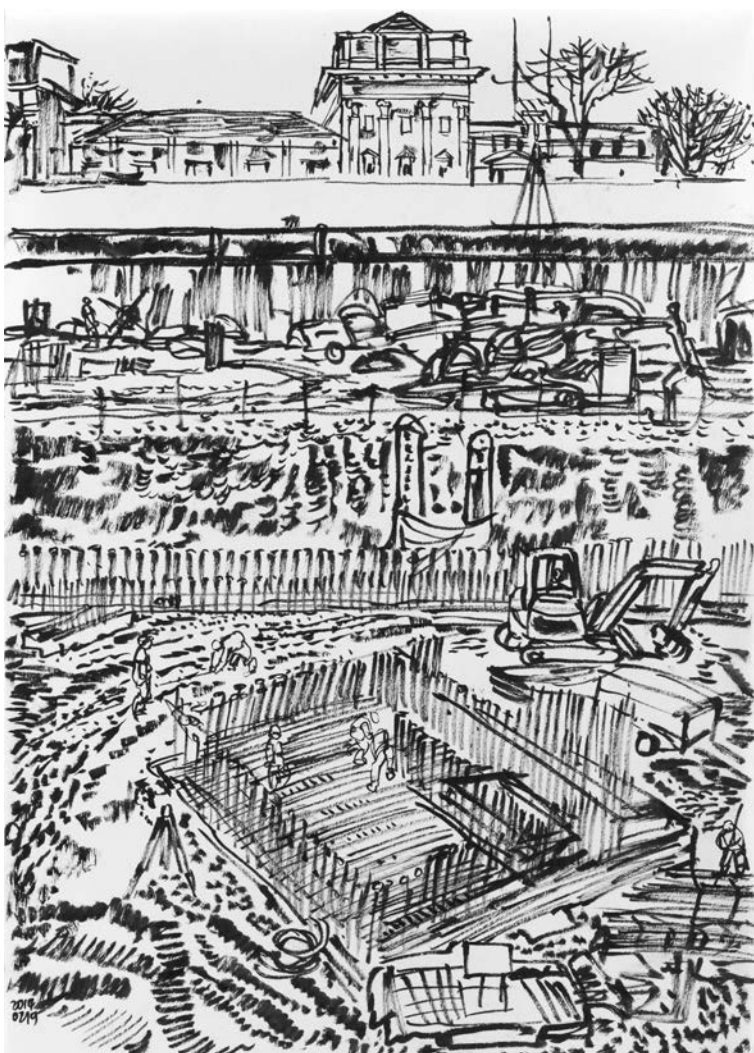
Service pipes for water, gas and electricity are laid in the summer of 2010 as construction begins on the Somerville College student accommodation buildings.

They have won several architectural awards, including Oxford City Council's David Steel Sustainable Building Award – see www.ox.ac.uk/roq.

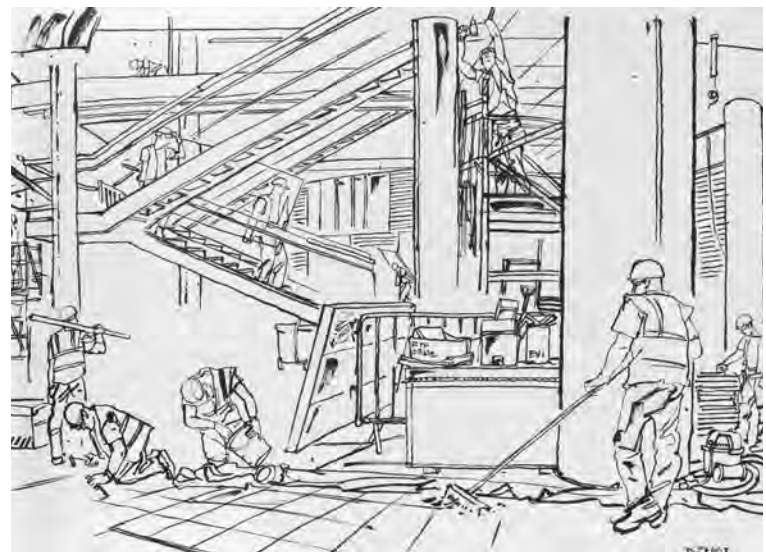


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John Radcliffe Hospital
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Weimin's sketches portraying different stages of work at the ROQ.



Studies from Weimins's sketch books as work progresses.



Weimin is keen to capture images of the many faces involved with creating the ROQ for posterity.