



The plan aims to tap into geothermal power beneath the city to create a shared community power and heating system. | Photo source [RGU](#)

[Innovation](#) > [Architecture & Design](#) > [A new kind of sustainable urban village designed for Aberdeen](#)

A NEW KIND OF SUSTAINABLE URBAN VILLAGE DESIGNED FOR ABERDEEN



ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN

Architecture students in Scotland have designed a sustainable urban village that would improve accessibility and flexibility of urban spaces

Spotted: Students at The Scott Sutherland School of Architecture and Built Environment at Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen have designed a new urban village for the city. The village, called St. Clements, has been designed to use a new waterfront site that is becoming available thanks to the relocation of the harbour in Nigg Bay.

The design would open up the harbour front to people on the north edge of the harbour, and make links between Castlegate and the beachfront and harbour more feasible and pleasurable. It will also focus on sustainability, making it easier for people to walk, cycle or use electrically-powered public transportation.

The plan aims to tap into geothermal power beneath the city to create a shared community power and heating system. This would be combined with solar power, small scale wind power and piezoelectric generators to capture energy from moving vehicles on roads. Each housing block would be built to overlook each other, to encourage a social living space and enhance security.

Project member and student David Reid described the goal of St. Clements as creating, “a new urban village that is sustainable, affordable and accessible for everyone. We want to create a village that combines private living, flexible working spaces, easy to access amenities, and shared community areas. A place where people can enjoy a social lifestyle and be part of a vibrant

community. We want to bring amenities to the residents rather than forcing them to travel in search of them.”

All over the world, the idea of a smaller, sustainable city, that puts people at its core, is catching on. Springwise has recently covered designs for projects including a self-contained [garden city](#) in Paris and a [car-free city](#) in Saudi Arabia.

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Takeaway:

Reid points out that, during the pandemic, many people reassessed their priorities for how they spent their time. Consequently, people are now less willing to spend time on long commutes and place higher value on outdoor spaces. He adds that “In the end I think it’s about putting people back at the heart of our cities.” St. Clements is also based on the concept of the [15-minute city](#), which suggests that elements such as housing, work, shops, doctors and schools are all available within a 15 minute walk or cycle.