

# Kavanagh Court

## Student Accommodation

**Client:** Carrowmore Property / Global Student Accommodation

**Completed:** Phase 1 September 2017/ Phase 2 May 2020

**Address:** Gardiner Street/Gloucester Place Dublin 1

The courtyards spaces are designed to encourage social interaction. Students come from diverse backgrounds, domestic and international, and so the aim at the outset was to provide spaces in which people can meet and share common interests. Novelty chess, ping-pong and badminton are catered for, games which residents can join informally as passers-by and which provide opportunities for introductions, fun and camaraderie.

The courtyards can also be used as passive spaces. There is ample seating in the form of decorative concrete and hardwood benches, as well as moveable chairs that offer flexibility of arrangement or location. The concrete benches take an angular form, which together with embedded LED lighting lends a contemporary aesthetic to the design.

Hard and soft materiality is important as a means to settle the high surrounds within a softer landscape context. The centre of the main courtyard is paved in buff-toned resin-bound gravel, the warmth of which contrasts with the white and grey tones elsewhere. Planting is the main softening element however. The centre of the space is punctuated by large *Pinus radiata* trees, they act as focal elements which through their size and habit largely define the personality of the space. The perimeter planters of the smaller courtyard are rich in shade tolerant groundcovers and verdant multistemms, they enclose the space and offer areas of comfortable seclusion.

