



Distinction by Design: RIBA Higher Education Design Quality Forum 2007

Showcasing the quality and diversity of architectural
design for the higher education sector in the UK

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Distinction by Design is the fourth in a series of exhibitions promoted by the Higher Education Design Forum (HEDQF) over the last 12 years to showcase the quality and diversity of architectural design in the UK's higher education sector.

Universities and architects were invited to nominate buildings or landscape projects completed since the previous exhibition in Summer 2002. The aim of the judges was to select a rich mix of work completed by a wide range of architects throughout the UK. Almost 100 nominations were reviewed, of which 36 were selected for inclusion in the touring exhibition and accompanying catalogue.

The need to rationalise outdated estates and maintain the UK's position at the forefront of international research in an increasingly competitive market has resulted in a remarkable blossoming of university buildings. These buildings are part of a continuing tradition in higher education of encouraging innovation and promoting sustainability, and they reflect clients' focus on pro-active estate management and planning.

Notable from the submissions was the wealth of projects within the laboratory/research sector, reflecting the focus of investment. In contrast, there was a lack of quality schemes within the student housing sector. Another theme to emerge was the key role universities clearly have in shaping cities, often acting as a catalyst for regeneration of the urban environment.

This exhibition aims to provide a basis for responding to the complex demands created by emerging issues in the higher education sector, from increasing student numbers to new methods of teaching and the potential for linkages to the wider community.

More information about the selected projects is available at www.architecture.com/clientforums/hedqf which, combined with information from previous exhibitions, provides a valuable reference resource of the higher education buildings completed during a period of intense activity in the sector.

Judging panel members:

Professor Roy Newton, Formerly HEDQF chair and Pro Vice Chancellor of Wolverhampton University

Roger Hawkins, Hawkins\Brown Architects and CABE enabler

Jeremy Till, Head of School of Architecture at Sheffield University

Paul Fletcher, Fletcher Architects and RIBA Client Design Advisor

Peter Kerr, Director of Estates at Herriot Watt University

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The Higher Education Design Quality Forum

The Higher Education Design Quality Forum (HEDQF) is a unique partnership between higher education clients and design professionals. Its aim is to improve the performance of higher education buildings and estates.

Higher education institutions make a substantial contribution to the UK economy. In 2004/05 the sector's turnover was just under £18 billion. Over two million students took full or part-time courses, including 300,000 from outside the UK. (Source: *Higher Education in Facts and Figures*, Universities UK, London, 2006.)

The last decade has seen substantial, and much needed, investment in new and refurbished buildings to support the work of the sector. In making this investment, university institutions have recognised that the quality of architecture, the environment and landscaping plays an important role in attracting and retaining staff and students and providing a stimulating environment in which scholarship can flourish.

A recent CABE report, *Design with Distinction: The Value of Good Building Design in Higher Education* (March 2005), highlighted the tangible and significant benefits provided by high-quality, well-designed campuses and buildings. CABE found, for example, that 60 per cent of students and staff considered that the quality of building

design had a positive impact on their decision to study or work at their chosen institution. This was particularly high for academic staff (65 per cent) and for postgraduate students (72 per cent).

The individual needs of academic institutions and the influences of the outside world are changing at an increasing pace, and the future will bring considerable new challenges. What will be the impact of student fees and of greater international competition, with new universities being built in many developing countries? What will be the impact of the impending revolution in information technology? How does higher education estate achieve greater financial and environmental sustainability? What is a zero-carbon university? What will be the impact on the estate of strengthening links between universities and their business, cultural and social partners?

The Forum is indebted to the ongoing support of the RIBA and the enthusiasm of its Members, and looks forward debating these demanding and exciting issues with clients and design professionals as it seeks to provide guidance and highlight best practice.

Ian Caldwell
Chairman, HEDQF



©Keith Collie

Opus One, Anglia Ruskin University

client **Bishop Hall Properties Ltd**

architect **Hawkins\Brown**

net cost **£6m** area **5,000m²** completion **01/05**

working within a masterplan

civic presence of university

passive energy conservation

Opus One is the first stage of a wider Campus Development Plan for the University. The project is an extension comprising a two-storey rendered block containing student centre facilities interlocking with a four-storey, timber-clad block of teaching and administration space for a new music department. All elements of the extension are linked by a double height top-lit 'street', forming the social heart of the building. At the front of the campus, this street continues through the existing building and out into East Road – forming a new glazed entrance with a dramatic canopy that projects the University's presence on to the street.

The form of the building is deliberately simple in response to the site and existing buildings. An insitu concrete frame provides thermal mass to help maintain a steady temperature in the building.

campus



©Jonathan Moore

Aston Business School

client **Aston Business School**

architect **Architects Design Partnership**

net cost **£15.2m** area **8,662m²** completion **01/06**

integration of old and new

provision of public open space

mixed use

Two new blocks arranged in an 'L' shape sit next to an original building by Sir Basil Spence, creating a new courtyard that has the effect of re-orientating the School. The scheme is an integral component of the revitalisation of the Aston Triangle precinct, and represents the School's vision of building facilities that are among the best in Europe.

The building incorporates two new stepped-floor lecture theatres, flexible syndicate space, a common room area with bar, postgraduate study areas, academic offices, restaurant, conference rooms, and 80 hotel-style bedrooms.

business



©JDennis Gilbert

English Institute of Sport

client **University of Bath**

architect **David Morley Architects**

net cost **£18m** area **21,500m²** completion **06/04**

specialist facility

promoting community links

The construction of the Sports Training village at the University of Bath has been transformational, both in its presence on campus and in its impact on the University's already significant sporting pedigree.

The Village has been recognised as one of the leading elite sports training facilities in the UK. It has also been instrumental in helping the University generate a wide ranging community sport and recreation programme involving schools, colleges and local clubs from across the West Country.

The organisation of spaces around a central gallery, giving a clear view of many of the activities on offer, has helped to enthuse first time visitors and established athletes alike, encouraging participation regardless of skill levels or previous experience.

sport



©Quantin Lake

Henry Wellcome Building for Biomolecular NMR Spectroscopy

client **University of Birmingham**

architect **Berman Guedes Stretton**

net cost **£2.58m** area **980m²** completion **08/04**

design for specialist scientific research

energy offsetting

passive energy conservation

The challenge for the design team was how to resolve the complex technical issues associated with this facility's highly sensitive Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) magnets. The magnets are located in spectroscopy chambers and require temperatures to be controlled at between plus and minus 0.5°C. In addition, the structure and fabric of the chambers needed to minimise vibration while using only non-ferrous construction materials capable of clear-spanning 13 metres (the diameter of the largest spectrometer's magnetic field). The solution involved supporting insitu concrete roofs on dense, load-bearing masonry walls, which also increased the building's thermal mass.

science



©Quantin Moore

The Wolfson Centre

client **University of Birmingham**

architect **Architects Design Partnership**

net cost **£8.6m** area **4,855m²** (+ 220m² refurb)

completion **10/05**

lecture theatre

integration with existing campus

Optimising the slope, rake and form of a lecture theatre large enough to take the projected annual intake of 450 students resulted in a space curved in three dimensions. A glazed facade allows the underside of the birch-clad egg-shaped theatre to be visible from outside the building.

The box-like enclosure houses all the support facilities that the School previously lacked including a 300-seat food court, a 150-seat social space and cyber café, and additional toilets. A new circulation route was established along the back of the existing Medical School and more break-out space was created, enabling easier movement round the building. The lecture theatre is the first structure in an overall circulation strategy, plugging into the new 'backbone' corridor.

medical



University of Bristol Masterplan

client **University of Bristol**

architect **Feilden Clegg Bradley Architects**

net cost **£150m** area **50,000m²**

10-15 year strategic masterplan

working within a conservation area

statutory and non-statutory consultation

This strategic masterplan for the University of Bristol focuses on the Central Precinct area – a prominent site on the Bristol skyline. The area is historically sensitive, covering four conservation areas and including a number of significant listed buildings.

The brief was to produce a vision that would accommodate expansion of the University and consolidation of the site over 10–15 years. The scheme includes provision of 50,000m² of new build, including a learning and resource centre, student union, teaching accommodation and recreation facilities on demanding sites across the precinct.

masterplan



©David Butler

Brunel University Library

client **Brunel University**

architect **Rivington Street Studio**

net cost **£6.3m**

area **5,300m² (new build) 1,500m² (refurbishment)**
completion **12/04**

passive energy conservation

integration within existing campus

Brunel library sits in the geographical and social heart of the University's Uxbridge Campus and is linked to existing buildings. As well as traditional library functions, it provides a café, a 'one-stop shop' for student services, a cash office, an assisted technology centre and teaching rooms.

The new building consists of two large offset rectangles separated by a core and an atrium. Careful handling of a fair-faced insitu concrete frame has resulted in a smooth and sculpted soffit, which also provides thermal mass as part of the building's environmental strategy. Ventilation is assisted by a vertical stack effect that draws air across the floorplates using louvres mounted at the top of the atrium. Natural ventilation is used wherever room function allows.

library



©Philip Viner

Mary Seacole Building

client **Brunel University**

architect **YRM Architects**

net cost **£9.3m** area **4,200m²** completion **06/06**

passive energy conservation

clear articulation of functions

interdisciplinary exchange

This new building for the School of Health and Social Sciences responds to the constraints of its prominent 'gateway' site at the eastern entrance to the campus. The building accommodates training and academic facilities for physiotherapy, occupational therapy and social care departments.

The building's insitu concrete frame enables exposed concrete soffits in the main academic and support spaces, providing thermal mass. Warm air is drawn out of the occupied spaces by means of high-level glazed vents in the atrium. Air is then extracted through a roof level pavilion. This natural ventilation strategy has resulted in reduced running costs and reduced carbon footprint for the building.

science



©Peter Grant Photography

New Postgraduate Housing

client **Churchill College, Cambridge**

architect **Cottrell and Vermeulen Architecture**

net cost **£1.65m** completion **10/02**

area **1,100m² (building) 2,450m² (landscape)**

historic context

life-cycle costing of materials

passive energy conservation

Responding to a brief to provide 30 new student rooms, the architect proposed three houses with ten rooms each in order to keep both the buildings and their individual communities at a scale appropriate to the context.

The forms and materials of the buildings are influenced by the sharp, simple concrete forms of the original college building, and the tiled roof of the neighbouring Baillie Scott House. Materials were chosen for long life-cycle costing, and the hardwood windows came from a sustainable source. Energy use was minimised by employing gas-fired condensing boilers, fluorescent lighting and discharge lamps.

residential



©Marlene Hamilton Knight

Faculty of Education

client **University of Cambridge**

architect **Building Design Partnership**

net cost **£9.5m** area **5,000m²** completion **01/05**

sustainable building

historic context

faculty library

The design concept uses a natural wrap of lawn and tree groupings to form a relaxed relationship between faculties, a Georgian villa and a rekindled garden. An enclosed 'social street' winds east to west through the garden from the entrance lawn. The library is placed alongside the lawn at the edge of the trees to receive glare free north light, whilst along the south side flexible teaching, seminar rooms and office space form a structured back-drop to neighbouring Homerton College.

Winner of the David Urwin Award 2006 for most sustainable building in the city of Cambridge, the faculty is naturally ventilated except in areas where an adequate airflow cannot be created without mechanical assistance.

education



©Richard Laehey

Leverhulme Centre for Human Evolutionary Studies

client **University of Cambridge**

architect **Sheppard Robson**

net cost **£3.75m** area **1,444m²** completion **11/05**

working in a conservation area

promoting informal exchange

The Leverhulme Centre for Human Evolutionary Studies is an elegant brick and glass structure that responds sensitively to the context of Cambridge's Central Conservation Area. The building is conceived as three elements; to the front the building's proportions reflect its historic context, at its heart is a fully glazed block, whilst the back of the building is scaled to provide maximum accommodation and servicing infrastructure.

The light and transparent glazed core provides the main connections between the centre's various functions. It allows for ease of movement throughout the building and promotes formal and informal interaction among researchers.

science



©Nick Kane

New North Court

client **Jesus College, Cambridge**

architect **Avanti Architects**

net cost **£5.655m** area **3,340m²** completion **09/05**

working with listed buildings

programming of construction to academic year out-of-term facilities

North Court was built in 1963–65 to the designs of David Roberts and Geoffrey Clarke, and provided the earliest post-war new residential accommodation for Jesus College. It was Grade II listed in 1993.

With rising expectations of student accommodation, demand for out-of-term and summer conference facilities, new Disability Discrimination Act requirements and an increasing need for repair, the College decided to carry out a comprehensive refurbishment and upgrading scheme. The project involved not only major repairs and replacement of the building's fabric and services, but also the reconfiguration of support accommodation to provide improved facilities.

residential



©Peter Duran/Archline.com

West Cambridge Residences

client **University of Cambridge**

architect **MJP Architects**

net cost **£21.3m** area **11,881m²** completion **09/04**

working within a masterplan

residential accommodation at urban density

MJP Architects prepared the masterplan for the University's expansion at West Cambridge on a 66 hectare site. The practice was then commissioned to design two groups of residences.

The three buildings of the South Residences are clad in zinc, providing character to their location adjacent to academic and research buildings. 144 flats are accommodated in four-storey wings that enclose a landscaped courtyard.

The North Residences provide 62 new two- and three-bedroom flats for university staff and post-doctorate students and a nursery for 84 children. The buildings are clad with vertical cedar boarding, sitting on a ribbed stone-like plinth.

residential



©Sarah Blew

University College for the Creative Arts

client **University College for the**

Creative Arts, Canterbury

architect **Rivington Street Studio**

net cost **£4.2m** area **6,973m²** completion **04/04**

working with existing buildings

spatial rationalisation

The project involved recladding, refurbishing and extending existing buildings as well as the rationalisation of functions and circulation throughout the site. Two new lecture theatres, a seminar room, a learning resource centre, and a gallery and café were integrated into the College, and a new point of entrance was established. Unused open space was enclosed to provide generous corridor spaces that link the new facilities and double as gallery space for College shows.

The design acknowledges the aesthetic of the original campus while seeking to create a more effective, usable and lively academic environment. Complex phasing of construction work was required to deliver the project over the course of an academic year.

arts



©Peter Cook/VIEW

The Central School of Speech and Drama

client **The Central School of Speech and Drama**

architect **Jestico + Whiles**

net cost **£4.4m** area **2,134m²** completion **09/05**

civic presence of School

extension of existing building

interdisciplinary exchange

The building's form is a simple, elemental expression of the programme, articulated in response to the context. Small and medium teaching spaces are grouped together and stacked separately from large performance spaces. The different functions are contained in two distinctly coloured rendered boxes, aligned to adjacent site boundaries, with circulation and ancillary areas filling the residual spaces between.

Zinc cladding wraps and frames the rendered box containing the large performance spaces and forms a canopy to the front entrance, bringing the material of the neighbouring theatres' flytowers down to ground level. Engineering bricks offset the reflective lightness of the zinc and glass and provide a suitably robust interface with the street.

arts



©Keith Hunter

Sir James Black Centre

client **University of Dundee**

architect **Boswell Mitchell & Johnston**

net cost **£15m** area **7,700m²** completion **10/05**

layout fostering interaction

passive energy conservation

working within masterplan framework

The project provides high-quality medical research facilities in a layout that promotes a sense of community and encourages the exchange of ideas, knowledge and skills. It provides high levels of energy efficiency and sustainability in both its construction and operation by employing principles of passive energy conservation such as absorption cooling and natural ventilation. Floor plates are planned on a flexible basis to accommodate the needs of current users while anticipating future change with minimal alteration.

The building is designed in line with the University's masterplan for future development and provides a secure environment that addresses the context of town and campus.

medical



©Peter Duran/Archive.com

Central Library Extension + Refurbishment

client **University of East Anglia**

architect **Shepherd Epstein Hunter**

net cost **£4.5m** area(new) **1,850m²** completion **01/05**

extension of existing building

refurbishment of existing fabric

interdisciplinary exchange

The original library by Denys Lasdun was conceived in 'strata' with two middle floors, accessed from a raised walkway, providing reception and administration space sandwiched between floors of bookshelves and reader seating.

This extension, which is the first phase of a 7,500m² development, reflects Lasdun's composition with a new 24-hour IT centre occupying the two middle floors. The facades of the extension reinterpret the monumental rhythm and proportions of the existing pre-cast concrete building in a different form of construction.

library



©James Morris

Student Residences

client **University of East Anglia**

architect **LSI Architects**

net cost **£11m** (phase 1) area **9,275m²** (phase 1)

28,185m² (total) completion **08/05**

working within a masterplan

accessible accommodation

The two buildings represent the first phase of an overall Eastern Development Masterplan being undertaken by the University. Together the buildings provide 401 new student study bedrooms with ensuite facilities. Units are approximately 12m² and are configured horizontally in groups of eight and twelve to encourage social interaction around communal kitchen and dining spaces. Horizontal configuration means that the residences can easily integrate the new BS 8300 accessibility requirements and specialist facilities for a variety of physical disabilities.

residential



©David Barber/BDP

The Saltire Centre

client **Glasgow Caledonian University**

architect **Building Design Partnership**

net cost **£16m** area **10,500m²** completion **01/06**

integration with existing campus

landscaped public space

civic presence of university

The Saltire Centre is the largest single project proposed within the BDP-designed campus plan for the University, providing a facility that defines the latest thinking in higher educational environments. Stimulating, flexible learning space extends on to south-facing rooftop gardens over two levels, providing much needed landscaped civic space in a dense city centre context. The Centre knits the campus together by providing multi-level links between existing buildings within a six-storey south-facing atrium, which acts as an environmental buffer for the main learning accommodation housed to the north.

When illuminated at night, the colour choreographed floors of the building project the University to the outside world as a beacon for learning.

campus



©Hutton and Crow

de Havilland Campus

client **University of Hertfordshire**

architect **RMJM Architects**

net cost **£33.5m** area **22,500m²** completion **09/03**

promoting links with the community

integration with commercial development

RMJM developed a masterplan for a new campus to incorporate academic teaching space, a learning resource centre, sports facilities, student residences, a multi-purpose auditorium and associated car-parking, and landscaping. The first phase of development, £33.5m of academic accommodation, was procured through a development agreement with a commercial developer.

A vital aspect of the masterplan was to ensure clear and legible links between the new campus and adjacent developments, as well as to the University's existing campus. Academic teaching space for the Business School and Humanities, Languages and Education faculties is provided on flexible floorplates. A Learning Resource Centre, providing 24-hour study space for 1,100 students, is located at the entrance to the new campus.

campus



©James Morris

School of Architecture

client **University of Lincoln**

architect **Rick Mather Architects**

net cost **£7.9m** area **7,760m²** completion **10/03**

working in context of masterplan

civic presence of university

historic context

The School of Architecture is the first completed building of Rick Mather Architects' Brayford Campus masterplan for the University of Lincoln. The new building occupies a key site at the southern approach to the city. Linear form and expressive articulation of the lecture theatres make a strong sculptural statement, announcing the presence of the University while preserving views to the castle and the cathedral.

Public spaces, including a performance facility, two lecture theatres and café/exhibition space are located at ground and mezzanine levels. The first and second floors house the Media and Communications department while the School of Architecture is located on the second and third floors.

science



©Peter Cook/VIEW

Cass Business School

client **City University**

architect **Bennetts Associates Architects**

net cost **£23m** area **14,700m²** completion **10/02**

layout **fostering interaction**

flexibility based on commercial principles

low-energy environment

The building forms part of the redevelopment of an entire city block, along with commercial development to the south. It makes a virtue of its irregularly shaped plot by creating an intriguing variety of informal spaces within a curving facade that also addresses the changes in scale and materiality of the locality.

Lecture rooms for up to 80 people are combined with break-out areas to animate the school as a whole. The building also contains a learning resource centre, café, 200-seat lecture theatre, offices and executive teaching spaces.

The building utilises displacement ventilation, exposed thermal mass and good lighting to deliver an ambitiously low-energy environment.

business



©Morley von Sternberg

The Blizard Building

client **Barts and the London Queen Mary's School of Medicine and Dentistry**

architect **SMC Alsop**

net cost **£32.5m** area **9,000m²** completion **03/05**

interdisciplinary exchange

civic presence of the University

promoting new ways of working

This new 9,000m² landmark building incorporates category 2 and 3 laboratories with full support services, write-up offices, and a 400-seat lecture theatre. It aims to facilitate improved scientific research through collaboration and shared resources, and provides research disciplines with a united identity whilst allowing flexibility to accommodate their changing needs over time.

To meet the aspiration of collaborative working, all laboratory spaces are accommodated on a single floor located six metres below the street and filling the entire site. Above ground, scientists write up their research in a glass pavilion, in which are suspended four large pods that provide a striking backdrop to an otherwise normal office environment.

science



©E2 Hill

North Courtyard

client **University of London, London School**

of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine

architect **Devereux Architects**

net cost **£5m** area **2,160m²** construction **15 months**

'reclaimed' space

working with existing buildings

This project resulted from a wider analysis of the School's main site and long-term development goals, and provides additional research, teaching and public spaces for staff, students and visiting organisations.

A seven-level freestanding extension, set within the context of a Grade II listed building, provides new facilities open to atria on three sides and linked back to existing accommodation by flying bridges. The courtyard, previously used as a service and delivery bay, was brought into purposeful use whilst creating a new and vibrant focal point for the School at ground level. The design and construction methodology enabled all building works to be carried out whilst keeping existing facilities fully operational.

medical



©Peter Cook/VIEW

Manchester Interdisciplinary Biocentre

client **University of Manchester**

architect **Anshen + Allen**

net cost **£32.5m** area **13,000m²** completion **02/06**

[layout fostering interaction](#)

[civic presence](#)

[interdisciplinary exchange](#)

The Biocentre is an interfaculty initiative that forms a key part of the scientific strategy of the University of Manchester. The design concept was formulated to respond to and anticipate challenges identified by the strategy, and the building is designed to foster a culture in which there are no barriers between the established scientific disciplines. It will house more than 500 scientists in up to 85 research groups.

Laboratories are open-plan and multi-functional, and generously proportioned meeting and atrium areas promote interaction. The five-storey building is split into a modular open laboratory block wrapped by a freer formed office/support block. The void space between these two elements forms an atrium, around which write-up areas, meeting spaces, food service, display areas, lifts and stairs are clustered.

science



©Philip Duran

The Rickett Quadrangle

client **Middlesex University**

architect **BPR Architects**

net cost **£13.5m** courtyard **1,800m²**

total area **11,500m²** completion **09/05**

[working with existing buildings](#)

[‘reclaimed’ space](#)

[structural innovation](#)

An existing 1930s quadrangle is enclosed by an innovative predominantly glazed roof supported by a steel frame anchored to new reinforced concrete foundations.

The structural concept stems from an arrangement of four separate bays, each an inverted pyramid with its peak suspended from a free-standing mast. The design for the roof is combined with the opening-up of existing corridors around the quadrangle area to create a large space with a cloistered circulation route. The effect is to reduce the time it takes to travel between teaching spaces, making the university operationally more efficient. The new space is flexible to suit its various functions – reception, performance area and location of student services.

campus



©Dorothy Mackay/Inage Visual Communications

Northern Institute of Cancer Research

client **University of Newcastle**

architect **Faulkner Browns Architects**

net cost **£8m** area **3,342m²** completion **01/04**

[open-plan research space](#)

[working within conservation area](#)

[passive energy conservation](#)

This facility is the first of a proposed ‘medical village’ and is set around a collegiate courtyard which anchors it within a sensitive conservation area. The building provides laboratory and academic workspace for world-class biomedical research teams.

The move from cellular and highly specific space to large multi-user laboratories, open-plan offices and hot desking involved significant cultural change for the research teams. But these innovations have assisted the integration of research teams, as well as achieving spatial efficiencies that far exceed class standards and addressing issues of space utilisation.

Post-occupancy evaluation has indicated very high levels of overall satisfaction.

medical



©Peter Durand/Archline.com

Senior Common Room

client **St John's College, Oxford**

architect **MJP Architects**

area **90m²** completion **07/04**

[working with a listed building](#)

[designing for accessibility](#)

This sensitive project extends an existing senior common room building, which is Grade 1 listed and dates from 1676.

Reading as a garden pavilion, the extension allows the natural environment of the garden to reach into the building, rather than encroaching upon it. From inside, the dialogue established with the surrounding gardens invests the space with a contemplative quality.

The project also involved remodelling spaces within the existing building and improving disabled access to bring the building in line with current accessibility legislation.

common room



©Tim Crocker

The University Library

client **University of Portsmouth**

architect **Penoyre & Prasad**

net cost **£7.6m** area **3,600m²** completion **11/06**

[working with existing buildings](#)

[environmental innovation](#)

[responding to context](#)

This new flagship building extends the original library with vibrant new spaces for learning. Situated at the edge of the University's Ravelin Park, it acts as a beacon, welcoming students into its new facilities and promoting the library as a central element of the campus.

A three-storey top-lit circulation 'street' runs through the heart of the building, providing access to seminar and IT spaces arranged around a landscaped courtyard and to the turnstiles and issue desks of the library. Bridges span the internal street to link new library spaces to the old.

The library incorporates strategies for reducing energy use and environmental impact including an assisted natural ventilation system, heat recovery and rainwater harvesting.

library



©Shepard' Truman

Digby Stuart College

client **Roehampton University**

architect **Sheppard Robson**

net cost **£6m** area **4,450m²** completion **09/04**

[working within a masterplan](#)

[responding to context](#)

Digby Stuart's new student residences constitute the first part of a major masterplan for the college whilst providing a gateway building to the heart of the existing campus.

The student residences occupy a sliver of ground between the college's idyllic upper lawn and the congested Roehampton Road. The transitional nature of the site defined the building's concept; student bedrooms are located on the quiet garden side of the building whilst circulation space and communal facilities face the busy road. This duality is further developed by the building's cladding strategy, with zinc and timber panelling to the lawn elevation and, in contrast, a series of rainscreen and glass clad towers to the Roehampton Road facade.

residential



©Brian Allen

John Anderson Campus Development Plan 2007

client **University of Strathclyde**

architect **Page\Park Architects**

strategic masterplan

integration of city and university

A key strategy of the University is to reconnect into the evolving city around it. This 15-year masterplan aims to reinforce the heart of the campus by building up the density of academic and supporting uses, whilst creating clear connecting routes through it. It also aims to clearly signal routes into the campus with the integration of engaging ground floor uses into redevelopment. The University will work in collaboration with city authorities to improve streetscapes at the campus edge and linkages to adjacent city developments.

The project is based on the premise that the University is an integral part of the community it serves and, as such, is attractive to both students and investment. Its ambition is to create a distinctive campus centre, but also to blur the boundaries between the city and the University.

masterplan



©Keith Hunter

Rottenrow Gardens

client **University of Strathclyde**

architect **Gross Max Landscape Architects**

net cost **£0.75m** area **10,000m²**

completion **09/03**

garden as campus centrepiece

condensed nature at the heart of the city

Strathclyde University made a visionary decision to create a garden at the core of its learning institution and, for once, a building was demolished to make way for a landscape.

The design concept is based on a terraced garden, allowing a variety of uses. The terraces act as belvedere, overlooking the garden and city beyond. The garden is the hub for a network of routes that cross the site and connect university buildings within the campus. Terraces, pergola, retaining walls and steps are juxtaposed in a playful composition. The central core of the garden is formed by a wide flight of steps that bridges an eight-metre level difference, and which also acts as an informal seating area.

garden



©Marc Cockwin

Development Plan and Learning Grid

client **University of Warwick**

architect **MJP Architects**

net cost **£1m** area **1,350m²**

completion **10/04 (Learning Grid)**

promoting new ways of learning

interdisciplinary exchange

wider masterplan context

Open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, this experimental learning environment is designed to promote collaboration and creativity while blending traditional and technological resources. The Learning Grid has proved a catalyst for change in the way the wider curriculum is delivered at the University. It has introduced undergraduates to research-based learning, embedded the development of transferable and professional skills and allowed students to benefit from integrating and applying a range of technologies.

The project was delivered as part of a wider strategic development plan for the University's estate, which provides a framework for future expansion.

library



©Peter Cook

Millennium City Building

client **University of Wolverhampton**

architect **RMJM Architects**

net cost **£13m** area **11,000m²** completion **09/02**

working within a masterplan

site of strategic importance

The Millennium Building follows a strategic masterplan for the University's estate that identified the need for new, flexible teaching areas along with social space to create a focus for the city-centre campus. The building forms the first phase of a programme of development.

The building occupies a key site located on the corner of the campus, which provided the opportunity to make an important visual connection between the University and the city. The building comprises a series of teaching and academic support spaces set around a central volume containing a lecture theatre and three-storey flexible exhibition space for the School of Art and Design. Social spaces, including a café equipped with wireless IT, are located at ground level.

campus



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Bioscience Facility

client **University of York**

architect **Anshen + Allen**

net cost **£20m** area **15,000m²** completion **03**

flexibility for expansion

integration of old and new

shop window for facility

This new laboratory building is combined with the refurbishment of existing premises to create laboratories and support facilities for cancer, biomedical and botanical research.

The scheme integrates the new building with the existing facility and allows for unhindered further expansion. Laboratories are designed on a flexible, modular basis, allowing for the contraction and expansion of research groups whilst providing facilities for the majority of laboratory uses. The fully glazed end walls of the laboratories face the atrium, forming a 'shop window' for the facility. Semi open-plan office and write-up spaces encourage both formal and informal interaction, as do the generic technology facility that forms the 'hub' of the building and the atrium space housing social and catering facilities.

science



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Department of Music

client **University of York**

architect **van Heyningen and Haward Architects**

net cost **£2m** area **7,000m²** completion **04/04**

specialised music facility

integration with existing building

acoustic intervention

This new centre provides a range of specialised music facilities including a 138-seat auditorium with raked seating and adaptable speaker positions suitable for experimental work, a control room and recording studio as well as spaces for post-production, music technology and research. A small, top-lit art gallery has been slotted into the central circulation space, bringing light down three floors to basement level. Acoustic absorbers were specially developed for the project by van Heyningen and Haward and Arup Acoustics.

The new building sits within the music faculty's complex on a prominent site overlooking a lake at the heart of the university campus. Aesthetically, it reinterprets the architecture of the original Music Department, leading to an unusual composition of glass, vertical sunshades and brickwork.

arts

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