

BuildingFutures
AWARDS
2011

- Award Category:** Design Excellence
- Project:** Hertford Regional College, Broxbourne Centre
- Client:** Hertford Regional College
- Project Team:** Bond Bryan Architects Ltd



Hertford Regional College provides further and higher education to students from across Hertfordshire, West Essex and North London, with the site split over two campuses – one in Broxbourne and one in Ware.

The key objective for the Broxbourne campus was to transform its image, creating a highly visible and welcoming centre to showcase the learning activities within the campus and the highest quality learning environments to both the local and wider community.

The new development opened in 2011 and features a training restaurant open to the public; kitchens and a bakery; an 18 seat mock air cabin with security check-in desk; dance and music facilities; sound recording and TV studios; a 140 seat performance theatre and a major learning resource centre alongside classrooms and IT suites.

The new building is complemented by a combination of refurbishment to the existing buildings to maximise their use, and a new specialist engineering, motor vehicle workshop, construction skills workshop, and Children's Centre and nursery.

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The building provides a landmark within the community, with a highly glazed entrance into the central atrium providing a welcoming, safe and fully accessible entrance into a clearly legible internal learning environment. A simple palette of materials has been used to create a strong architectural statement. The building forms two wings either side of the atrium which angle out and open towards the main entrance façade.

The design has created a series of learning destinations along a central circulation route that links through the new atrium space through to a landscaped external courtyard beyond. The building utilises narrow depth wings to maximise the use of natural daylight and has used high quality robust materials to ensure low embodied energy whilst also providing low lifecycle costs.

Judges comments:

“The things we look for in the Design Excellence Category are, not only excellence in architectural design, but also evidence that the building is fit for purpose. A celebration of learning has been woven into all elements of the Broxbourne campus and the architects behind it have successfully created an exceptional learning environment that can service both the local and wider community.”