



Award Category: Retrofit for the Future sponsored by Willmott Dixon

Project: North Hertfordshire College – Hitchin Campus
Hitchin

Client: North Hertfordshire College

Project Team: Scott Brownrigg, Morgan Sindall, Price & Myers, Michael Jones & Associates LLP, Ingleton Wood, Quantem Consulting LLP, Marley Eternit/Rodecca



The redevelopment of Hitchin Campus involved the reconfiguring and restructuring of three existing 1960s system buildings, and the enclosure of an unused external courtyard to create a new 'hub' space, unifying existing buildings and providing greater connectivity between disciplines encouraging interaction and knowledge transfer.

The design evolved through extensive stakeholder engagement and represents a departure from traditional teaching methods with large, flexible spaces replacing a cellular approach. Open plan teaching accommodation increases the quality of teaching spaces and provides an environment reflective of the College's theoretical and practical skills based study. External façades have been designed to ensure greater environmental control within the teaching spaces.

The key architectural element is the central 'hub' space. The design concept is an amalgamation of heart, street and garden creating a multi-functional space that draws together three existing buildings to form a single campus. The hub acts as a point of orientation, a sculptural ribbon of bridges link the floors and wrap around a central lift shaft that acts as a key structural element, laterally restraining the large mono-pitch roof. The hub

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benefits from tempered natural light and natural ventilation.

Sustainability is a key element of the design approach, retaining the concrete structural frame and replacing inefficient elements of existing buildings reduced waste. A score of 65.03% was achieved against BREEAM Education 2008.

Judges comments:

“Of all the school and college projects assessed this was the one that stood out as the most imaginative and transformational. A clear concept enhanced with bold use of colour and striking architectural forms creating very exciting and uplifting spaces. A huge collaborative success between architect, college and students.”