



Award Category: Design Excellence sponsored by Places for People

Project: New Science Building, Hatfield

Client: University of Hertfordshire

Architect: Sheppard Robson



The New Science Building at the University of Hertfordshire is an orthogonal rectangular, five storey building, which brings together facilities for students, visitors and researchers. The £37m development is a 9,000m² purpose-built building, with column-free teaching spaces and an internal grid, which delivers the most efficient workspaces possible and maximises daylight. Multiple energy efficient systems including solar panels, combined heat and power boilers, smart ventilation and cladding with mesh fins, ensure energy consumption is kept to a minimum.

Judges' comments:

“The new science building has been designed to be ultra-efficient and internally, it is a microcosm of state-of-the-art laboratories and research and teaching facilities. “Externally, we particularly liked how ‘the box’ has been articulated with the cut-away terrace and entrance, and how the building has been cut into the slope to visually screen the service yard from view and minimise its impact. The coloured external louvres allow high levels of diffused light into the laboratories and have become the defining image of the building.”