



HERTFORDSHIRE
BUILDING CONTROL

bre

Award Category: Project of the Year sponsored by bre

Project: St Albans Museum & Gallery

Client: St Albans City & District Council

Architect: John McAslan & Partners



The historic St Albans Museum and Gallery underwent extensive refurbishment and redevelopment to maximise the functionality of the building and reduce energy usage, whilst retaining and enhancing its historic features. The Grade II* listed building now boasts extra space through a new, extended basement gallery and glazed links on the first floor which connect the front and the back of the building. Underfloor heating, insulation, LED lighting and central controls significantly improve energy efficiency, with secondary glazing delivering annual savings of 19,500kWh. Changes to the central stair area have significantly improved access to all levels, all resulting in a transformation of this iconic building at the heart of St Albans. The result is a world-class cultural hub which provides a platform to show contemporary arts to its visitors, whilst enhancing cultural life in the city.

Judges' comments:

"We liked how the circulation has been resolved to unite the building as a whole for the first-time allowing visitors to experience the palatial assembly room, courtroom café and basement cells. The new fully glazed first floor corridors on the outside of the building are particularly successful allowing panoramic views of St Albans.

"The new Vault Gallery dug out below the courtroom was technically challenging to create, but has provided a secure / environmentally controlled exhibition space that has enabled the British Museum to return back to the city rare books and printed manuscripts which are national treasures."