



Award Category: Retrofit for the Future sponsored by MHA MacIntyre Hudson

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:

“The rescue and restoration of this landmark Grade II* building has been carried out impressively, cleverly increasing the useable space while retaining the original features. Superb attention to detail has resulted in the sensitive refurbishment of this important historic building. The vision and energy of a highly motivated group of individuals and an outstanding contractor, has enabled the building to be resurrected as a major community asset, which the City and residents of St Albans can, justifiably, be very proud.”