

Peirson Centre, University of Worcester

Refurbishment



Project name:

Peirson Student Advice & Guidance Centre

Location:

University of Worcester, Worcester

Value:

£1.5m refurbishment

Services:

Architecture
Interior Design
Building Services (M&E)
Structural & Civil Engineering
Landscape Architecture

The Brief

The Peirson building at the University of Worcester's St John's site played host to the campus library for some 40 years but this changed when The Hive, a new joint university and public library, opened in Worcester City and the building needed to be transformed into a first-class environment to access support services.



Project Overview

Improving the building's internal layout was key. Arranged as two overlapping blocks, Peirson historically had only one entrance. Apart from being a significant distance from the reception, this was also leading to drafts. One tackled this issue by creating an impressive new entrance on the building's north block.

The space also suffered from poor energy efficiency and air quality, making extreme temperatures problematic. With user numbers fluctuating between 50 and 400 at any one time, developing intelligent systems ensured user comfort would not be compromised.

One's solution was threefold. Firstly, a low velocity air displacement system was installed, enabling air to be fed in at a low level throughout the building, depending on occupancy levels. Secondly an automated natural ventilation system was provided to reduce internal temperatures and finally, the windows of the glazed façade were treated to reduce solar gains.

In addition to new acoustic walls, glazed partitions and doors, One fitted acoustic baffles to light fittings to reduce noise. Final transformation of the space was achieved through a clever yet modest programme of interior design work.



“
One has created a contemporary, welcoming environment, which caters for a variety of student needs in an easily accessible location.”

Russell Pope, Director of Capital Projects at the University of Worcester



The Benefits

- **Vastly improved energy efficiency will impact on energy usage and cost** – A variety of new measures have been installed to regulate energy usage and minimise wastage, enabling the building to withstand extremes of temperature. Energy usage levels can also be controlled and regulated through the use of energy monitors situated throughout the building.
- **Multi-functional space encourages students to use the facilities for longer** – Students requiring a variety of study and support environments are catered for side by side. From those requiring silent study or informal semi-quiet breakout areas, through to more relaxed open study areas. User experience remains constant in all locations thanks to the specification of intelligent building management systems.
- **Optimised user comfort regardless of occupancy levels** – The building is now fully equipped to flex with fluctuating numbers of service users, meaning comfort is maintained whether there are 50 or 500 students on site.
- **A swift, cost effective, in-house solution helped the refurbishment to be delivered ahead of time** – The project was completed a full nine months earlier than the University had originally envisaged, enabling students to get to grips with the new facilities ahead of schedule.



For further information
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