

Sheffield Hallam University – 'Heart of the Campus'

# 'Heart of the Campus' pumping life into Sheffield Hallam

**£18.8m**

/ Project value

**March 2013**

/ The build commenced

**September 2014**

/ The duration

Literally and metaphorically the 'Heart of the Campus', this major £18.8 million development has radically transformed the student experience at Sheffield Hallam University. Replacing low grade, redundant accommodation, the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) award winning new build provides 9500m<sup>2</sup> of iconic teaching, social and office space within a picturesque 'Conservation Area'.

## The Brief

Sheffield Hallam University's vision was the creation of a modern, functional epicentre of student life reflecting its proud progressive heritage. Acting as the beating heart of the campus, the multi-purpose building had to resolve the competing demands of operational functionality, primary circulation and social interaction within the confines of a fixed budget.



"We're very proud of our 'Heart of the Campus' building, which gives our students high-quality, innovative teaching and learning facilities."

Mark Swales  
Director of Estates and Facilities at  
Sheffield Hallam



**“It has created a true heart at Collegiate for students to come together both socially and for structured learning”**

**Mark Swales**  
Director of Estates and Facilities at Sheffield Hallam

### The Challenges

Demonstrating our deep-rooted understanding of the University calendar, we ensured that the building was signed off and ready for use upon commencement of the academic year in September 2014 - 16 months after project initiation. The energy efficient building's location, in the centre of the University campus, which in turn sits in a 'Conservation Area', necessitated sensitivity in construction. Compounding the challenge further, live residential properties and operational campus buildings immediately bordered the 'Conservation Area', requiring effective transport and materials planning to minimise disruption.

### GRAHAM's added value solution

With 95% of surveyed students articulating that the 'Heart of the Campus' has 'enhanced their experience', our design, construction and fit out has delivered a lasting impact to Sheffield Hallam's leaders of tomorrow. The three-storey concrete frame building, provides a data centre, lecture theatre, café facilities, breakout spaces, and teaching accommodation. Constructed primarily of reinforced concrete, sat on pad and strip foundations clad in glass and stone, the vibrant space was arranged around a three-storey atrium, streaming light into the deep plan scheme, while providing a focus for hub activities and primary circulation routes. Innovative in our approach, and peppered with sustainable features, we utilised the Building Information Modelling (BIM) design tool to encourage collaborative working between designers and embed efficiency within the construction process.

### Outputs & Benefits

- / **Stakeholder Satisfaction:** 95% of students surveyed stated that the 'Heart of the Campus' enhanced their experience
- / **Innovative Design:** BIM utilised during design development and final design to address issues and clashes
- / **Efficient Procurement:** £34k savings identified e.g. external cladding changed to Ectotherm alternative
- / **Environmental Sustainability:** BREEAM 'Very Good', 98% of waste recycled and all timber was sustainably sourced
- / **Investment in Local Community:** Senior Engineer directly appointed, 6 direct Apprentices employed and 14 Apprentices from supply chain
- / **Community Engagement:** Engagement with local nursery including hoarding competition
- / **Local Supply:** Local supply chain provided 80% of materials



For more information on how we're delivering lasting impact:

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