

The Open University, Jennie Lee Building

Milton Keynes
Faculty of Mathematics & Computing and The Institute of Educational Technology.
5,000 sq m
Briefing / Space Planning Architecture / Interior Design
Contract Value: £13.5m
Completed July 2008

SHCA won a competition to design this new landmark building for the OU Campus.
We were responsible for the briefing, strategic planning, architecture and interior design for the 5,000 sq m building.

The building has been purpose designed to encourage the natural interaction of personnel and ideas for The Faculty of Mathematics & Computing and The Institute of Educational Technology.

The design strategy was developed following our intensive analysis of the universities aspirations for the building and the ways in which the users carry out their activities in the Ambient Technology Laboratories and Research and Academic Facilities.

A 600 sq m dedicated lab acts as the focus for collective research into Ambient Technology - sometimes described as the space between the person and their computer, and the entire building will be used as a lab for experimentation in learning and working processes. The floor spans are column free with exposed concrete ceilings to enable flexible layouts and support adaptable research activities.

The design incorporates a predominantly passive fresh air and cooling system, including a concrete undercroft integrated into the foundations to provide fresh air to the enclosed spaces and the atrium. The structural frame and floor slabs are of exposed pre cast concrete to employ its thermal mass for night time cooling and has single sided natural ventilation in the open spaces.

This energy efficient building will have a landmark identity on the university campus.

