

TEESSIDE UNIVERSITY, THE CURVE AND CAMPUS HEART



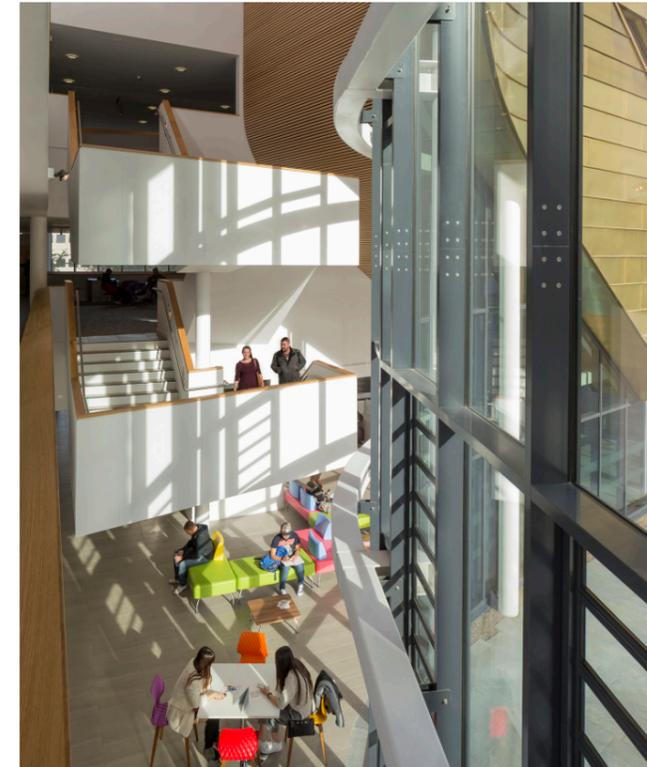
LOCATION: MIDDLESBROUGH
CLIENT: UNIVERSITY OF TEESSIDE
VALUE: £20M
COMPLETED: 2016
SIZE: 5200M ²
SERVICE: ARCHITECTURE
SECTOR: EDUCATION
PROJECT MANAGER: POZZONI EVOLVE
STRUCTURES: HALCROW
SERVICES: HALCROW
COST CONSULTANT: SUMMERS INMAN
FIRE ENGINEERS: TENOS
CDM COORDINATOR: SUMMERS INMAN
ACOUSTIC CONSULTANT: HALCROW YOLLES
BREAAAM ASSESSOR: HALCROW YOLLES

The Curve is a competition-winning design for the heart of Teesside University's campus. Our winning entry envisaged a central piazza, the Campus Heart, defined by two dynamic complementary buildings, The Curve and a new conference centre, and further framed by the existing library and students union building.

The Curve is now the centre piece of the University's campus and has been a regenerative spur for both the University and the wider community. There are three floors of collaborative general teaching spaces. A new Vice Chancellor's Suite occupies the upper two floors with a boardroom, conference facilities and office space commanding panoramic views across the city and campus, including the iconic Tees Transporter Bridge.



Site plan



Collaborative teaching and social learning are the essence of The Curve project. The accommodation includes collaborative teaching rooms and a 150 seat collaborative lecture theatre. The three floors of teaching accommodation are organised around an atrium. This is a lively wifi-enabled shared space, with informal low soft seating and café tables creating a relaxed environment for social learning and interaction.

There is a strong relationship between the predominantly glazed atrium and the Campus Heart. The external space flows seamlessly into the atrium providing a flexible event space and a forum for exchange of ideas and an inclusive ethos.

The Campus Heart is further animated by a programmable lighting and projection system. Different moods and effects can be created to support events and special occasions or project students' work onto the buildings. Three 15 metre high projection masts throw multi-coloured blocks of light and patterns onto the ground, while projectors set in pleached lime trees throw graphics onto the blank library façade.

For the Campus Heart to truly function as a focus for the university it needed to facilitate movement in both a north / south and east/ west directions. The pedestrianisation of Southfield Road creates a new east/west spine, extending the urban realm as a link between the town centre and residential areas to the east.

The building expresses its major components; teaching block, lecture theatre, atrium and Vice Chancellor's suite to create a bold and striking composition. The lecture theatre floats above the entrance allowing the Campus Heart landscape to flow under it, its curved raked undercroft clad in oak ribs within the atrium.

The building is clad in copper, matching the ambition to create a landmark building with a strong and unique identity. At roof level the Vice Chancellor's Suite is articulated as a glazed penthouse.

The use of innovative sustainable features, such as an earth duct, assisted natural ventilation, high levels of insulation, compact building form, thermal mass, low infiltration



rates, good levels of daylight, dimmable led lighting, variable volume variable temperature heating, greywater recycling, sourcing of local materials /labour where possible and a building management system contribute to a reduction in CO2 emissions and a Bream Excellent rating.

We were appointed by Teesside University to provide architectural, landscape, interior design and engineering services from RIBA Stages A-E. Our role included Lead Consultant and Design Team Leader. Engineering disciplines were undertaken by Halcrow as our sub-consultants.

Design and Build tenders were invited at Stage E, including a novation agreement for the design team to the successful contractor, BAM. We were appointed to BAM as Design Team Leader for RIBA Stages F-L to provide architectural, landscape, interior design and engineering services. Again Halcrow provided the engineering services as our sub-consultant.