

UWE BOWER ASHTON MASTERPLAN, BRISTOL



LOCATION: BRISTOL

CLIENT: UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST OF ENGLAND

COMPLETION: 2019

VALUE: £13.5M

SIZE: 4,600M²

SERVICES: ARCHITECTURE, INTERIOR DESIGN,
LANDSCAPE

SECTOR: EDUCATION

LANDSCAPE: AUSTIN-SMITH: LORD

STRUCTURES: ARUP

SERVICES: ARUP

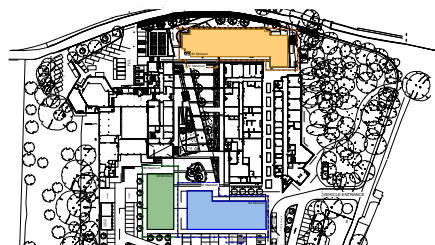
COST CONSULTANT: FAITHFUL + GOULD

CONTRACTOR: WILMOTT DIXON

PROJECT MANAGER: GLEEDS

AWARDS: 2018 LABC BRISTOL EXCELLENCE AWARDS -
BEST PUBLIC SERVICE BUILDING & BEST EDUCATIONAL
BUILDING (BOTH FOR DIGITAL MEDIA BUILDING)

2018 LABC WEST OF ENGLAND REGIONAL AWARD: BEST
EDUCATIONAL BUILDING (DIGITAL MEDIA BUILDING)



Austin-Smith:Lord were appointed by the University of the West of England to deliver the Bower Ashton Masterplan and undertake the architectural design and delivery.

Home to the Faculty of Creative Arts, the masterplan significantly improves the outdated existing campus, adding two new buildings, demolition of existing poor quality accommodation, refurbishment of existing facilities, as well as comprehensive landscaping of the campus including a new central courtyard space and rationalisation of car parking and site access.





Using the masterplan as the framework for development of the site, Austin-Smith:Lord inherited and adapted this as a flexible tool for development of the campus, successfully realising the designs for two new buildings and the external public realm.

The highly sensitive site sits within the context of the listed Ashton Court Mansion and Estate, and the wider conservation area, and required a carefully considered approach in order to obtain planning consent. In close consultation with UWE, the design team and Bristol City Council, we undertook an involved process of design development in order to arrive at a solution everyone was satisfied with.

The constrained site necessitated a detailed sequence of phasing for decant, demolition and construction, in order that the campus would remain operational throughout and with minimal disruption to activities.

The £6.5M Digital Media building formed the first phase and comprised of approximately 2400m² gross internal floor area, over 3 storeys. The accommodation includes a

specialist film production studio, control rooms, photographic studios, workshops, animation suites and sound recording and colour grading spaces, as well as a series of edit suites and staff spaces.

The Digital Media building was completed in summer 2017.

The £6.3M Physical Making Building forms second phase and comprises of approximately 2300m² gross internal floor area, over 3 storeys. Accommodation includes fabrication workshops for wood, metal and ceramics, technical laboratory, design studios and a centre for fine print research as well as shared project/seminar space and staff spaces.

The building will face the Digital Media building across a new high quality landscaped courtyard which will provide a much needed heartspace for the campus.

The masterplan development provides a modern, fit-for purpose, digitally-connected environment that will attract and retain students and retain the University's reputation

as a sector leader and provides space for growth in high performing subject areas.

The challenging and complex brief for the masterplan development was developed in close consultation with UWE, including a carefully structured and managed approach to engaging with key stakeholders including the building user group.

"We are delighted and proud of our new digital media building designed by Austin-Smith:Lord. The building provides a demanding technical function within a striking and elegant design."

ASL have been creative and supportive throughout the design and build and have set a benchmark for our campus redevelopment."

Roger Conlon, Deputy Dean, Faculty of Arts, Creative Industries & Education University of the West of England