

ALEXANDER HOUSE OFFICE REFURBISHMENT, CARDIFF METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY



LOCATION: CARDIFF
CLIENT: PDR / CARDIFF METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY
COMPLETION: 2019
VALUE: £735K
SIZE: 960M2
SERVICE: INTERIOR DESIGN
SECTOR: EDUCATION
CONTRACTOR: BECT LTD
STRUCTURES: ARUP
SERVICES: ARUP
COST CONSULTANT: AECOM

PDR is a world leading design consultancy and applied research facility owned by Cardiff Metropolitan University. The business operates independently from the University, operating internationally with world renowned industries including healthcare equipment developers, banks and retailers.

The project facilitated PDR's move off the university campus to a separate facility bought by the University. Austin-Smith:Lord's interior designers carried out full design services for the disused and dated 1980s three storey building, converting it into contemporary offices representative of the design quality PDR strive for. Key to the success of the project was the consultation process with end users to understand the vision of the organisation, workflows and practical requirements.



Alexander House - 'BEFORE' photos



An extraordinary interior transformation

The client and end users were delighted with the complete transformation of the interior of the building. The somewhat unremarkable external image of the building now belies what is beyond the facade. This complete reimagining of the interior look and feel required both innovative design thinking and close collaboration with the design team, including M&E engineers and cost consultants.



Wellness & biophilic design

A wellness agenda was embedded in the designs, using biophilic design principals. Biophilic design is a human-centred design approach aiming to harness the benefits of human attraction to nature and natural processes.

Designs focused on the following tools:

- The use of natural materials, textures, patterns and colours
- Optimization and organisation of spaces with a human focus
- Thermal comfort levels
- Air quality, toxin levels and ventilation
- Acoustic comfort
- Maximising natural lighting and sensitive artificial lighting



A-S:L Interior Design role included:

- Stakeholder engagement and client consultation to formulate detailed brief
- Look & feel concept proposals. Client presentations including 3D visuals
- BIM Level 2 output
- GA Plan layout and space planning
- Proposed wall and floor finishes
- Proposed ceiling finishes and coordinated reflected ceiling plans
- Aesthetic lighting design, alongside M&E consultants
- Internal glazed screens and manifestation specification and design
- Acoustic finishes specification and setting out
- Internal doors specification. Joinery and counters design
- Loose and fitted furniture specification and space planning
- On site progress reviews