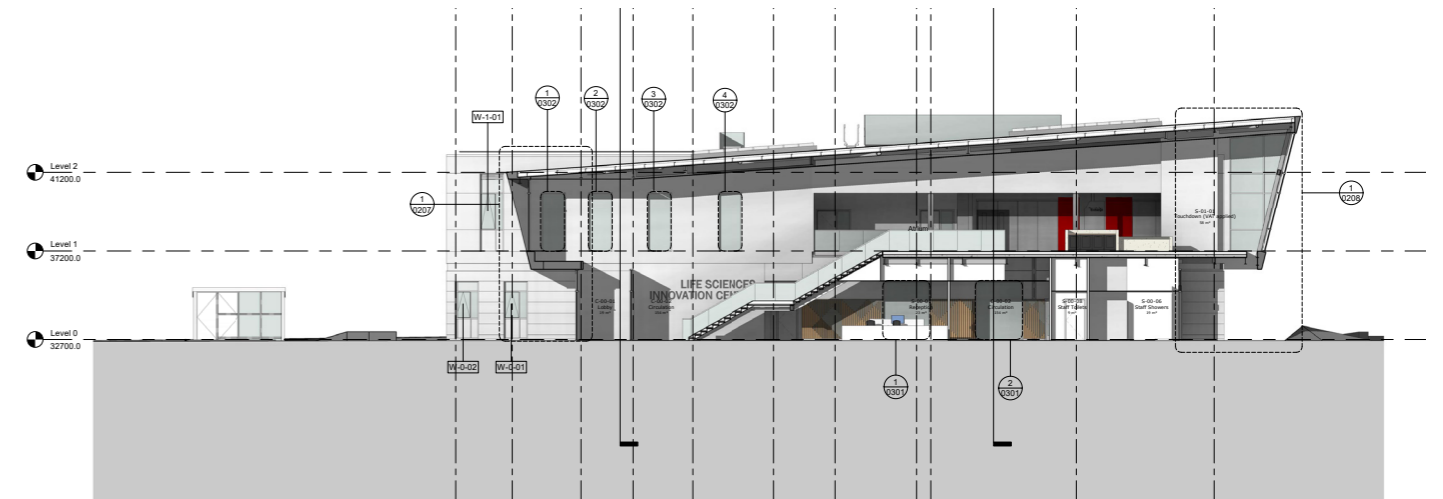


LIFE SCIENCES INNOVATION CENTRE, INVERNESS



LOCATION: INVERNESS

CLIENT: HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS ENTERPRISE HIE AND THE UNIVERSITY OF THE HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS (UHI)

COMPLETION: 2023

VALUE: £9M

SIZE: 2700M²

SERVICE: ARCHITECTURE, MASTERPLANNING, LANDSCAPE, INTERIOR DESIGN

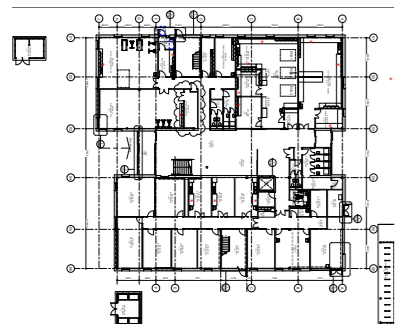
SECTOR: EDUCATION

CONTRACTOR: ROBERTSON NORTHERN

LANDSCAPE: AUSTIN-SMITH:LORD

STRUCTURES: FAIRHURST

SERVICES: PICK EVERARD



Austin-Smith:Lord were commissioned to design a £9 million Life Sciences Innovation Centre in Inverness for partnering Client consortium of Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) and the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI).

The 2,700m² building features office & agile working space, laboratories, sports health suite, knowledge exchange and innovation space.

The Inverness Campus is a new development zone located on the fringes of Inverness city and is intended as an incubator for emerging life sciences technologies. It features a mix of academic, business, research, community and sports facilities. The building is designed to be sustainable with a focus on creating a low energy healthy environment for research and innovation within a building envelope that achieves a high standard of insulation and thermal performance.

The new Life Sciences Innovation Centre was officially opened by Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal in April 2023.

You can view a tour around the building at this link:
<https://www.invernesscampus.co.uk/business-premises-and-land/lsc>

We led a team comprising Pick Everard MEP Engineering, Fairhurst Civil and Structural Engineering and Hardies Advisor to Principal Designer during Stages 1-4 and at Stage 5-6 Construction phase we were novated to Robertson Construction North Ltd team.

Acoustic Consultant Services were provided by New Acoustics and A10 provided Fire Engineering Services.

The building brief is defined in 3 distinct parts with areas for UHI, HIE and space for shared functions.

The HIE wing was laid out with 6 identical leasable rooms laid out as generic labs with the basic equipment requirements. The remainder varying sized leasable office accommodation.

The UHI wing was designed with specific use labs - Medical Nanotechnology zone with a PVD (Physical Vapour Deposition) Lab to accommodate 3 PVD machines & two fume hoods, Photonics Lab with shared light workshop and Scanning Electron Microscope

and an Active Health Zone with gym, lab and supporting accommodation.

Biophillic design is a key driver across the whole scheme, and this is no different for the Interior Design. Innovative use of materials, finishes and lighting aims to blur the lines between outside and inside environments. The proposed external environment of the future Life Sciences Innovation Centre sets out to activate the relationship of the facility, and its users, with the university campus and beyond.

The landscape design proposal has the potential to improve the health and wellbeing of its users and visitors by providing a comfortable, safe and accessible space enriched by a diversity of soft landscaped amenity and buffer areas.

Socialising areas entice interaction and promote meeting points and opportunities to stop, allowing space for wheelchair users to participate.

Connectivity with the University Campus Green Infrastructure is a crucial landscape element for the promotion of biodiversity and improving climate resilience.

The planting scheme will encourage a wide variety of birds and wildlife by a palette of ecologically informed planting design matching plants to locality and creating plant communities of Scottish native species.

The building footprint creates an efficient use of space to suit the space requirements and required inter-relationships between functions. The orientation of the building allows the shorter elevations to face north and south. This assists in reducing the extent of potential solar glare/control required to the south and heat loss exposure to the north.

A fabric first approach is used to improve the thermal performance of the building and reduce energy consumption.