

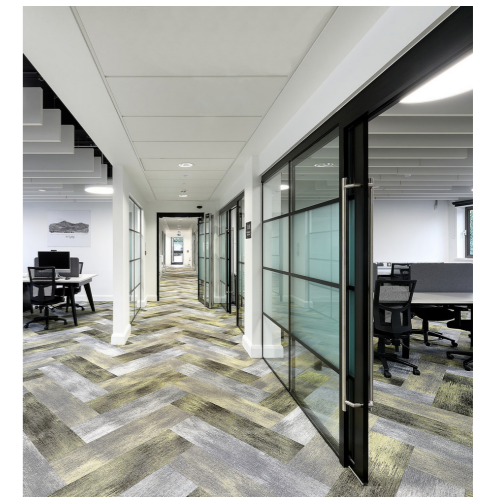
SCHOOL OF HEALTHCARE SCIENCES RELOCATION, CARDIFF UNIVERSITY



LOCATION: CARDIFF
CLIENT: CARDIFF UNIVERSITY
COMPLETION: 2023
VALUE: £20M
SIZE: 4000M ²
SERVICES: ARCHITECTURE, INTERIOR DESIGN
SECTOR: EDUCATION
FIRE: HYDROCK
STRUCTURES: CURTAINS
SERVICES: AECOM
PM & COST CONSULTANT: AECOM
CONTRACTOR: ISG

Austin-Smith:Lord were appointed by AECOM to undertake the project design as a key member of their multidisciplinary team through the SEWTAPS framework. The site, purchased by Cardiff University, is adjacent to the UHW hospital site so ideally placed for the new school as staff and students frequently attend both. The three main blocks were originally built during the post war period as a military hospital, but the site was more recently used by the Department Of Work and Pensions for office accommodation, with Block 4 added by them in the 1990s.

The project is being undertaken in four phases. The initial phase was to refurbish teaching space at East Gate House in the city centre used by the school. The second and largest phase has been the refurbishment of Blocks 2 & 4 at the DWP site, creating the new main hub for the university's School Of Healthcare. Block 2 comprises of clinical training spaces, mock hospital facilities, classroom and tutorial spaces as well as office and breakout spaces for staff and students. Block 4 contains post graduate study space and staff offices. The third phase is the re-purposing of the decanted mock wards at Ty Dewi Sant on the hospital site. The remaining future phase will be the refurbishment of blocks 1 & 3 and the old refectory block on the DWP Site.



New mock hospital wards and simulation operating theatre in Block 2, alongside new VR teaching facilities at Ty Dewi Sant, allow for fully immersive state of the art simulation teaching methods. A simulation residential apartment will also provide practical training for occupational therapy students. Bespoke clinical teaching facilities enhance the student experience whilst new staff office space and student pastoral support spaces allow the scheme to become a new cohesive central hub for the school.

The project has included upgrading the energy efficiency of the existing buildings, including improving air tightness and U values and replacing dated heating systems. They have also been improved from an accessibility perspective with the addition of passenger lifts and improved accessible sanitary facilities. Analysis of the existing buildings revealed inherent challenges, including a rare type of hollow block slab construction with limited ability to support new services, low internal soffit heights, presence of asbestos and fire escape distances in excess of current regulations. The design team has successfully

met these challenges with creative solutions, working collaboratively to find affordable and compliant proposals, testing and coordinating them in 3D software.

For the new School of Healthcare the design works with the existing aesthetic of the building transforming it into a stylised contemporary industrial design with a nod to the mid century aesthetic, complimenting the building's age. A combination of light toned woods and crittall style internal glazing with black frames are used. The light timber compliments the dark brown brick on the exterior, whilst the black framed crittall style glazing references the building's age. Black is used as a punchy feature colour, incorporated through painted exposed ceilings and laminated doors. Bright pops of colour are incorporated in furniture and feature areas of flooring. A natural background palette of timbers and greenery is used to compliment this in support of the biophilia strategy.

Biophillic design is a human-centred design approach aiming to connect the innate human attraction to nature and natural processes.

Supported by numerous studies and research, biophillic design increases employee and student wellbeing and lowers stress levels.

Opportunities for including elements of biophillic design include greenery, fresh air, human-centric lighting, natural organic patterns and shapes, natural materials, views of nature and naturally lit spaces. The courtyards between the building spurs give opportunity for pleasant landscaped spaces to spill out into and creating views of greenery from within the spaces.