



School of Law and Social Justice Liverpool, UK

Completion December 2019

Project Type Education

Client University of Liverpool

Main Contractor

University of Liverpool Construction Co Ltd

Value £14.3m

Area 6,190sqm

Retrofit Type

Critical Infrastructure - Education

Deep Energy

Inclusion and Accessibility

Retrofit Strategy

The retrofit entailed the strip out and refurbishment of the existing building back to the concrete frame, internal shear walls, beams and upstands which were all retained and remediated.

New installations include the internal fit out, MEP systems and overcladding to the existing concrete frame and upstand beams.

New anodised aluminium cladding with deep aperture reveals creates a new identity for the school, rejuvenating an uninviting and tired looking 1960s concrete structure.



The School of Law and Social Justice consolidates the existing fragmented schools into a single combined facility. This involved the extensive refurbishment of the existing five storey Cyprus Building, with the addition of a new wing extension and a central atrium that connects the old with the new.

The Cyprus Building was originally constructed in the 1960s with an in situ concrete frame. The refurbishment has transformed the building both inside and out, creating collaborative and social spaces to complement the improved teaching, lecture and staff facilities.



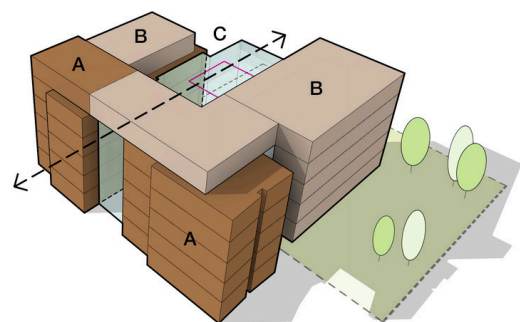
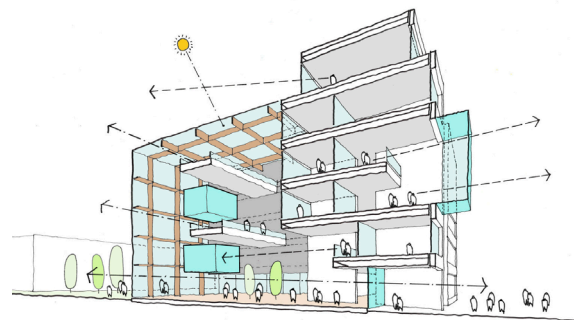
A key client consideration was to create a strong sense of cohesion between the new and existing façades and the internal environment. Compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) was also met throughout, with additional measures taken to ensure the building is inclusive for all.

The existing floor to floor heights were extremely low which presented a challenge when providing connectivity between new and existing areas. Consideration had to be made when integrating building services to ensure appropriate head heights were not compromised.

Structural modifications to the existing building had to be minimised for cost efficiency and buildability purposes. New plant space, service risers and vertical circulation were optimised within the existing structure to ensure net accommodation space was maximised.

The building envelope was drastically upgraded to deliver significant improvements in thermal efficiency and user comfort. The project was a forerunner in the integration of building physics specialists, enabling the impact of key design decisions to be tested iteratively throughout.

The central atrium consists of a timber glulam frame with timber clad internal elevations to the new extension wing. This extends the natural landscape feel into the building, improving the wellbeing and user satisfaction of occupants.



Lessons Learnt

It was beneficial to conduct a technical appraisal of the design, material specifications and interfaces during the pre planning design stages.

Early engagement with the planning authority was also essential. This ensured an appropriate envelope material specification and suitable contextual responses with the adjacent conservation area were achieved.

Frequent stakeholder engagement ensured that the client was aware of the challenges associated with repurposing the existing structure, allowing them to adapt their vision accordingly.

Carrying out a detailed 3D survey following full strip out was critical to success. Careful modelling and clash detection was coordinated between design consultants from the outset and through to construction implementation.