

centenary building, salford

category Higher Education
client University of Salford
date Completed 1995
awards RIBA Award 1996
RIBA Architecture in Education Category
Award 1996
Stirling Prize for Architecture 1996
Civic Trust Award 1998

When setting the brief, the client described the function of this building as a 'fusion of design and technology' and asked that it reflect this. It houses the Departments of Spatial Graphic and Industrial Design.

The form is generated from the desire to articulate a clear expression of the brief, the internal programme, and a response to the building's context astride the threshold between the City and the academic campus. Diagrammatically, the building defines a collegiate courtyard to an existing University building.

Flexible studio and seminar space, and three service towers, are contained within a 4 storey orthogonal 'bar' of accommodation

which defines the edge of the City block. Prescribed tutorial accommodation and technology suites are arranged in a free form 3 storey element address the newly defined courtyard.

The primary organisational device between the two types of accommodation is a linear atrium or 'street' within which all horizontal circulation via galleries is contained. In this way street lift becomes an aspect of the life of the building; common areas and adjoining offices and studios engage with the street to animate the building and imbue it with a sense of purpose.

'Despite being built quickly and cheaply - the team had to be on site in just twelve weeks after appointment - the building is a dynamic, modern and sophisticated exercise in steel, glass and concrete. They have bowed out the main facade to create a wide studio and lecture space with indirect daylighting; breaking the 'internal street' with galleries and bridges, and exposing rooms to this central space to give an air of purpose and animation'

Stirling Prize Jury

