

THE SAMUEL AUGUSTINE COURTAULD INSTITUTE OF BIO-CHEMISTRY

University College London, Courtauld Building

Breaking ground in support of ground-breaking research

£17m

/ Project value

April 2015

/ The build commenced

February 2018

/ The duration

Having been dormant for almost ten years, University College London's (UCL) Courtauld Building was comprehensively remodelled to create a pioneering research facility for the Medical Research Council's (MRC) prestigious Prion Unit. Our two-stage design and construction project, completed over 34-months and handed over in February 2018, has brought life back into the previously unoccupied building. Importantly, the £17m scheme has maximised useable advanced teaching and research space and delivered a more energy efficient, BREEAM Excellent rated building, which has established the perfect conditions for ground-breaking research into degenerative diseases of the brain.

The Brief

The scope of works was to refurbish, modernise and reinvigorate the Courtauld Building to enable it to accommodate the Medical Research Council's Prion Unit. The creation of new high containment laboratories and associated accommodation were a priority in supporting UCL and its stakeholders in meeting the science needs of today and the future.





The Challenges

Although not listed, the Courtauld Building is located within a conservation area, adjacent to various listed buildings, and abuts with a neighbouring primary school, which has a footprint up to the site boundary. Our approach to site management was to reduce disruption and avoid road closures. As deliveries were restricted outside of approved hours, we implemented a Delivery Management System, with a Traffic Marshal responsible for access control, the release of vehicles and the coordination of the booking process.

GRAHAM's added value solution

Since its original construction in 1926 the Courtauld Building has been synonymous with cutting-edge scientific research. Despite a ten-year hiatus from 2008, when it remained unoccupied, the flagship UCL research facility's world-leading status was restored in 2018 following our extensive £17m transformation project. Creating the working environment for the MRC's Prion Unit to continue its revolutionary research, the revamp involved considerable external works including replacing the rear 1980s' façade and roof, supplemented by the construction, and relocation, of a new main entrance at Cleveland Street. Internally, the project encompassed the completion of new teaching spaces, research laboratories and support rooms, and the repositioning of the lift shafts and stairwell, which generated a more open and efficient overall area. Cementing our relationship with UCL, the UK's fourth ranked university, our Courtauld development was followed by an £11m phased refurbishment of its Grade II listed Kathleen Lonsdale Building.

Outputs & Benefits

- / **Top Ranked:** UCL is the fourth ranked university in the UK rankings and places 16th in the world rankings
- / **Restoration:** Having been unoccupied for ten years our project brought the Courtauld Building back to life
- / **Considerate Construction:** Newsletters detailing the project's progress were issued throughout while neighbourhood meetings were held
- / **World-leading research:** The project has provided the ideal working environment for the Medical Research Council's prestigious Prion Unit
- / **BIM Technology:** BIM technology was utilised effectively throughout the design and build process



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