

Textile Conservation Centre, Winchester
Completion Date 1999
Contract Value £2.2m
Client University of Southampton /
Textile Conservation Centre

The Textile Conservation Centre is a leading international centre for practice, education and research into textile conservation. Located within the City Conservation Area, the new Centre formed part of a wider campus development for the Winchester School of Art, forming the fourth of five phases within ArchitecturePLB's masterplan for the site.

In 1997, building on two decades of success, the Textile Conservation Centre entered an exciting new phase of development, forming an academic partnership with the University of Southampton to offer a Masters degree, post-doctoral research and short refresher courses for curators and conservators.

This development precipitated the relocation from cramped and compromised quarters in Hampton Court to this purpose-designed, 1200sqm concrete and steel framed building on the Winchester School of Art Campus.

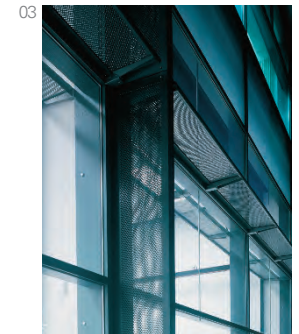
This new building, in its University setting, is able to provide bespoke, purpose built laboratories and work rooms for the conservators with the added benefit of academic synergies with related departments such as Archaeology, Chemistry and Environmental Services.

At the start of the design process, the practice entered into a lengthy and detailed briefing process with the TCC. This combined a careful analysis of the conservators' needs with the stringent requirements of the Museums and Galleries Commission, to provide a climate controlled, secure environment for the restoration of a wide variety of artefacts, some of which are of National Importance.

The building is organised with analytical, dye and treatment laboratories on the ground floor, which serve large conservation workrooms. These northlit, double height laboratories were designed to benefit from UV filtered north light and allow for the vertical and horizontal positioning of large artefacts.

The research laboratories have been designed to be strictly environmentally-controlled to protect rare or delicate objects often received in a poor state of repair. A photographic studio, linked to first floor darkroom and technician's office, is located at the east end, together with isolation room and secure collections.

Visitors arrive at the first floor reception level by staircase or lift within a glazed tower which bypasses the operations area.

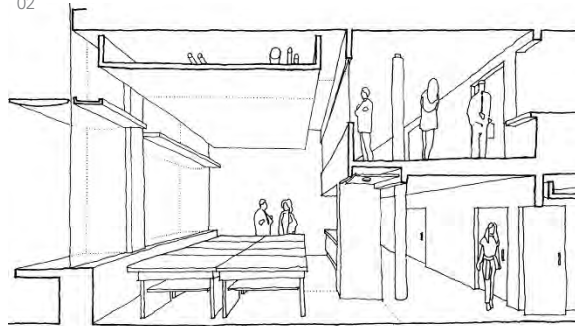


01 Building exterior
02 First floor viewing gallery
03 External façade



Total Area : 1200sqm GIA
 Procurement Type : Traditional Contract
 Local Authority : Winchester City Council

02



A glass wall extends along the first floor as a gallery, enabling students and visitors to view the conservation process from the waiting area without infringing on the conservators' work. This level also houses the administration suite, meeting rooms and mobile storage facilities.

03



The third floor consists of seminar rooms for the shared use of the School and TCC, along with a post-graduate computer centre and staff offices for new and emerging course areas.

The scheme was awarded an RIBA Award in 2000.

05



04



- 01 Building exterior
- 02 Concept sketch of laboratory
- 03 Main staircase
- 04 Research laboratory
- 05 Cross-section sketch