

Case Study

Physics of Medicine Department



Delivered for University of Cambridge

Facilities: Providing academic, research, residential and other facilities | June 2008
Value: £9.5 million



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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Introduction Over the past decade, an increasing cross-over in goals, philosophy and techniques has been emerging between researchers in the University's Department of Physics and those in the many biomedical departments and research institutes. The centre Physics of Medicine aims to draw physics into the medical and life sciences by creating an environment where researchers from these different fields work together.

Details The project is part of the University's £600m investment for research & development programme. The Centre for Physics of Medicine is situated within the West Cambridge University campus.

This project unites researchers from the Departments of Physics, Biochemistry, Chemistry, Chemical Engineering and the School of Clinical Medicine in one building, split over three-storeys to create a suite of research laboratories, teaching rooms and offices, with car parking and soft landscaping.

The three-storey concrete frame building is rectilinear in plan. The internal layout is largely open plan, with flexible laboratory spaces at each floor level. The sensitive nature of experimental research carried out here means it was crucial for Willmott Dixon to ensure a temperature- and humidity-controlled environment, with 400mm thick concrete floor slabs providing thermal mass that also minimizes vibration. Glazing on the east-facing elevation — where the laboratories are housed — is minimal, while the west-facing elevation is more amply glazed and shaded with metal louvres.

The building's north wing is a triple-height open space designed to house an NMR (nuclear magnetic resonance) instrument. The NMR's ultra sensitive magnetic field extends beyond the building footprint; defensive landscaping is designed to inhibit the entry of ferrous metallic materials into the magnetic zone.

Testimonials **Russell Pope, Project Manager | University of Cambridge**

"The project was a complete success being completed on time, on budget with minimal defects. This was achieved through the commitment of all members of the project team, notably Willmott Dixon, to an open team work approach. Willott Dixon's performance was exemplary and the commitment and hard work of Willmott Dixon staff was a major factor in the success of the project".

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