

The Enterprise Centre

About the building

The Enterprise Centre is an exemplary modern teaching and working environment, characterised by plentiful natural light, excellent ventilation and indoor air quality, and an intimate connection with the historic Earlham Park and reflective Memorial Gardens.

This highly ambitious project conceived by the Adapt Low Carbon Group meets the highest energy and environmental standards. Designed by sustainable architects, Architype in collaboration with single-point deliverer Morgan Sindall, The Enterprise Centre is a thriving community where businesses and students work side by side.

A leading business hub in the region, entrepreneurial spirit and collaborative working are at the heart of what we do. As well as providing a range of tenancy options, the building is an innovative and inspirational location for meetings and events. Building on founding principles of knowledge sharing and supporting businesses locally.

While its timber frame and straw cladding have been specified to minimise embodied carbon and promote the use of renewable materials, the bold, crisp and contemporary design has been influenced by the strong and confident modernist lines of Sir Denys Lasdun's Teaching Wall and Lord Foster's Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts.

Sustainability

The Enterprise Centre is one of the UK's most sustainable buildings and is the first large scale building in the UK to target both Passivhaus Certification and BREEAM Outstanding, two of the most sustainable rigorous built environment standards.

Passivhaus provides a methodology to significantly reduce the energy requirements of a building whilst maximising thermal comfort and air quality.

BREEAM sets the standard for the best practice in sustainable building design, construction and operation and has become one of the most comprehensive and widely recognised measures of a building's environmental performance of which The Enterprise Centre has achieved BREEAM Outstanding (the highest rating).

Materials

The Enterprise Centre has minimised the emissions associated with construction through the use of natural and recycled materials:

Foundations:

Sub-base aggregate: recycled aggregate from the demolition of St Andrew's Hospital, Thorpe St Andrew, near Norwich

Isoquick insulation: Polystyrene ground floor slab shuttering system.

Cement: 70% replaced with ground granulated blast slag (a by-product of iron and steel making industry)

Reinforced steel: 98% recycled

Diamond polished floor: Replaces the need for carpets and lowers the carbon content of the building over its lifetime

Interior materials:

Ceilings - SonaSpray: this is both decorative and a sound absorber. It is a mixture of PVA glue and 85% recycled paper which is mixed and then blown onto the ceiling.

Timber frame (interior) - Austrian glulam beams make up the main timber frame. Glulam (laminated beams) are a natural alternative to concrete or steel. Glulam is a natural structural material that is both economical and strong.

Studwork - (the supporting framework) 70% of which has been made from Corsican Pine from Thetford Forest.

Insulation - Warmcell: Waste paper converted into a high performance cellulose fibre insulation.

Exterior materials:

Mediterranean Tricoya - Cladding panels to external facades. External grade Medium Density Fibreboard (MDF) with a high performance resin and zero added formaldehyde.

Flint - Locally sourced from Holt, Norfolk.

Timber frame (exterior) - UK glulam beam that supports the canopy at the front of the building. Made from larch from Brandon, Suffolk and engineered at Inwood in Lewes.

Thatch for Clerestory lights - Reed from Southwold in Suffolk. Thatched in the same way as a traditional domestic house.

Thatch for wall panels - Straw from North Norfolk. This is an innovative cassette panelling system that uses 343 cassettes. The Enterprise Centre is the largest exterior thatched building in Europe.

African Iroko (outside wooden panels on roof terrace) - Recycled from original UEA chemistry lab benches. The benches were sent to joiners in Norwich, planed, divided and then installed.

Local Oak – oak used as cladding beneath the revolutionary thatch panels, sourced from one oak tree from Somerleyton Hall Estate, Norfolk. The tree was felled 20 years ago after storm damage and left in a local lumber yard.

Facilities

- A range of flexible rooms and inspirational spaces for hire from meeting rooms for 4 people to a 300 seater lecture theatre and stunning roof-terrace.
- Tenancy - co-working, hot desks and virtual
- CPD accredited tours of The Enterprise Centre

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