
University of East London: the new Stratford Campus Library

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In October 2011 work started on a brand new library for the University of East London (UEL) Stratford Campus. Our vision was for an integrated and innovative new library reflecting very best practice for higher education library services and providing 21st-century facilities to support the learning, teaching and research needs of UEL students and staff. The library, located at the very heart of the campus at Stratford, opened on 24 June 2013. The building has been designed in line with best-practice sustainable design standards, which aim to minimise its impact on the environment, and it has been awarded an 'excellent' rating for BREEAM, the internationally recognised standard for sustainable buildings.

Key features of the new, state-of-the-art library include:

- three floors of high-quality learning space open 24x7, with wifi throughout and
- capacity for over 130 000 books
- an advanced digital library providing a wide range of e-books and e-journals
- over 220 quiet study spaces
- eight bookable group study rooms with state-of-the-art AV / media facilities
- 120 'open access' PCs for student use
- two fully equipped training rooms
- collaborative learning 'pods' equipped with interactive technology
- self-service facilities
- refreshment / vending area

The award-winning architects Hopkins – designers of the Olympic Park's velodrome – designed the new library, working closely with UEL library staff and project team. They held discussions with students, library staff and other UEL colleagues to build a picture of users' requirements. Students were involved at every stage – from responding to



The new Stratford Campus Library

a user questionnaire at the very start of the design process to participation in a furniture selection workshop – alongside library and IT staff. As a result we are confident that the new library will fully serve the needs of all our students, both undergraduate and postgraduate, and will exceed their expectations and provide a truly inspiring learning environment.



The layout of the building is intended to be as intuitive as possible, with the ground floor providing collaborative learning spaces, interactive technologies, self-service facilities for library users, as well as a special collections area and reading room, while the two upper floors offer quiet study space and house all the printed books and journals to support health, sport & bioscience, psychology, education and law.

Our new library has environmental performance at its heart, with low energy systems and consideration for the reduction of operational CO2 emissions incorporated in the design; photovoltaic panels have been installed on the roof to provide a source of clean renewable energy helping to reduce the building's carbon footprint by 20%.



At the time of writing, we were looking forward to the official opening ceremony on 25 September 2013 – an opportunity to celebrate the new building and showcase our brand new facilities to our new and returning students.

SOME FACTS ABOUT THE NEW BUILDING

Architect / Lead designer	Hopkins
Construction	Volker Fitzpatrick
Gross floor area	4259m ²
BREEAM rating and score	Excellent 70%