

Library refurbishment University of Reading

HEDQF

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Back in 2012, the University of Reading's six-storey library no longer lived up to modern student needs. Built in the 60s and extended in the 80s, its facade was dated and its main entrance ill-defined. Similarly, the internal layout - deep plan, clutter of structural columns, low floor-to-ceiling heights - required significant work to bring the building into the 21st century.

The University's brief focused on improving the functionality, circulation, accessibility, sustainability and appearance of their well-loved, but outdated, library.

Refurbishment projects are often more challenging than new builds. Design solutions require a deeper level of creative thinking to navigate the many set parameters. With the library, we had an ageing building that showed us glimmers of what could be, but it took an expert blend of disciplines and services to unlock this hidden potential.

The library sits prominently in the heart of a beautiful parkland campus. Its dated outward aesthetic is now fittingly refreshed using a simple overcladding solution. Anodised aluminium panels, in tones of silver and gold, wonderfully change hue throughout day.

Inside, we worked with the structural grid to reconfigure the library's layout.

Location: Reading, UK

Scope: Internal refurbishment with full overcladding and associated external works.

Brief: Update a 1960s library building to fulfill the requirements of a University and student body in the 21st century.

Floor area (GIA): 11,510 sq m

Sustainability: Very Good (in spirit)

Completion date: September, 2019

Project Team

Client: University of Reading

Architect: Stride Treglown

Structural Engineer: Aecom

M&E Engineer: Couch Perry Wilkes

QS: RLB

PM: WSP

Contractor: ISG

Cladding Contractor: D&B Facades



Front (west) elevation © Stride Treglown