

Project name: New Pharmacy Practice- Clinical Skills Space

Quick facts	
Project value	£1,025,084 (£923,084 for Pharmacy, £102,000 for relocation of PC lab)
Client name	School of Pharmacy- Professors Helen Osborn and Adrian Williams
Work start date	Commencement of work 14/07/2014
Completion date	07/11/2014
UoR project manager	Paul Harding ☎ Ext 7284 ✉ p.a.harding@reading.ac.uk
Wren no., Building name, building no.	1451307, W003, JJ Thomson Building

Project stakeholders

Client :-School of Pharmacy

Contractors : Knowles and Son, SSE Contracting (M&E)

Consultants :-Ridge and Partners (CDM-c and M&E)

For the University :-Pharmacy Department, Health and Safety Services, Paul Harding, E&F Maintenance

Project brief: It was identified that as a result of the Pharmacy degree offered by the University being converted into a 5 year degree, in conjunction with the opening of the campus in Malaysia, further requirements for space would be needed in the JJ Thomson building. A conversion of the existing first floor laboratories into a Pharmacy clinical teaching space was subsequently given the go ahead.

Project benefits: The new teaching space can accommodate up to 100 students at any one time, and is also a good use of space versus the old Physics Building, where the laboratory area was partially used by Systems Engineering as a PC lab, and the rest was an Optics Lab.

No fixed desks allows for a fully flexible teaching environment; featuring a functional Pharmacy counter, 4 consultation rooms, 1 of which can be split into 2, and is similar to the overall teaching space, as that can also be split in 2 via removable, soundproof walls.

Progress/work schedule: Initial meetings with the end users identified various requirements in terms of scope and necessitated further meetings with specialist suppliers. Structural surveys were then carried out, followed by asbestos work after it was identified the glue that held the floor tiles in place was made of an asbestos based adhesive.

Because of the nature of the work, tender packages were compiled and sent out, with a return date of the 9th June 2014. A potential problem was that the building would remain in use throughout the construction period. However, this was overcome and despite the tenders returning over budget (due to costs associated

with lighting, heating, ventilation and the TSBE relocation,) Knowles and Son were given approval and an order placed with them on the 20th June 2014.

An initial construction period of 13 weeks was advised and demolition of walls, constructions of new partitions, and new consultation rooms commenced. There were a few problems with the plastering as the building was so old; the existing plaster was simply flaking from the walls. Similarly, the removal of the existing walls revealed that the floor level was uneven. Fortunately this was phased out with the constructions of the new partitions. All the electrical wiring was completely re-wired, along with new data and power networks.

The package of AV works is state of the art, and incidentally mirrors that which is taking place at the Malaysia campus. Wherever a student sits in the new space, they can see a monitor broadcasting lectures and discussions. They will also be able to upload documents for accreditation, bringing the teaching and learning process in-line with that outlined by the Technology Enhanced Learning Group.

A slight issue arose over the ventilation equipment, when it was discovered the proposed location for the grilles went through a structural ring beam. Any alteration to this beam would have significantly decreased the structural integrity of the building. To solve this, the ventilation now comes out of the ceiling, rotates 90 degrees and then goes out through specially designed windows. This delayed the construction period an extra 3 weeks, to 16 weeks while the windows were manufactured.

Did you know: The lab itself is almost a class 2 classified lab, and features its own lockable fridge to store blood and drugs. There is an access control system and an independent intruder alarm.

4 chargeable laptop trolleys, a bit like tea trolleys, can charge up to 25 laptops per trolley and feature a comms link that allows for simultaneous updating of any laptops currently plugged in for charging.

During the construction phase, 2 cast iron tables, left over from the days of the old Physics department were found in the lab. Weighing approximately 1 ton each, they had to be cut down to manageable chunks before they could be removed.

Impact on sustainability: All the lighting incorporates energy saving LEDs and the cooling/heating system utilises heat pumps to circulate the air and save on costs.

Under Construction pictures:



Finished pictures:

