



## Winner Higher education

# Lewisham Southwark College Phase 1

## Richard Hopkinson Architects and Platform 5 Architects



Richard Hopkinson Architects and Platform 5 Architects carried the day with its 'craftmanslike' transformation of Lewisham Southwark College's existing campus. The strength of the architecture was augmented by a robust environmental strategy.

Phase 1 of a wider £40 million regeneration comprised three architectural manoeuvres. The first saw the remodelling of the entrance and teaching block with a rich palette of materials: glazed tiles at street level and anodised aluminium screen fins with a brass finish on the upper floors. The second converted an awkward courtyard into a vibrant atrium. Here, a ribbon-like feature stair draws the eye to a roof

punched with skylights and supported by tubular, tree-like columns. The third saw the architects overhaul and extend the teaching spaces on the upper floors to create 2,047m<sup>2</sup> of classrooms and breakout areas.

Glazed corridors and chamfered, full-height windows overlooking the atrium add to the sense of transparency, reflecting the college's new pedagogy. 'They managed to keep the legibility of the existing building and there is a crafted quality to the interventions. They have thought about the human scale with the atrium,' remarked a judge.

Equally impressive was the environmental strategy. The architects managed to retain 85 per cent of the concrete structure while upgrading the M&E to cut down carbon emissions. A heat recovery system transfers heat from spaces experiencing heat gain to those that need warming up. 'The strength of the architecture and the clear environmental design strategy make this a solid, high-quality submission. A worthy winner,' concluded one judge. *JM*

Location  
London SE4  
Cost £8 million  
Client  
Lewisham  
Southwark  
College

**'They managed to keep the legibility of the existing building and there is a crafted quality to the interventions. They have thought about the human scale'**

### Shortlist

**St Dunstan's Building, Heart of Worcestershire College, by KKE Architects**

A state-of-the-art facility delivered at half the cost of a new building by re-using the main sub-and superstructure, façade, roof trusses and ground-floor glazing.

**City University lecture spaces, by Rivington Street Studio**

The architects transformed existing basement and ground-floor engineering departments into a bright mix of formal and informal lecture theatres and breakout areas.

**North Hertfordshire College Hitchin Campus, by Scott BrownRigg**

A clear restructuring of three 1960s system buildings, now unified by a dynamic new central hub.

**Joseph Black Building Laboratories, University of Glasgow, by AHR Architects**  
AHR brought an historic Grade A-listed chemistry lab into the 21st century by skilful interventions and upgrades.

**33 Finsbury Square, University of Liverpool in London, by Smok**  
Polished 'corporate'

remodelling of a 1930s office into a multifunctional higher education facility on a tight 32-week programme.

**UCLU Reception, 25 Gordon Street, by Paul Murphy Architects**

Sustainability and inclusiveness were the key to this deceptively simple overhaul of a tired reception space, with 99 per cent of waste materials recycled.

**Hult International Business School, by Sergison Bates**

A landmark Victorian brewery reworked as a nuanced informal learning environment.

**Cruciform Hub, University College London, by Burwell Deakins**

Burwell Deakins successfully unpicked the legacy issues, such as a lost staircase and walled-up windows of this 110-year-old building.

**Richmond Adult Community College, by Duggan Morris Architects**

Well thought-out consolidation of two buildings in a conservation area. The complex mix of new build and refurb includes a new theatre, reception and cloister.

### Best practice

# Transformation of a redundant courtyard into a vibrant atrium with a ribbon-like feature staircase.  
# Significant reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by upgrading existing mechanical systems and installing a heat recovery system.  
# Creation of new entrance and façade that establishes the building as an important community asset.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY ALAN WILLIAMS