# **North Eastern Quarter Development**_University of Leeds


## The Brief

ADP was originally commissioned in august 2013 to conduct an accommodation strategy review of the faculty of engineering and two specific schools within the faculty of mathematics and physical sciences, namely physics and chemistry. The headline brief for the review asked us to assess the appropriateness of the accommodation currently occupied by the faculty and schools in meeting current and future teaching, research, and administrative requirements. The review was to consider the type, location, quantity, and quality of both current and anticipated future accommodation (both facilities and resources) aligned with the published Internal Planning Exercise (IPE) aspirations of each of schools.

The new centre will provide a new gateway to the campus by redeveloping the old mining building, demolishing the estates building and the central boiler house.

## KEY FEATURES

» Encourages interdisciplinary working and innovation.
» Accommodating cross department fertilisation and cutting edge research environments.
» On track for BREEAM Excellent as a refurbishment and BREEAM Outstanding as a new build.

**Client:** University of Leeds
**Services:** Architectural
**Project Value:** £63m
**Completion Date:** February 2019

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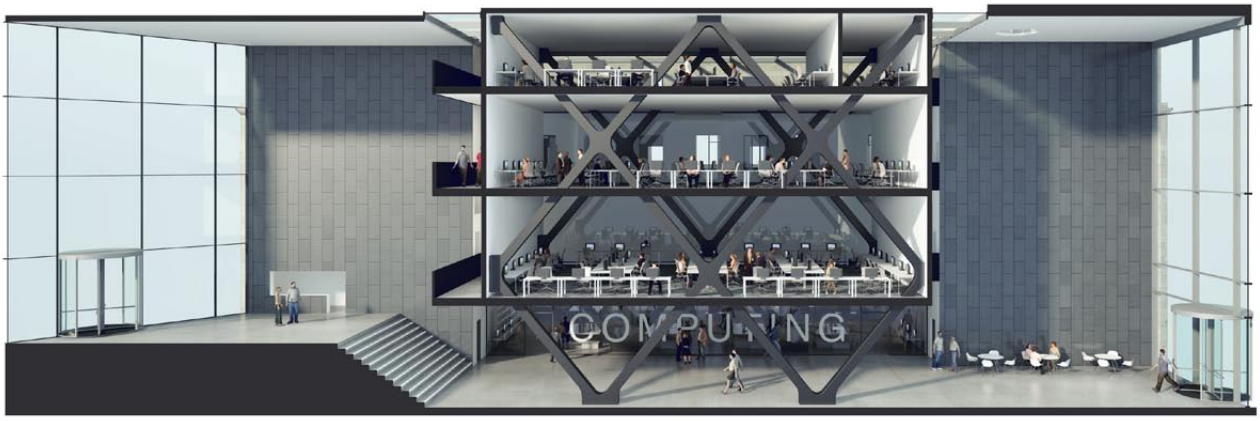

The relationship between the new building, the surrounding listed buildings and St George's field was outlined within the brief. The old mining building is a Grade II* listed building, the estates building sits within the conservation area and the whole development sits adjacent to chemistry which is Grade II* listed. To the rear is St George's field which is also listed.

**Design Solution**

The consultation process was structured to allow each of the schools/faculties and wider university stakeholders to explore the type of accommodation needed to support future teaching, collaborative working, and interdisciplinary research that supports the university's longer term Strategic Plan (the 20215-2025 university masterplan also developed by ADP).

Through a series of detailed and structured consultations the review offered us the opportunity to develop a more strategic vision for each school and, in particular, explore synergies between each of the schools and develop strategies for development that could deliver 'greater than the sum of its parts' solutions. The review was conducted over 24 weeks fitting in when necessary with academic term dates and the availability of key stakeholders. During a two-phase consultation period assessments were made of the appropriateness of existing accommodation.

Outline options were illustrated and discussed as to the best arrangement of future accommodation, its function, location and the opportunities those arrangements afforded. Our review concluded that there was a need for a brand new facility. This led to the birth of the NEQ project.

We were able to work with the project stakeholders over a series of structure consultations to create a model for new workplaces that will lead to improving utilisation, encouraging sharing and interdisciplinary working, sharing of equipment and resources and developing a technical model that delivers the highest quality research environments.

This includes 1000sqm of clean rooms and 3000sqm of low vibration, low EM, CL2 and CL3, optics, radiation, electronics, Microscopy, low-temperature, NMR, bio-nano and biochemistry research environments.

Outcomes explored in our model are better timetabling and utilisation, flexibility in teaching groups large and small in the same space, and maximising the opportunities for sharing of specialist equipment between subject areas leading to opportunities for diversification of curriculum, and modular teaching, combined with complimentary flexible academic offices, seminar rooms, lecture theatres, and social/welfare spaces.

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