



NEWS RELEASE

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For immediate release



From left to right: Interior of the new-look, refurbished Scroope Terrace (© Peter Cook); Exterior of the new eco-architecture studio (© David Butler); The accessible entrance to the new studio is via an enclosed 'bridge' connected to the rear of Scroope Terrace (© Peter Cook); Interior of the new studio (© David Butler).

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UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORY OF ART

IMAGES OF COMPLETED £3M REFURBISHMENT & EXPANSION SCHEME REVEALED

Freeland Rees Roberts Architects and Mole Architects have today revealed the first images of the completed £3M refurbishment and expansion scheme at Scroope Terrace, Cambridge University's Faculty of Architecture and History of Art. The new eco-architecture studio and the major refurbishment of the Georgian 'Scroope Terrace' building for the Department was masterminded by Head of Department Professor Marcial Echenique and designed by Freeland Rees Roberts Architects with Mole Architects. The scheme is designed to unite and strengthen the Department's teaching and research functions.

The official opening will take place on 15th April.

Scroope Terrace consists of a terrace of grade II listed houses, built in the late 1830s and became home to Cambridge University's Department of Architecture in the 1920s. As part of the restructuring and strengthening of the department, Scroope Terrace has been extensively and carefully refurbished to provide office space for the department's research wing, the Martin

Centre, which previously operated from a large Edwardian villa on Chaucer Road.

New space was therefore needed to house the undergraduate design studio which led Professor Marcial Echenique to formulate a strategy to move these facilities into a new studio to be built over an existing car park. However, space for the new building, in which all 120 undergraduates are now taught, was extremely limited due to the boundary of the Royal Cambridge Hotel to the south and existing listed trees to the west.

The form of the newly completed building is determined by its function and a desire to build a naturally cooled, timber framed building. It has been conceived as a contemporary version of a Victorian warehouse building and exists as a column free, open-plan teaching space entirely constructed from timber, and cooled using innovative ceiling panels with a system that exchanges heat with the ground. The large space is defined by an overhanging saw-tooth roof, supported by 15-metre timber trusses, providing excellent natural light without solar gain and forming part of a strategy to allow low-energy cooling. This utilises high-level windows for good cross-ventilation and an innovative water-based cooling system designed by mechanical and electrical engineering consultants, Max Fordham.

Other servicing has been designed to be as sustainable as possible, with radiant heating and cooling provided via a borehole and heat pump system whereby water is circulated from the borehole through the ceiling to absorb heat before being rejected to the ground. A heat pump is used to increase heat transfer and reduce the required borehole depth whilst also reducing the amount of energy needed for heating.

The entrance to the new studio, which is entirely accessible to wheelchair users, is via an enclosed 'bridge' connected to the rear of Scroope Terrace, allowing access to the studios from the main entrance and corridor of the Department. Another open bridge connects the studio to lecture rooms in the existing extension.

Tristan Rees Roberts, Director of Freeland Rees Roberts Architects, commented: "These developments enabled the research unit of the Department of Architecture, the Martin Centre, to be moved to the main Faculty premises at Numbers 1-5 Scroope Terrace. Scroope Terrace comprises a short, symmetrical terrace of houses built in 1839, with an extension built in 1958, designed by architect and ex-Head of Department Professor Sir Colin St John (Sandy) Wilson. The buildings are Georgian and Listed Grade II and the terrace retains many original, decorative

features. It has three storeys with attics and basements and two large rooms on the principal floors. The undergraduate students, who, in the interim, have been located in the old building, have now been moved to the studio which provides their own model-making space and workshop.”

Meredith Bowles of Mole Architects said: “The new studio building uses natural materials and efficient energy and construction systems which minimise the environmental impact of the building. The studio has attracted significant public attention as it has been specifically designed for the Department of Architecture and its students - our architects of the future. The design of the studio will act as an inspiring learning environment and its sustainable construction should aid the students’ experience of designing low energy, ecological buildings in the future.”

John Woods, Project Manager of Cambridge University’s Estate Management and Building Service, commented: “We work with a wide range of buildings presenting a variety of challenges - some are very old and part of the national heritage; others are modern and very sophisticated in their design and servicing. The School of Architecture developments combine both of these through the listed building status of Scroope Terrace and the new, sustainable studio for undergraduates.”

Relocating the students to the new studio extension, designed to be highly robust, will help to reduce the ongoing maintenance issues in the current workshop and studios. New partitions to form Research Offices are of modern design, with glass at high level, in order to reveal the original layout and detailing. The studio extension also permits reorganisation of the existing academic offices which have poor quality, low headroom in the Terrace attic. The refurbishments also improve the quality of academic offices within the Terrace.

Professor Echenique said: "The Department of Architecture is the best teaching department in the UK. With our new research strategy, we will become an international leader in sustainable design, addressing one of the world's most pressing challenges. The Department’s new building is an exemplary sustainable building, with design input from Services Engineers, Structural Engineers and Architects with expertise in this field, who also teach at the University. The much needed refurbishment and alterations to Scroope Terrace have positively improved the interior and the entire scheme will enhance the teaching and learning experience in the Department.”

Clients: University of Cambridge EMBS
Architects: Freeland Rees Roberts Architects/ Mole Architects

Main Contractor	ISG Ltd
Structural Engineer:	Scott Wilson
Quantity Surveyor:	Gardiner & Theobald
Mechanical & Electrical Engineer:	Max Fordham
Project Manager:	Hannah Reed
Planning Supervisor	WS Atkins

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Notes to the Editor

1. For further information, high resolution images of the refurbishment and new studio, an interview, photo or film opportunity, please contact Carri Crook, Carisma Communications, on 01842 815910 or email carri@carismacommunications.co.uk.
2. For further information on the University of Cambridge, please contact Tim Holt or Tom Kirk, Office of Communications, University of Cambridge on 01223 766205.
3. Editors are kindly requested to acknowledge Freeland Rees Roberts Architects and Mole Architects as the architects of the refurbishment and extension scheme at The Faculty of Architecture and History of Art, University of Cambridge.
4. A Tree Report was drawn up and submitted by the architects last year. This outlined methods of construction and of protecting valuable trees to the Western boundary of the site. Working with the Tree Officer, the architects agreed, in principle, a Building Line which safeguards the existing lime trees. Ventilation openings on this elevation are therefore restricted, enabling some ventilation and views of the trees, without any reliance for daylight provision. Similarly the East elevation has narrow windows for ventilation purposes, as does the South elevation, with external timber louvers added to reduce solar gain and to restrict views overlooking the neighbouring Hotel.
5. The new-look Faculty of Architecture and History of Art forms part of Cambridge University's major development programme consisting of more than £600m of construction projects. Estate Management and Building Service, the client of the £3 million refurbishment and expansion scheme, has responsibility for maintaining the University's buildings and gardens, planning and managing its property and facilities as well as procuring its new buildings.
6. The Department is appealing to the profession and in particular to its successful alumni to help build an endowment fund from which practice-based fellows will be financially supported to teach in the studios.