

Addenbrooke's Clinical Research Centre

Client: University of Cambridge
Size: 4000m²
Value: £14m
Status: completion 2016

Our design for a major expansion of the nationally-recognised Addenbrooke's Clinical Research Centre (ACRC) will occupy a prime site within the redeveloped Hospital campus on the southern edge of Cambridge. We have worked closely with the project's multiple stakeholders, clients; funders; masterplanners; advisors and several departments of end-users, to develop a high quality building, with an important frontage on the new campus High Street, that meets the aspirations of enhanced architectural and public realm of the Hospital Trust's '2020 vision' for their developments.

The ACRC will be the principal location on the site where patient-based clinical research, including clinical trials, is undertaken. Researchers will have access to endoscopy and magnetic resonance suites in addition to state-of-the-art 'bod-pod' body composition equipment for metabolic science research.

Our design strategy provides a compact building form utilising the most effective orientation and location for the variety of uses within the building. We have positioned the highly serviced clinical rooms and support spaces within a central 'core' zone, while the day-lit and potentially naturally ventilated spaces—administration, recovery and social functions—are set around the perimeter zones. The central 'core' expression runs through to the west elevation stair tower providing a calmer 'book end' to the more articulated façades of the principal accommodation.

The material palette is a simple combination of high quality materials incorporating reconstituted stone precast cladding units and bronze-tone aluminium cladding panels and windows. The overall composition achieves a visually interesting order and rhythm and through its proportions and contemporary detailing together with the interplay between primary and secondary elements of the structure.

