

# Centenary Building

**Client:** Rothamsted Research (formerly IACR - Institute of Arable Crops Research)

**Size:** 6400m<sup>2</sup>

**Value:** £15.5m

**Appointment:** traditional appointment with full design and supervision responsibilities

This RIBA and Civic Trust award-winning building provides state-of-the-art laboratory and office accommodation for over 200 staff. The brief demanded a high quality environment which was adaptable to meet the changing needs of future research programmes. One of the key requirements was to explore new ways of working, breaking down ownership of space and encouraging social interaction - the antithesis of the existing working patterns within their traditional cellular offices and laboratories.

Our response was to create eight open-plan laboratories, each with access to a range of shared specialist equipment rooms. Researchers can further interact in large shared office and write-up spaces with views out over the central landscaped area of

the campus. A lower ground floor, exploiting the slope of the site, houses nuclear mass resonance and mass spectrometry suites.

The open-plan office zone receives passively cooled air - drawn in at low velocity through the concrete structure before it is introduced into the spaces through floor diffusers. Warm stale air is extracted at high level within the five light-wells, and passed through a thermal wheel energy recovery system before being exhausted.

Following on from this highly successful project our role on the Rothamsted Research site was extended to include a review of the campus master-plan and scheme designs for a number of refurbishments of existing buildings.



*RIBA East Spirit of Ingenuity Best Business Building Award.*

*RIBA East Spirit of Ingenuity Best Client Award.*

*Civic Trust Commendation.*

*RIBA National Awards Shortlist.*

*Hertfordshire Association of Architects Award.*