

Gurdon Institute

Client: University of Cambridge
Size: 6,750m²
Value: £20m
Status: completed 2004

Funded jointly by Cancer Research UK and The Wellcome Trust, the Gurdon Institute brings together University of Cambridge scientists from many departments to study development and cancer biology. The building contains specialist facilities such as; confocal and multiphoton microscopy, bio-informatics, controlled environment rooms for Drosophila (fruit flies) and aquatics. A tea room opening onto a terrace and landscaped gardens provides a lively and invaluable forum for the informal exchange of scientific ideas and cross-fertilisation between research groups.

As laboratory designers and architects, **rhp** led the process of developing the scientific brief directly with the end users, understanding the processes involved and the space needed to accommodate them effectively and economically.

Following on from our earlier masterplan for the site, the design breaks down the mass of the building into pavilions leading off a central spine, providing efficient circulation, excellent daylighting into the laboratories and pleasant views out onto the landscaped spaces between and beyond the pavilions.

