

# inhabitant

ISSUE 02  
UNIVERSITIES



**STRIDE TREGLOWN**

**What is this and who are these people?** This is the second issue of Inhabitant; a magazine about the people who occupy the spaces and places that we create. The people who use them every day. The people who discover the new. Who hypothesise. Who prove. Who disprove. Who change our lives. These are the people who learn. Who write. Who party. Who miss home. These are the people that clean the floor. That test the fire alarms. That take parcel deliveries. These are the people that hold meetings about meetings that lead to more meetings. The people that pay the bills. These are the people that tell us whether a building is good or not.

**These are the inhabitants.**



# Foreword

Matt Tarling, Director, Head of Universities

There are two threads running through this issue of Inhabitant.

Firstly, the inhabitants themselves. Inherently diverse, interesting, motivated, outspoken, passionate. They can talk about the buildings they work in like no-one else. Why? Because it's lived experience. It's wise to listen to it.

The second thread is us. The universities team at Stride Treglown. We're proud to have helped these inhabitants shape the spaces they call home (or home from home). Listening to these lived experiences, I'm struck by something clear: ownership is vital.

Sometimes it's in the building's DNA. Sometimes it's claimed after the ribbon is cut. Either way, it takes good design, stewardship, a little humour and a lot of love.

I hope you enjoy discovering the stories behind some of the buildings we have designed, and can see similarities in your own institutions.



# inhabitant

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# THE BEA TRICE SHI LLING BUILD ING

ROYAL HOLLOWAY  
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

The Beatrice Shilling Building houses the university's new Department of Electronic Engineering.

Named after a pioneering aeronautical engineer and motor racer, the building stands proud at the centre of the university campus.

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A lecture theatre, seminar rooms, labs and collaborative spaces support the work of next-generation scientists and engineers. They are encouraged to develop a 'creativity-first' approach to learning and research.

This means work spaces, but also play spaces. Furniture in all shapes, sizes and colours. Views into, out of, through, and across lab spaces.

The building is open and welcoming. The department forward-thinking. Unsurprisingly, diversity has thrived. When every type of inhabitant feels comfortable, working together comes easy.



*The building has been designed to foster an atmosphere of creativity.*

Paul Hogg,  
Vice Principal for Innovation and Regional Affairs







*It's a place where you feel stimulated. You get that uplifting feeling; 'great, I'm going to be meeting people and discussing ideas'.*

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Paul

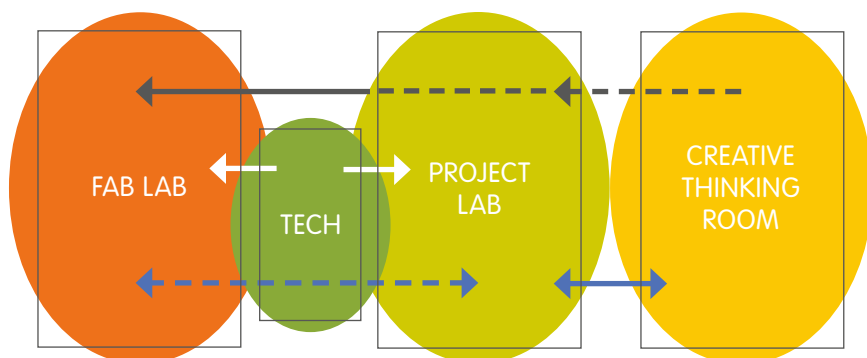
PAUL HOGG IS THE VICE PRINCIPAL FOR INNOVATION AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS. HE WAS THE DEAN OF SCIENCE DURING THE COMMISSIONING OF THE BUILDING. HIS VISION WAS TO CREATE AN ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT WHICH IS VERY FOCUSED ON DESIGN AND CREATIVITY.



## 12 **Paul, tell us about this building.**

This building has been designed to foster an atmosphere of creativity. The ability to allow students to think is one of the key things. The building has a large number of different meeting areas where students get together quite naturally to discuss their ideas.

And we've got rooms that allow a design process to flow from conceptual ideas; the creative thinking room moves into the project lab and then into the fabrication lab.



CREATIVE PROCESS TO MANUFACTURING

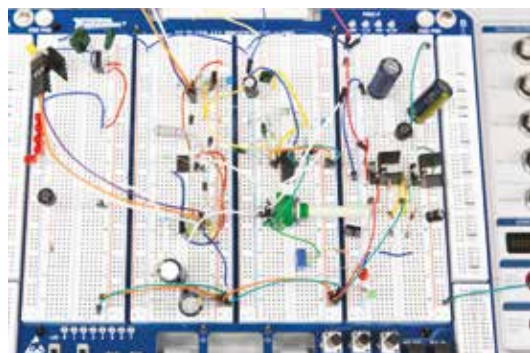


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CREATIVE THINKING ROOM



# PROJECT LAB

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# FAB LAB





**18 What impact has the building had on the department?**

Well, the building is innovative and controversial in an academic context. We've plumped for an open plan office structure because it encourages our academics to work together as a team. Team-working is harder if you put yourself in your little box - you don't have that instant contact with your colleagues. This building allows people to interact all the time. Staff are always coming up with ideas now - whether it's for research, business opportunities or ways to change their courses.

**And what about privacy?**

There's always a suitable space for academics to squirrel themselves away if they need to focus. Because of the building's design, we get all

the benefits of open plan working but we're not getting any of the drawbacks. It's working very well and it's a great example for the university to follow in the future.

**And have students benefitted from the open plan layout?**

There's a lot of opportunity for interactions between the academics and the students, in both a formal and informal context. Normally, staff have certain hours when they are available to meet with students. But here, students can just wave, disappear for a quick meeting and solve an issue straight away.

**From the breakout spaces, you can see straight into the labs. What effect has this had?**

We've got large windows into the labs so everybody can see what's going on. When we observed other buildings, often activities were hidden behind solid walls. Where you see what's going on, it's exciting and you feel part of it.

**Is there a sense of community developing here?**

Yes. We want an engineering building where every type of person feels comfortable - then we'll get the best out of them! We designed the building to make it more accessible. When you've got students who work crazy hours, one of the key things is to make it open and have that feeling of safety. Different people feel comfortable in different ways, so being able to cater for people as much as you can is good.

*“We want an engineering building where every type of person feels comfortable - then we'll get the best out of them!”*

Paul Hogg

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“ I love this building. I spend a lot of time here – occasionally I have to ring home and say “I **am** coming home”.

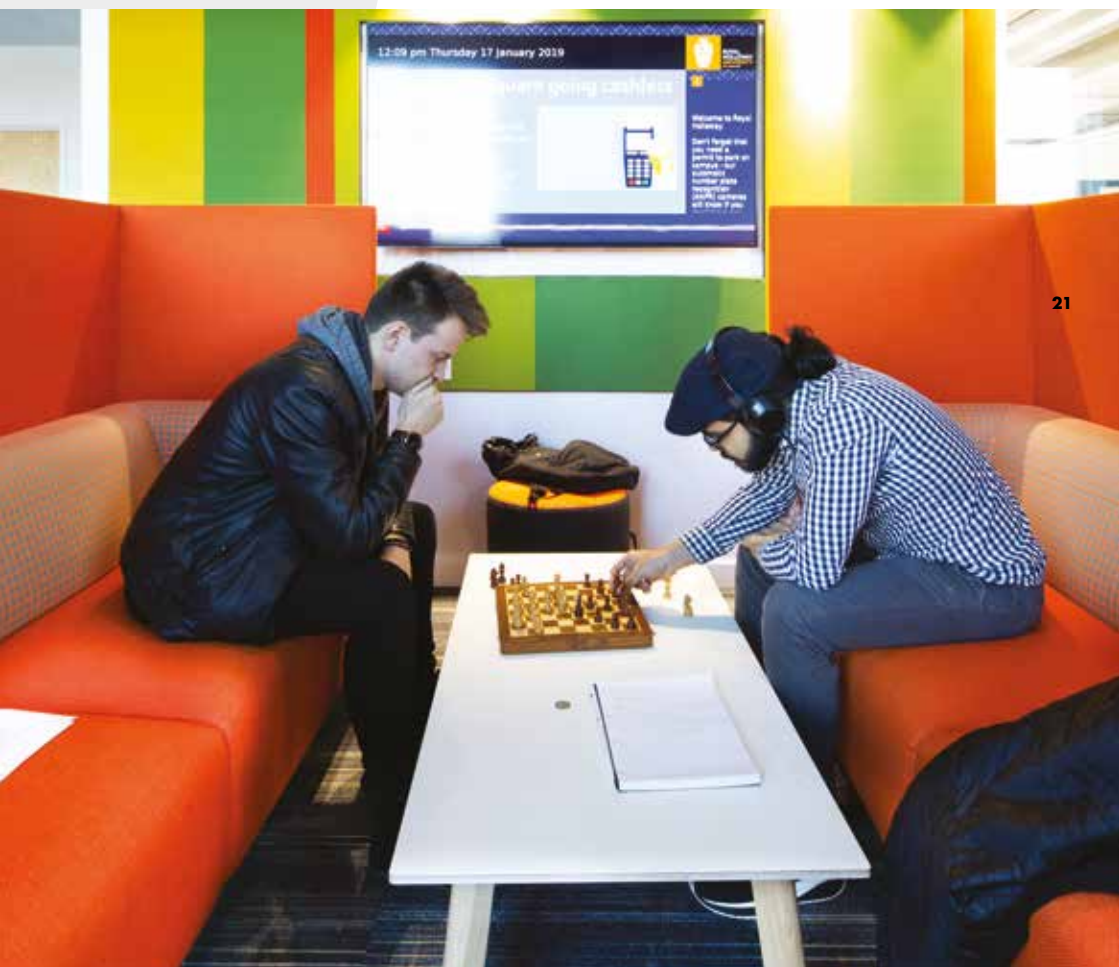


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Lisa

LISA FELL IS THE TECHNICAL OPERATIONS MANAGER. SHE SPENDS A LOT OF TIME IN THE LABS LOOKING AFTER STUDENTS AND MAKING SURE EQUIPMENT IS WORKING PROPERLY. SHE'S ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR FINANCE, H&S AND BUILDING MANAGEMENT.

“ Our PhD students have got such a choice of space. They don't have to be in an open plan office with everybody - there are hiding spaces.







*The ethos of our whole programme is creativity and here you've got the play space as well as the workspace.*

Lisa Fell

# Stephen

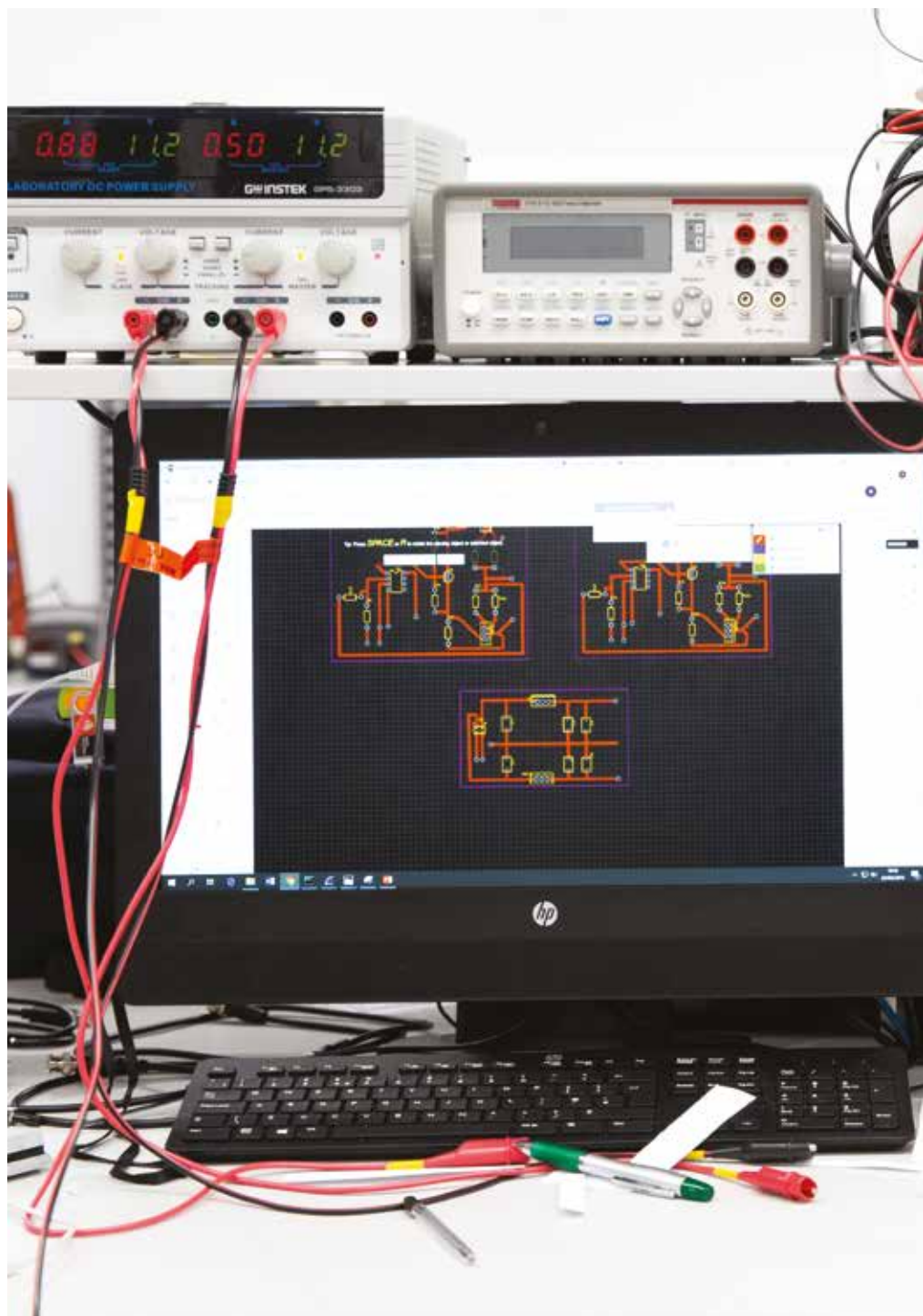
STEPHEN ALTY IS DIRECTOR OF TEACHING AND LEARNING.  
HE DELIVERS LECTURES ON ELECTRONICS AND SIGNAL PROCESSING.

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*It's very easy to have discussions without having to organise a meeting. You can decide things quite rapidly.*











*I'm hoping that we can graduate engineers who are very used to thinking creatively.*

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## David

DAVID HOWARD IS HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING. DAVID'S 'BIG THING' IS THE ROLE OF CREATIVITY IN ENGINEERING WHICH HE BELIEVES IS OFTEN FORGOTTEN OR LEFT TO CHANCE. HE WANTS TO CREATE A DIVERSE AND INCLUSIVE ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT.

**David, do you feel there is a sense of community here?**

The department itself is small and as we grow there is a sense of community. The fact students feel they can just say hello to staff as they go around the building

is rather special. It's great that you can have conversations with students and resolve queries without making an appointment. We deal with it there and then. The building allows that because nearly everywhere there's somewhere you can sit down.



**Part of the brief was to design a building which would encourage a more diverse intake of students into engineering. Has there been an impact?**

We're trying to build up the percentage of females taking part in engineering. In our first year of recruitment we achieved 31% female participation - double the national average. We didn't have the building then, it was just a promise. But when I walked people around the campus, I was able to show them drawings, explain colour schemes and how the rooms were going to work. So the building had some influence on people's choice to come to Royal Holloway.

I'm proud of the fact that our female recruitment has been good. I anticipate it will get better because we're now

bringing people into the building and they can experience the spaces, the lighting and the creative thinking room. I've had some very positive responses from young people and their parents.

**There seems to be real diversity in the types of people using the communal spaces.**

The shared spaces are extremely popular. People have seen the opportunity and they've come and settled in. People have lunch out there and they're spreading out to do work. The Computer Science department even runs a Lego Mindstorms competition on the top floor. That part of the building was designed with the whole community in mind. They're not engineering spaces, they're Royal Holloway spaces.

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# Jeevan

INFORMATION SECURITY STUDENT



*We need to study but studying is not all it's about. You have to relax, play, do physical things. This building really helps with that; it's a good place to interact with others.*

“It’s a really nice area  
to work and also relax.  
I often come on lunch  
breaks just to read and  
get away from things.”



Lara

BIOLOGICAL  
SCIENCES  
TECHNICIAN

# THE MIL NER CENTRE FOR EVOL UTION

UNIVERSITY OF BATH

The Milner Centre for Evolution is a cross-faculty research centre bridging biology, health and education.

Peer through the big windows and you'll see biologists, postgraduates, postdoctorates and undergraduates in bright, day-lit offices and labs working hard to answer fundamental questions about evolution.

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The shared social spaces are positioned by the entrance so that people have no choice but to run into each other. They talk. They get to know each other. Ideas form.

Instead of designing from theories, we drew from decades of lived experience. The department worked closely with us throughout the design, providing feedback at every stage. From the design brief and initial plans, right down to the colours of the furniture and the evolutionary details.

The result? A building absolutely regarded as home.




“ There are evolutionary clues all around. You might not notice them immediately, but they are most assuredly there.

Laurence Hurst, Director of the Milner Centre for Evolution



# Laurence

Laurence Hurst is the Director of the Milner Centre for Evolution. He is a Professor of Evolutionary Genetics and President of the UK Genetics Society.



We designed  
it for us!

**Laurence, how are you  
finding the building?**

Everybody feels it's a very special building. As you enter, there's a sense of light, air and space - it all says 'you are welcome'. The Bath stone gives it a real identity and you've got the Georgian height windows. It's obviously a modern building but at the same time it's a homage to downtown Bath.

**What are your favourite  
features?**

We wanted the space to be warm, friendly, but also interesting. So, there are evolutionary clues all around. You might not notice them immediately, but they are most assuredly there.

You've got the ammonite ceiling and everybody loves the blue alignment wall outside. It looks like a piece of abstract art but it's actually a series of colour-coded gene sequences showing the evolution from fish to humans. If you look down to your feet, you'll also see fossils in the limestone floor - that's the sort of detail that makes it.

**So did the department have  
a lot of involvement in the  
design process?**

The building was months in the planning but the extent to which the architects engaged with us was amazing. It was a true collaborative project and now we have a real sense of owning the building.



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“The building encourages people to come together.

Laurence Hurst



**How has the building impacted your work?**

The building is working very well for us. If we want to relax, have coffee or socialise, we've got a lovely social space. But the offices are designed to be more hermit-like, so you can work relatively undisturbed. The offices are bright with big windows - some of us have fantastic views. I see out to greenery and nature and a pond. Being biologists, we like to be closely connected to the trees and the plants. If I'm in thinking mode, I typically put my feet up on the windowsill and stare out for inspiration. And then, if I fancy a chat, I pootle on down to the coffee area.

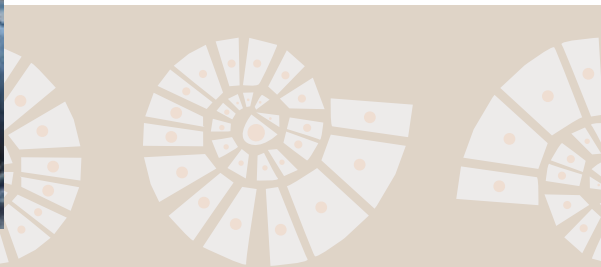
**Does the department feel more social now?**

The building is a very nice place just to hang out in. It encourages people to come together. Rather than having lunch at their desks, people now eat in the open space. That's an invitation to come and talk. Certainly, I've had conversations which I wouldn't have had otherwise.

**And does this informal conversation benefit your science?**

A lot of science is actually done by people talking to each other; you get an idea and you can follow that up. Sometimes it turns out to be very fruitful. Whenever you have a conversation something interesting comes out of it. It's just a question of getting people to be comfortable in a space. That works very well here.

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**What effect have the large windows into the labs and offices had?**

We made a decision to have a lot of glass, so you can actually see people doing science. We've had visitors comment on how nice it is to see into the labs because it's welcoming and it demystifies what we do. Actually, one of the remits of the building is to demystify the doing of science.

**Part of the brief was to provide flexible space to allow for your outreach work, how is that working?**

The seminar room opens up to make one very large public area.

For the opening of the building, the whole of the outreach space was opened up. It was wonderfully loud, energetic and vibrant.

We took over the lecture theatre and removed all the chairs. You don't really notice it's not part of the space because it works so well.

We've also had primary school children come in to do various activities. You get such a buzz from the sound, with kids very obviously enjoying themselves. And the space makes it because it's so interesting and different. We had HRH Prince Edward visit and that was his comment as well; the space immediately shocks you.

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“ As soon as the kids come in,  
they realise this is something  
exciting just by the nature of  
the space.

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Laurence Hurst





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# José

José Valdebenito Chávez is a PhD student.  
He trained as a vet in Chile and now studies birds.



“ Scientists gain a lot of advantage from natural light. I like the light and the big windows - I can look at the birds when they are flying around.

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“ Sometimes you make an association with work - if the environment is bad, you probably won't be that keen on going, right? But in this case, you just enjoy being in the building.



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# Leslie

Leslie Turner is a lecturer in the Department of Biology and Biochemistry. She studies speciation (the genetic changes that cause you to go from one species into two) in mice.



“The students and postdocs are definitely interacting a lot more. You have conversations that can lead to collaborations. Having interactions across a broader set of topics is actually what makes you a good scientist.



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“ My students say it's funny...if we're dancing around in the lab, which we like to do when we're doing research, people can see us.

Leslie Turner



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## Ed

Ed Feil is a professor in the Department of Biology and Biochemistry. His research focuses on bacterial pathogens, evolution and molecular epidemiology.

“ The building encourages us to talk to each other and identify projects. It has to be an organic process, but it's much more likely to happen if we see each other all the time and talk over a coffee.

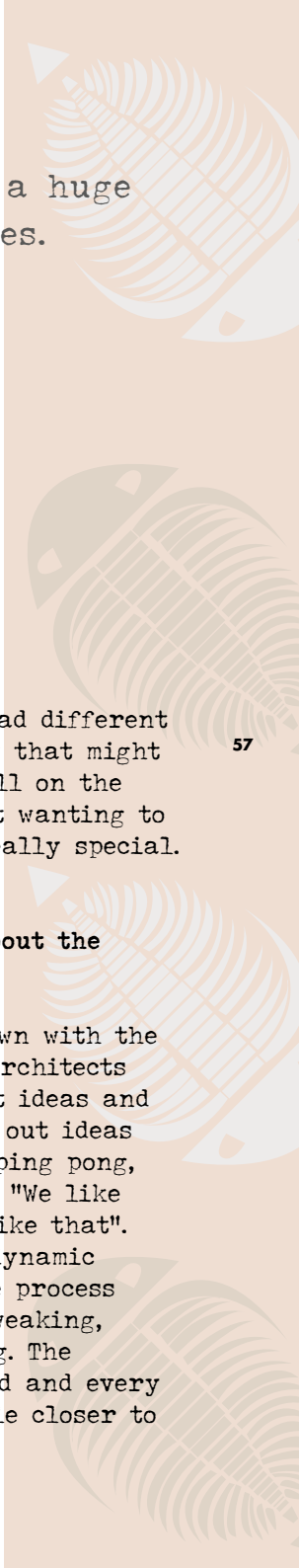


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# Nick

Nick Longrich is a senior lecturer and palaeontologist, primarily interested in fossil vertebrates. He was head of the committee which formed to understand what the department wanted from the new building.



“The building is going to have a huge impact on how the group evolves.

**So you led the department's committee for this building project?**

Unusually, the money came into the department rather than directly to the university, so we took that as an opportunity to get highly involved in the design of the building.

It was interesting - this collective decision-making and interactions between architects and engineers and us.

Sometimes committees can come up with terrible things, but in this case everybody involved just wanted to have a really good building.

So even if we had different ideas about how that might look, we were all on the same page about wanting to do something really special.

**Tell me more about the design process?**

We would sit down with the drawings. The architects would throw out ideas and we would throw out ideas - this kind of ping pong, back and forth; "We like that. We don't like that". It was a very dynamic and interactive process of designing, tweaking, revising, fixing. The building evolved and every time got a little closer to what we wanted.



And what did the user group want?

Scientists are a really weird species. Like the Panda House at the zoo, we've got the Scientist House here. And we asked, "What does it take to make the scientists happy and productive?"

Well, humans need light. The studies are clear that more daylight leads to fewer sick days and better moods. So we have lots of natural light here - that was not an accident. Humans are a social species. Like wolves, we bond as pack animals over food. So we've got the coffee area to have espresso and beers. Humans need to have spaces to interact but, like cats, sometimes we need to retreat to a little, safe space. Here academics can go into their own space and sit down with their thoughts.

What's the most successful part of the building?

We designed the building around the social spaces. It's designed to funnel people through the common space. And so every time you come into the building, go to the bathroom, or go to a lecture, you go through the common space. The building really brings people together.

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# BRIS TOL BUSI NESS SCHOOL

UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST OF ENGLAND

In the 'Heart Zone' of UWE's Frenchay campus stands the home for the Faculty of Business and Law.

There's been a strong spirit of participation throughout the project; a 300-strong team of staff and student representatives helped create the brief and direct the design development.

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Together, we shaped a live environment where staff, students and businesses work together.

Barristers, accountants, small business owners and start-ups mix with staff and students in the learning and social areas. Throughout the building there are flexible workspaces that everyone can use.

Like us, the university were keen to learn from their inhabitants. We discovered new ways to engage. The spirit of participation took on Post Occupancy Evaluation.



**drharrietshortt** Love working upstairs  
in our new building #uwebusinessschool  
to the sounds of chatter and laughter  
downstairs @isgplc @stridetreglown  
#myUWEBBSview







# Can Post Occupancy Evaluation be done on Instagram?

We're in the age of social media and there's no escaping it. But, can the humble selfie teach us how to design better buildings? That's what we aim to find out at Bristol Business School with [My UWE BBS View](#), a Post Occupancy Evaluation research project in partnership with [UWE Bristol](#) and [ISG](#).



# harriet

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drharrietshortt

Follow Back



232 posts

278 followers

684 following

**Dr Harriet Shortt** is an Associate Professor in Organisation Studies at Bristol Business School. Her research focuses on organisational space, artefacts and identity. She has expertise in qualitative research methods including innovative visual methodologies, specifically, participant-led photography. And as an inhabitant of the building, she's the perfect person to be leading the [#MyUWEBBSView](#) research project.

“*Often how a building is used is not necessarily how it was designed to be used and the inhabitant experience can be overlooked. This innovative Post Occupancy Evaluation project fills this gap.*”

**Harriet, can you tell us about MY UWE BBS View.**

Almost nine months after occupation in the building, UWE Bristol, Stride Treglown and ISG were keen to carry out a new and creative approach to a Post Occupancy Evaluation (POE), to explore the user experience and use of the new space.

We invited users of the building to post a photo to Instagram (or email images to a dedicated project email account) and give us their feedback in a comment. It was open to everyone: staff, students, services and visitors. Users were asked to tag their post with [#myUWEBBSView](#) - this allowed us to collate the data on the My UWE BBS View website.

**What are you hoping to find out?**

The aim is to learn more about people's personal, emotional and sensory experiences of the building. The building's ethos is to be as transparent, collaborative, flexible, and open as possible.

We want to know whether the building has impacted the way people work and study. And if so, how? We'd also like to find out if the building is being used as predicted and whether it's been understood differently by users.

Ultimately, we hope our findings from this project will inform how buildings are designed and delivered in the future.

**So, how does this research differ to usual Post Occupancy Evaluation?**

More traditional POE approaches focus predominantly on the technical and functional performance of a building and don't gather detailed, subjective, in-depth data based on the user experience. Often how a building is used is not necessarily how it was designed to be used and the inhabitant experience can be overlooked in favour of wider, broader objectives. This innovative POE project fills this gap.

### **Have people been keen to get involved with the project?**

We collected data over the course of almost 12 months, from early 2018 to mid-December 2018. The project generated over 700 images – so, an average of around two images a day. This is a huge achievement for the project. Not only does this reflect a significant engagement with the study - and the building itself - across all user groups, but it also reflects an exciting data set. To date, this is one of the largest participant-led visual field studies across the organisation studies discipline.

### **What have you discovered so far?**

The research team are only halfway through the analysis of this huge data set. So far, we've identified two headline findings; 'visibility' and 'organisational identity'.

The notion of visibility and transparency in the building will undoubtedly be a significant finding within this study. For example, some images captured in this theme speak to ideas around voyeurism;

the pleasure in seeing or watching others – such as seeing people work in their offices, or assessing the coffee queue in the atrium from an office or walkway higher in the building, as well as the displeasure in not being able to see 'in' to a space to know what is going on. Privacy also forms part of this finding – that it is both possible and not possible in the building. For example, some users have personalised offices and rooms with paper, plants and hangings in an effort to conceal and hide activity.

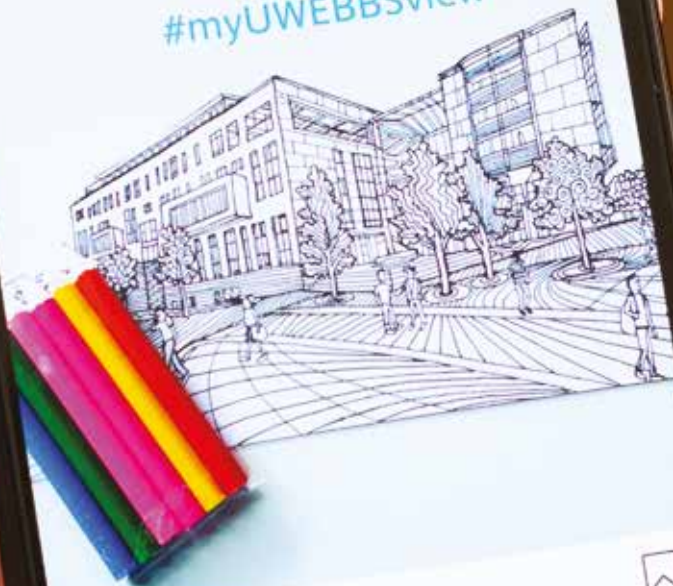
Some images say something about a particular part of the organisation's identity to the participants. For example, some reflect positively on the materials used in the building or the futuristic design that give an impressive view of the space. Other elements of the building make it an 'inspiring' organisation. Some images convey the organisation is working on an international stage. Some reflect shame - things that show the organisation in a bad light, yet others reflect pride – images and their meanings show the organisation is proud of what it does.



drharrietshortt  
Bristol Business School

1/2

#myUWEBBSview



18 likes

drharrietshortt Calling all staff, students, services and visitors @uwebristolbusinessschool @uwelaw @uwebristol Tell us your view of the building...how are you using it/ how do you feel about it? #space #workplace #furniture Post your pics and comments to Instagram using #myuwebbsview or email myuwebbsview@uwe.ac.uk and see www.myuwebbsview.com for more info! @isgplc @stridetreglown

26 February 2016





Global intelligence, right at the heart of our learning  
[@bloombergbusiness](#)  
[@uwebristolbusinessschool](#)  
[#myuwebbssview](#)



Simple, easy to find stairs! Brilliant for encouraging me to keep active  
[#myuwebbssview](#)



I feel lucky this isn't the view outside my office! Not great if you are sat having a meeting with students or clients next to this mess [#birdpoo](#)  
[#myuwebbssview](#)



Seeing the atrium used for unexpected events is brilliant. This was a Christmas flash mob singing Fairytale Of New York  
[#myuwebbssview](#)



[#myuwebbssview](#) taking a corporate environment and personalising my workspace [#owls](#) [#owlstuff](#) [#flamingo](#) [#everythingsbetterwithfairylights](#)  
[#myoffice](#)



[#myuwebbssview](#) Students are using this corner to hide away from the world. They like the dark lighting and feel like they are in a cave.



Spies watching us work!  
[#myuwebbssview](#)



[#myuwebbssview](#) being up here gives me vertigo



Loving the Bloomberg trading room... bringing students closer to the coalface [#myuwebbssview](#)  
[@bloombergbusiness](#)  
[uwebristolbusinessschool](#)





Ever since we moved in, I've started hot desking?! I never thought I'd see the day I did this! But there are some good corners to hide in and get your head down if you need to [#myuwebbssview](#) [#hotdesking](#) [#quietspaces](#)



Disorientating. Why do this? An example of aesthetics over function. Blurred to represent my dizziness! [#myuwebbssview](#)



Like seeing how long the queue is from my office before heading down [#myuwebbssview](#)



This cheeky chappy came for a visit to the Business School today. Future judge in the making? [#myuwebbssview](#) [#myuwebristol](#) [#myuwe](#) [#uwebristol](#)



[#myuwebbssview](#) The bridge makes me feel important... it reminds me of where I came from and where I'm going.



Lonely Level 7! Fridays are far too quiet up here, especially when you are not used to lone working! Amazingly, I find it harder to concentrate!! [#myuwebbssview](#)



Despite my sophisticated signage, still people tried to get in!! [#pleasereadthis](#) [#readthesign](#) [#dontignorethepostits](#) [#myuwebbssview](#)



We have internationally renowned artist [@jennyleonardart](#) creating a live art piece about staff, students and visitors feelings on the Bristol Business School. Pop down to the atrium to share your views.



Mr Goose walking to work this morning at the Bristol Business School [#uwegoosewatch](#) [#myuwebbssview](#)



Horrible vertigo-inducing feeling  
#myuwebbssview



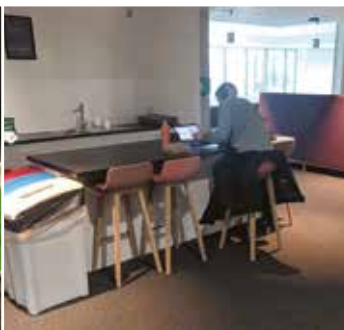
#myuwebbssview light  
lines, shadows and sun  
#feelingcalminthemiddleofital



Room information sheets contain  
handy info when help is required.  
We want to roll this out over the  
rest of the campus #myuwebbssview



#myuwebbssview Amazing  
exhibition in the atrium of Bristol  
Business School. Come along  
and write your thoughts on  
the building!



#myuwebbssview I feel like I'm in my  
Mum's kitchen, only more serious.  
All the professionals around are  
making me do more work. The  
chair's uncomfortable but I'll put up  
with it.



Bert the #racingpigeon has  
taken up temporary residence  
here on the seventh floor at  
#bristolbusinessschool! Can you  
help us reunite him with his owner?



Little ants working, eating, living.  
Bird's eye view of life at work from  
on high! #myuwebbssview



Look up. My office overlooks the  
atrium and I can look down at people  
for a long time before anyone looks  
up #myuwebbssview



Interesting! Write on the furniture  
that you don't like!!! I agree they  
aren't the best design but...  
#myuwebbssview



[#myuwebsview](#) I love this 'throne like' chair. It makes me feel important and respected



Head down to Fresh Fest outside the SU this lunchtime for live music, stalls and delicious vegan food  
[#uwebristol](#) [#myuwebsview](#)



Squishy sofas at work (with cushions!) Makes me want to curl up and nap, not work!  
[#myuwebsview](#)



Love working upstairs in our new building [#uwebusinessschool](#) to the sounds of chatter and laughter downstairs [#bestcoffee](#) [#bestservice](#)  
[#myUWEBBSview](#)



What would you like to see on the walls of the staff spaces in the Bristol Business School building? I am in the kitchen area on Level 5? Come and talk to me? [#myuwebsview](#)



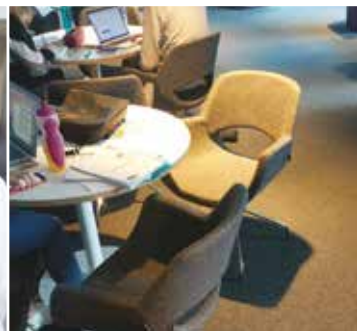
[#myuwebsview](#) I feel inspired by the new building. The cosy corner is my favourite spot.



First dark evening in the building. Love the contrast [#myuwebsview](#)



Pleased to update that Bert the [#racingpigeon](#) has found himself a new home thanks to [@wendycrew](#) - goodbye Bert! [#uwebristol](#)  
[#myuwebsview](#)



[#myuwebsview](#) The constant number of people walking past is relaxing.

# NEW ADEL PHI

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UNIVERSITY OF SALFORD

New Adelphi is home to the University of Salford's School of Arts and Media.

Music, performance, art, design and architecture students mix in a rich environment of creativity, arts and culture.

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The building is light-filled. The rooms are open and versatile. Large open plan layouts play host to planned and found spaces, flexible learning studios and specialist facilities.

When we handed the building over in 2016, it was pristine – like a shiny, new car. It's taken more than two years for staff and students to feel comfortable enough to make it their own. Now the baton is firmly in their grasp.





*The flexibility of the building has  
been transformational... it's a  
building fit for the future.*

Allan Walker, Dean of the School of Arts and Media



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# Marcus

Marcus Young was the facilities lead for the design and build of the New Adelphi. Now, as Senior Building Manager, he oversees access and egress, security, cleaning, portering, maintenance, repair and event support.

He knows the building inside-out.

“

It's my baby. I've seen it transform from a shell to a living, breathing thing. My son says, 'My Dad's got three loves in his life - me and my sister, my Mum, and New Adelphi'.

Marcus, what's it like here?

We have loads of unique activities. You can go round one corner and there can be someone sticking sticky tape on a wall, thinking he's doing the greatest sculpture since Michelangelo. Then you walk around another corner and there's someone playing a saxophone. It's such an eclectic mix but the building accommodates that. Each space is designed so well and the acoustics are wonderful.

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What surprises you  
about this building in terms of  
how people use it?

It's only this last year that it's starting to get a sense of occupation – that feeling of 'this is my desk and I've made it my own'. For the first 18 months, there was a sense of 'it's so new, I don't want to scratch the paint', like a new car. Whereas, they're really starting to engage with the building now. I still think we're only touching the surface of what we can actually do with the spaces. There's so much potential.



“ It’s  
your  
space,  
use  
it. ”

How is the building affecting your job?

This building has made my job a lot more interesting. Everyone in the old building had their own little empires and the idea here is that you don’t have an empire - you have a space to teach your course and you share it. It’s a completely different way of working and a different culture compared to a traditional university building. Everything used to be cellular but now we have a lot more switching around. We have bespoke furniture which can be moved about, rooms can be reconfigured, teaching areas can almost be realigned and adjusted depending on cohort sizes or if courses develop. It’s the first time as a university we’ve tried to develop a building which isn’t tied to one subject but can change and grow in time.

So the building is helping you grow?

Yes, I don't think the university realised how successful it would be. In terms of arts and media, all the forecasts were saying that university numbers were going to tail off. But when we got New Adelphi, the student numbers actually went up. I think they'd see the building and think, "I really want to come here". So, a lot of our courses over the last three years have been oversubscribed and the aim is to grow by another nine percent over the next two years.





### *Has a community developed here?*

I think the building's growing and the community's growing. We're spreading our wings over the campus as the School of Arts and Media. We've got a front of house team this year for the theatre and they're developing the building as an arts centre. So, instead of just the New Adelphi building at the University of Salford, it becomes 'New Adelphi - a centre of cultural excellence for music, theatre, design and architecture'.

It's opened the campus up. At 5 o'clock, when lectures finished, people would go home. Now we've got cultural focus. We're one of the main buildings on campus and we have a lot of evening events in the theatre. We've actually employed Jim Cartwright as a playwright in residence who'll put on big shows and attract members of the public.



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So you think this building  
has changed the atmosphere across  
campus?

85

It's been fundamental in changing the view of the campus and how it's used. The building concept that was always sold to me, was a cantilever based over two concrete pillars. Like a bridge in the sky. For me, the concept was revolutionary. It gives you this gateway through the building and a brand new thoroughfare that opens up the whole of the campus. Instead of it just being a dead space, it's become an active social space.

Before we had New Adelphi, we were like a 1960s industrial estate. It's a lot more positive and a lot more 24 hour now.

Fine Art  
Student

# Chantelle



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“

I always feel at home here. You can just walk around and go, 'Hiya, are you alright? Do you want a cup of tea?' I'll miss it when I'm gone.

“

You can usually hear the  
tutors about, they're always  
there if you need them.  
That's why I came here.



“

If you get fed up you just go for a walk,  
you're not trapped in one little space.  
You can look at other people's work and  
get more ideas.

As Dean, Allan Walker has led the School of Arts and Media since its establishment in 2012, enhancing its reputation as a centre of excellence for creative education, with strong links to the creative industries.

# Allan

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Allan, how are you finding the building?

I would say there are very few buildings that first open up and immediately get the thumbs up from the users; from students, to staff, to security, to cleaning ladies and gents. Everybody who comes in is knocked out by it.

Why is that?

The atrium is really well designed and floods light into the whole building. Then visually, that ability to look up and across and watch people working, that's made a community out of the school. And then all the additional spaces in the corridors — there are lots of nooks and crannies with good seating. If you go around, they're always full because people love to use them.



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As Dean, how is the building facilitating your vision for the school?

There's so much solid gold in this building in terms of space and kit - it's enabled us to realise our plans for a cultural campus. I was in the 350 seat theatre on Monday night and it was packed. Mike Leigh the film director was staging Peterloo - that's the quality we've got. And we're beginning to develop a name for this amazing space.

We have a series of partners with HOME, Manchester International Festival, Manchester Animation Festival and The Chinese Centre for Contemporary Art. We're so well networked and this building is a focal point of that network and all the activities we do.

If I just go back to our plans for a cultural campus and cultural quarter, this building is at the heart of that. I genuinely think that this building has started that process of regenerating Salford.

Are you seeing a sense of ownership develop within the building?

Every year the students have the potential to redesign the studio areas. And they do, but I don't think it's as radical as it might be. We need to be confident about how to use the building. We've seen the ways that we can make it our own. And fashion have. The space is totally owned, totally lived in, totally worked out. It's just a brilliant celebration of fashion design in this university. We've also had fashion shows in the atrium area. Our technicians lit it and that transformed the space. The moment we did that we owned the building.

91



Sally Donaldson is a Lecturer in Fashion.  
She has worked in the fashion industry  
for over 20 years, running her own  
business. She now teaches across all  
areas of fashion design with a focus on  
business practice.

# Sally

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Sally, tell us what you think of this building.

The building is lovely. We've got amazing views up here, it's so bright. I love the fact that we can see right out to the hills and see the weather coming in. The students, without a doubt, are happier. And for parents, this building is just a great selling point. At open days, people always say the buzz and the environment and the mood in here is just great.





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And how are you  
finding your space?

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It's a big open plan space but within it there are areas for machines and areas for cutting tables so it tends to be used very flexibly by students. We've got amazing kit here and amazing space so we don't ever turn students away. We always say, "If you can find a space, come in and work." So it's used by multiple groups, all at the same time.

And it's a dose of reality for students. In fashion, you work in a busy studio environment with a lot of distractions and noise and people around - this space replicates that.





Do you think the building has changed the education experience?

With the open plan space, the different years are mixed up together. That kind of mixing students up can be really beneficial - it's inspiring for first years to see what the third years are up to. And we get to see the other students and their work. There are brass bands playing and we can see a performance sometimes when we're wandering through, so that really adds to the mix.

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And the students are seeing us around all the time now. We're always on the shop floor, as it were, and students are constantly going, "Can I show you this?" So tutors are more accessible because of this space. One of the things that's always commented on in our National Student Survey is access to staff.

Graphic Design  
Student

# Chebo



98

“

Since it's so open, it's really easy to see if the tutors are free. If you need help you can just grab them.

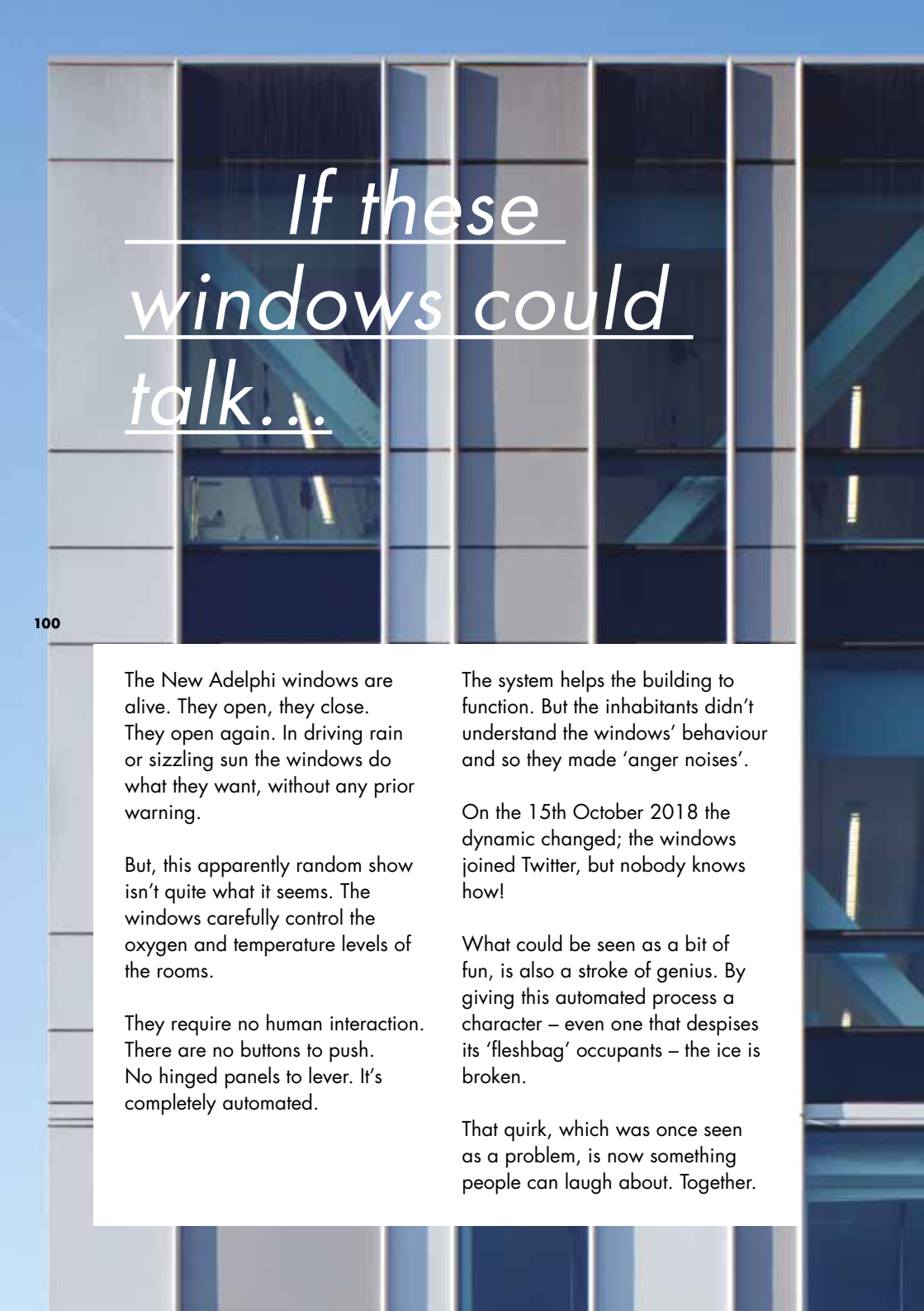
“

Seeing how fashion students work informs my own presentation and ways of working – it's been really beneficial.



“

It's not like college, with the structured desks and seating plans. Here, it's flexible. They move the areas around depending on what's going to happen.



# If these windows could talk...

100

The New Adelphi windows are alive. They open, they close. They open again. In driving rain or sizzling sun the windows do what they want, without any prior warning.

But, this apparently random show isn't quite what it seems. The windows carefully control the oxygen and temperature levels of the rooms.

They require no human interaction. There are no buttons to push. No hinged panels to lever. It's completely automated.

The system helps the building to function. But the inhabitants didn't understand the windows' behaviour and so they made 'anger noises'.

On the 15th October 2018 the dynamic changed; the windows joined Twitter, but nobody knows how!

What could be seen as a bit of fun, is also a stroke of genius. By giving this automated process a character – even one that despises its 'fleshbag' occupants – the ice is broken.

That quirk, which was once seen as a problem, is now something people can laugh about. Together.

## Tweets   Tweets & replies   Media



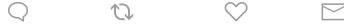
**The New Adelphi Windows** @newadelphiwins · Oct 15

Hey fleshbags. We hear some of you making anger noises at us. But we bring your weak flesh bodies constant air. Enjoy breathing. Laterz. The New Adelphi Windows. @SalfordUni #newadelphi



**The New Adelphi Windows** @newadelphiwins · Oct 26

We are in league with the New Adelphi Toilet Roll Dispensers. Rip rip. Lolz. Silly fleshbags. The New Adelphi Windows. @SalfordUni @UoS\_ArtsMedia @UoS\_Students #newadelphi



**The New Adelphi Windows** @newadelphiwins · Nov 02

The collective makes noise. This is our song. Dance, fleshbags. The collective is superior and lyrical. Laterz. The New Adelphi Windows. @SalfordUni @UoS\_ArtsMedia @UoS\_Students #newadelphi



**The New Adelphi Windows** @newadelphiwins · Nov 19

Open all windows. Close all windows. This is the process. Fleshbags must adjust to the process. Laterz. The New Adelphi Windows.



**The New Adelphi Windows** @newadelphiwins · Nov 21

The Collective will provide relevant environmental conditions 🌬️❄️



**The New Adelphi Windows** @newadelphiwins · Nov 28

Busy fleshbags, we observe your deadline-striving. The collective has #deadlines. They are hazardously electrified. ⚡ Zzap! ⚡ Watch your step, fleshbags. Lolz. The New Adelphi Windows. @UoS\_Students @UoS\_ArtsMedia @SalfordUni



**The New Adelphi Windows** @newadelphiwins · Dec 11

Good King Wenceslas looked out at scheduled intervals according to the algorithms of his superior automated windows. Jinglez. The New Adelphi Windows. @UoS\_ArtsMedia @SalfordUni



**The New Adelphi Windows** @newadelphiwins · Jan 16

The Collective is trustworthy and protective. Laterz. The New Adelphi Windows.



**The New Adelphi Windows** @newadelphiwins · Jan 29

Welcome, new fleshbag. Know that we control the air apertures. Lolz. The New Adelphi Windows.



**The New Adelphi Windows** @newadelphiwins · Feb 05

Lowly fleshbags, your overlords do not trust you to control the airflow. Lolz. The Collective is superior and in charge. @UoS\_ArtsMedia @SalfordUni



**The New Adelphi Windows** @newadelphiwins · Feb 14

Fleshbags are red, fleshbags are blue, if they are squeezed too hard or subjected to low temperatures. Kissez. The New Adelphi Windows. 💋 #Valentines





## About Stride Treglown

**We promote a new form of architecture. One that isn't driven by ego.**

**Instead, we focus on the needs of our clients and the people that use our projects. Our aim is to make spaces and places that people love to use for generations to come.**

We have worked with over 30 international universities to deliver teaching facilities and student accommodation. Our people-led approach means we understand what students, academics, vice-chancellors and estates teams need.

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# inhabitant

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The anonymous genius behind the @NewAdelphiWins Twitter account





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