Muirhead Tower
Client: University of Birmingham

KEY FACTS

Project Value:

£26m

M&E Value:

£7m

Contract Completion:

April 2009

THE CADBURY RESEARCH LIBRARY

In order to meet the stringent requirements of BS 5454, the environment of the archive is carefully controlled.

This is achieved through measures including an aspirating fire detection system, close control air conditioning and gas suppression.

Couch Perry Wilkes' lighting specialists also designed a low-level, controlled UV lighting system to prevent degradation of this valuable collection.

PROJECT SUMMARY

Muirhead Tower is a 16-storey building consisting of two tower blocks and a podium base.

Completed in 1971, it houses the University of Birmingham College of Social Sciences, and comprises offices, teaching facilities and research spaces.

The building also houses the Cadbury Research Library - the University's special collection of rare books and manuscripts, including the papers of former Prime Minister Anthony Eden.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

The building has been given a new 'double skin' glazing system with a high shading co-efficient. This lessens solar gain and so reduces the requirement for cooling.

As well as improving the energy efficiency of Muirhead Tower, the University was keen to improve the wellbeing of building users. We felt this could be supported by lighting design that took advantage of the high levels of daylight available.

We designed a lighting system that uses photocell controls for automatic dimming dependent on the levels of natural daylight., but that was manually dimmable to ensure flexibility.

The large quantity of luminaires and lighting special requirements meant we needed to ensure that all lighting products had as high as possible optical efficiencies. Close liaison with the lighting manufacturers enabled optimisation of their products and so reduced energy consumption.

Interested in our results?
Get in touch

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