

improving people's environment



Open University Library, Milton Keynes





open university library

location: The New Library, Milton Keynes

client: Open University

architect: Swanke Hayden Connell

main contractor: Galliford Try

The new Open University Library has heralded a new era in state-of-the-art study facilities, and offers an indispensable resource for both the university's students and the local community.

The unusual "barcode" design of the façades, have won EAG praise from the architectural community, whilst the articulation of this simple yet striking design allows controlled light flow into the study areas of the library.

To the north and south elevations, the façade consists of Schuco FW50+ curtain walling fixed within a structural opening created by a pre-cast concrete frame, with high performance glass units and aluminium composite panels located within the anodised framed apertures. Comfort vents, 33 in total, were fitted prior to the curtain wall system before the final seal was applied to the cill and head.





The west and east elevations comprise eight, fully glazed, fixed punch-hole windows set within Sto-Render and atria end screens utilising Schuco FW50+ curtain walling, incorporating actuated smoke vents and a Schuco RS65 door to the ground floor.

The roof light glazing again comprised Schuco products with high performance glass units having 50mm bands of white ceramic fritting to 50% of the glass. Actuated smoke vents and door inserts were also incorporated within this area.

The project was the last in a long line of buildings completed with Galliford Try Ltd.

