

UNIVERSITY BUILDING RECEIVES MAJOR AWARD

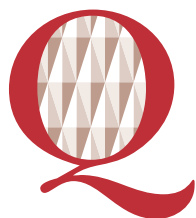
The Sonic Arts and Computer Science Research Centre (SARC) has received the 2004 award for the best construction project, in the £3m to £8m category, at the Construction Employers Federation/Specify Construction Excellence Awards ceremony held at the Ramada Hotel in Belfast last month. The award was given to Graham Construction, Dromore, which was the contractor for the £4m five-storey building located next to the Northern Ireland Technology Centre in Cloreen Park. The panel of judges paid particular attention to issues such as quality of construction, value for money and the application of quality management.

Its commentary on SARC was "The winning entry is a project which necessitated the construction of a centre of excellence, where the achievement of exceptional scientific standards was a key requirement. The judges were impressed by the manner in which the very unique features of the building and the construction challenges of an extremely constricted site were successfully addressed, and also by the quality of finishes which were achieved".

The Centre has also won a commendation for technical excellence from the British Institute of Architectural Technologists.



The design team and guests during a demonstration in the research laboratory of the new sonic arts and computer science research centre.



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MAJOR PROJECTS COMPLETED

A number of major projects have been completed recently. These include the International Research Centre for Experimental Physics to the rear of the Physics building, the Centre for Drama and Film Studies in University Square Mews, the new Teaching Centre on the MBC site, the Institute of Governance, Public Policy and Social Research at

53-67 University Street, the Institute of Electronics, Communications and Information Technology (ECIT) in the Titanic Quarter, and phases 1 and 2 of the refurbishment of the Students' Union.



Inside the new Institute of Governance, Public Policy and Social Research



The ECIT Building



Images of the proposed Centre for Cancer Research and Cell Biology



MAJOR PROJECTS AT PLANNING STAGE/ ON SITE

The ongoing major capital development programme includes:

- A new 17,000m² Library to replace the existing Main and Science libraries. This will provide 2,000 user spaces and space for 1,500 volumes, as well as integrated accommodation for Media and Computer services.
- A new 2,200m² building for Mathematics within the new Library site. Mathematics is currently located within the David Bates building, which is scheduled for demolition under the Library development.
- The new-build Centre for Cancer Research and Cell Biology, MBC site, providing high quality research facilities and accommodation and allowing for the integration of key research teams.
- Refurbishment for research purposes, under SRIF and SPUR initiatives, of buildings on the Stranmillis and Belfast City Hospital sites, for the Faculties of Engineering, Science, and Medicine and Health Sciences.
- Refurbishment and extension of 12-24 College Green for the Institute of Lifelong Learning and a new Graduate

Research Centre. The Centre will provide office and support accommodation for approximately 40 postgraduate students in the Faculties of Legal, Social and Educational Sciences and Humanities.

- Continued radical re-development of Queen's Elms Village, involving the demolition of the existing catered tower blocks and their replacement with low-rise blocks of en suite and networked accommodation in a landscaped village environment.
- The Sports Centre involves a new-build 3000m² extension to the existing Physical Education Centre to provide a new fitness gym, exercise studios, sports science facilities, climbing wall, changing rooms and café.
- Remodelling of 4-6 College Park East and 6 College Park for the expanded School of Social Work and the Institute of Child Care Research.
- Phases 2 to 4 of the Students' Union, including an extensive remodelling of the ground floor and external elevations. The development includes a Student Centre, which incorporates a cafe/bistro, mini-market and laundry facilities.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

CHANGES A FOOT- IMPLEMENTATION OF AN INSTITUTIONAL TRAVEL PLAN

Progress is being made in drafting the institutional Travel Plan and, as a first step, a Travel Plan Co-ordinator has recently been appointed within the Estates Department .

Why have a Travel Plan?

This has become a priority for Queen's for two reasons. First, such plans are now required by the planning authorities when new building proposals are submitted. This is a major consideration, given the scale of the University's projected capital development programme over the next few years. Second, providing leadership in policies designed to promote sustainable development is important to the University's image and in its role as a major employer in the local community.

What is a Travel Plan?

A series of measures and incentives to encourage the adoption of more sustainable modes of transport by staff, students, visitors / contractors. The aim, ultimately, is a shift away from single person car journeys. For Queen's, incentives may include the introduction of a car-sharing database, better facilities for cyclists, and partnerships with Translink to improve public transport routes, reliability and frequency.

Benefits

A shift away from reliance on the private car has a number of sustainable benefits:

Environmental:

- Reduced emissions / better local air quality
- Less noise

Social:

- Enhanced image / Green credentials
- Widen access and participation
- Safer campus / surrounding areas
- Better work / life balance / healthier staff and students
- Improved local neighbourhood relations through reducing congestion / parking problems

Further information on the developing Travel Plan will be provided in the New Year. In the meantime, if you have any queries or suggestions please contact Adam van Winsum (Travel Plan co-ordinator on ext. 1154) or Adrian Davis (Environmental Manager ext. 1198).



ENERGY UNIVERSITY WINS TOP AWARD

The University scooped the top prize at this year's Gas Energy Management (GEM) Awards. It took the Phoenix Award for Enterprise in Energy at the 6th gala ceremony hosted by Phoenix Natural Gas, in association with Invest NI. at the Stormont Hotel in November.

Queen's Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Gregson said: "Queen's is delighted to have won this award which reflects our commitment to energy conservation. Under the auspices of our Estates Directorate, the University's

conversion to natural gas has benefited all areas of our activity. It has proved very cost-effective and much kinder to the environment, reducing carbon dioxide emissions by more than 30 per cent."



Pictured are from left: Leslie Morrison, Chief Executive, Invest NI, Professor Peter Gregson, Vice-Chancellor, Queen's University and Sir Gerry Loughran, Chairman, Phoenix Natural Gas.



ENERGY WINTER APPEAL

Electricity consumption and costs increase dramatically in the winter. During the peak period, November to February between 4pm and 7pm, the unit price of NIE networked electricity rises from 5p to as much as 55p per Kwh at some sites. While the University is able to offset this, to some extent, by using its own generators, the electricity bill last year was still around £2m. If consumption continues at current levels, and given a steady increase in electricity costs, expenditure this year will be significantly more than this.

The only way that energy consumption, and therefore costs and harmful carbon emissions, can be reduced is by all staff and students making a concerted effort to switch off lights and equipment when not needed. Computers and photocopiers, particularly, use substantial amounts of energy.



CAR PARK PERMIT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

As part of the Estates Department's continuous drive to improve customer services, it will be implementing an IT based car parking Permit Management system early in the New Year.

The system known as Permit Gateway, which can be accessed through Queen's Online, will allow staff who pay for their parking permits through salary deductions to

- Apply for new permits
- Renew existing permits
- Change personal or vehicle details
- Apply for replacement permits
- Cancel a permit

Additionally, the Estates Department will be in a position to automatically track parking spaces and manage waiting lists more efficiently.

HERALDIC SYMBOLS AROUND THE CAMPUS

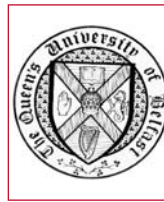
Most people are probably unaware of the various armorials and memorials around the campus. In the article below, Peter McKeague, School of Computer Science, who organised heraldic walkabouts of the campus for the Belfast Festival at Queen's this year, explains their heraldic symbolism.

THE UNIVERSITY'S COATS OF ARMS Queen's College, Belfast

The University started life in 1845 as the Queen's College, Belfast [Q.C.B.]. The Q.C.B. arms are elaborate: they quarter Queen Victoria's Royal Arms, which are themselves quartered, with the arms of the Province of Ulster, and over all is an open book. Heraldry is full of symbolism and those quarters denote the "parentage" of the College while the book indicates an educational establishment. On the floor of the main porch of the Lanyon Building you can see the QUB arms, surrounded by Four of Ulster, these are all executed in mosaic, which is a difficult medium at the best of times. The artist had to limit each of the England quarters to two lions, instead of three, and both the Scotland quarters have lost their tressures (borders). A similar entrance hall mosaic of the Q.C.B. arms can be found hidden beneath a carpet in the former Students' Union, now the School of Music. There are also some fine stained glass representations in the McMordie Hall, as well as in the former College President's House in the south wing of the Lanyon Building.



that of the original Queen's University: the royal crown is accompanied by symbols of the University (book), of Belfast (seahorse), of Ulster (red hand) and of Ireland (harp). It is to be found all over the University, including stained glass versions in the Black & White Hall and the main Library; and square and oval versions in the Whitla Hall, with an oval version on the main gates. Mr John MacGeagh, who was responsible for much of the University's architecture, had a battle royal before he persuaded the University that no ghastly heraldic crime would be committed by placing the arms in an oval cartouche instead of on the more traditional shield. Norroy and Ulster King of Arms, one of the three senior heralds of the College of Arms in London, had to be called in to finally convince the University.



The Queen's University in Ireland

The College, together with its sister Queen's Colleges in Cork and Galway, formed the Queen's University in Ireland [Q.U.I.], which lasted from 1850 to 1879. The University's arms can be seen on the south side of the Physics Archway: St. Patrick's Cross, a royal crown, a book and a harp form a most suitable emblem.

The Royal University of Ireland



In 1880 Q.U.I. was replaced by the Royal University of Ireland [R.U.I.], the coat of arms of which can be found on the north side of the Physics Archway. In keeping with the fashion of the time it was



somewhat complicated: the crown and book remain but there was now, clockwise from the top, the arms of Leinster, Connaught, Munster and Ulster. The arms are also depicted on stained glass window in the main Library, although they are not easy to spot.

The Queen's University of Belfast

With the establishment of the Queen's University of Belfast in 1908, the arms reverted to a design similar to

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