



Centre Building at The London School of Economics (LSE)

London



Location
London, UK

Date
2013 -2019

Client
London School of
Economics

Cost
£ 78 million

Area
17,500 m²

BREEAM
Outstanding

Structural Engineer
AKT II

Services Engineer
Chapman BDSP

**Fire Strategy and
Acoustic Consultant**
Hoare Lea

Landscape Architect
Gillespies

RSHP grasped that this would be a building at once for the university and for the city, an enhancement to public as well as academic space

Professor Craig Calhoun, Director of LSE



In November 2013, RSHP won a RIBA design competition for the LSE's new Centre Building, London, UK. The scheme is a 17,500 m² new landmark teaching and academic building at the heart of the LSE's Aldwych campus, the design of which design is inspired by the schools' core values: Collaboration, Excellence and Innovation.

The original brief called for world-class architecture to match the LSE's international academic reputation and included the demolition and redevelopment of three existing buildings to create a new 10-storey building. RSHP has gone further by designing a new public square located at the heart of the university, creating a new focal point for the school and improving connectivity and wayfinding throughout the campus. The scheme comprises two simple interlocking buildings of 2, 6 and 13-storeys with landscaped roof terraces. The volumes are joined by dynamic circulation and meeting spaces, designed to encourage chance meetings, discussion and collaboration. Innovative and

inspirational spaces to attract the best staff, academics and students have been created by simple, flexible floor plans that provide a mixture of cellular and open plan offices, adaptable teaching spaces and study areas for students. Five academic departments and the Directorate are located on the upper levels which are all naturally ventilated. These floors are linked by a meandering stair which promotes inter-faculty exchange; the stair rises through a series of connected double height spaces which are evident on the main façade flooding the interior with natural daylight and providing breakout spaces to foster wellbeing. The BREEAM Outstanding design is vertically zoned, with the most public and highly-serviced facilities located on the lower levels, these are joined by a 4-storey atrium which links social learning spaces, formal teaching rooms and a large auditorium. Full height glazing to the learning commons and café at ground floor provides animation to the newly-created LSE square and Houghton Street.