

PERFORMING ARTS STUDIOS  
University of Winchester



## **PERFORMING ARTS STUDIOS**

University of Winchester

The University needed to provide their Performing Arts Faculty with new and dedicated accommodation. This follows a re-organisation of teaching space between Business Studies and Performing Arts within the campus.

The design had to respond to a tight programme with just 14 months from conception to completion, and a budget of approximately £1,800,000. A 'stripped down' aesthetic was therefore chosen to meet these requirements, to create a robust environment and promote creative freedom for the users.

The studios provide a flexible teaching environment for physical theatre and human movement as well as seminars and academic workshops. The drama studios are also used to teach stage management courses in conjunction with technical equipment for lighting and sound.





“ I think it is a great achievement by the entire design team to produce a building that meets a very innovative brief. The success of the building is very clearly endorsed by staff and students at the University.”

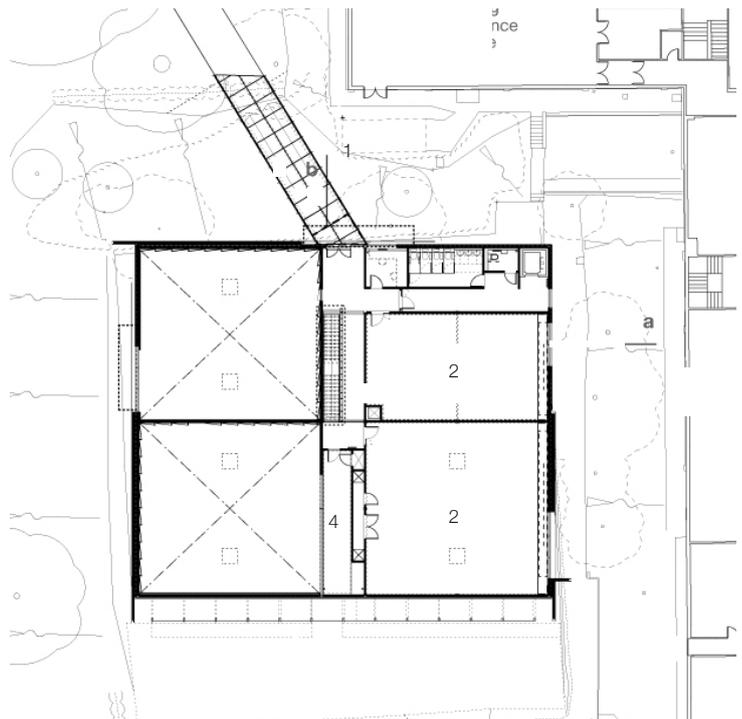
**John Mann, Director of Estates, University of Winchester**



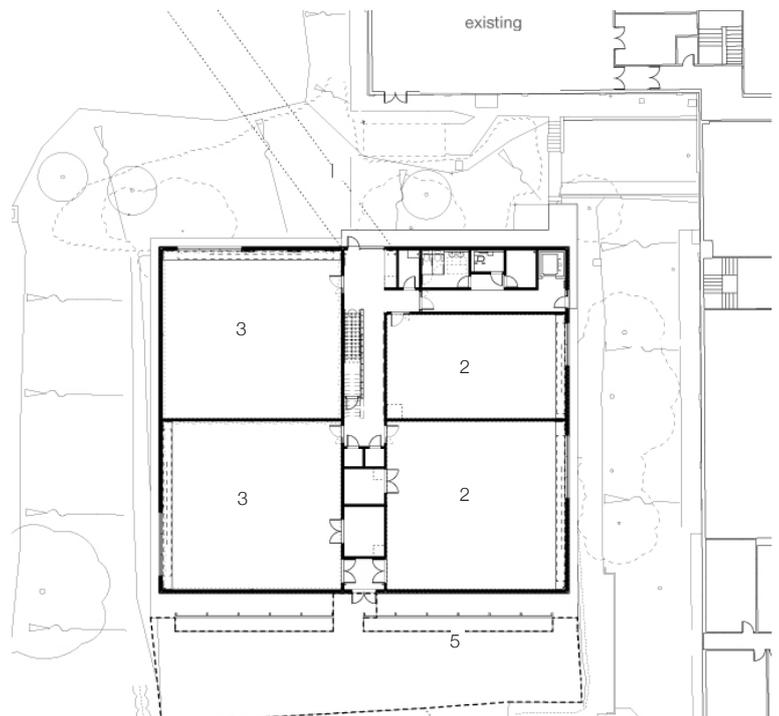
The intention was to create an expression for the building that has empathy with the teaching spaces within it but that is also responsive to the surrounding context and orientation. Much of the building perimeter is obscured from direct view due to the nature of the site location and its adjacencies to surrounding buildings. We developed a strategy for each elevation based on where it can be viewed from and the relationship to neighboring buildings, and the campus generally.

Entering on the north side allows us to give the Performing Arts Faculty its own identity. A graphic wall was proposed adjacent to the main entrance, consisting of illuminated vinyl graphics applied to the flush fixed cladding panels. These can be changed to respond to specific events or to stay 'fresh'.

Careful thought was given to creating a sustainable environmental solution that would meet the needs of the end user, neighbours and wider community. The acoustic requirements and the desire to achieve a naturally ventilated solution have had a major influence on the design principles.

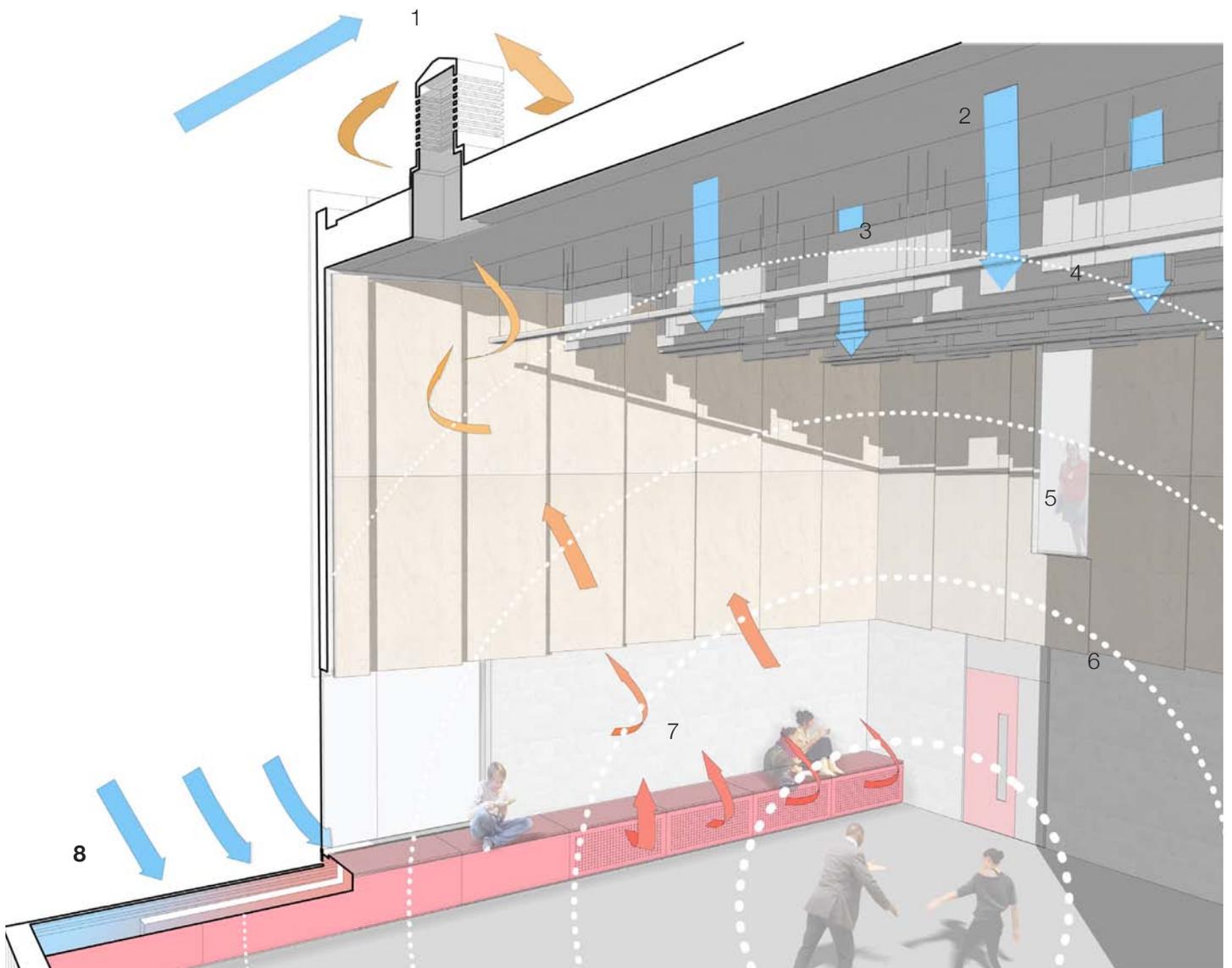


First Floor Plan



Ground floor plan

1. entrance bridge
2. studio
3. double height studio
4. technical gallery
5. green wall



## Environmental Strategy

1. Rising hot air is drawn out through the roof by sound attenuated ventilation stacks.
2. Thermal mass provides tempered cooling during the day.
3. Low energy lighting.
4. Acoustic absorption and reflection reduces reverberation within the dance spaces.
5. Internal windows give glimpses into the studios from the circulation spaces.
6. Exposed blockwork at low level provides a robust finish.
7. Air is heated when required and distributed into the space.
8. Air intake via a noise attenuated seating plenum.

"The Performing Arts Studios are a delight,  
both to teach in and to learn in."

**Professor Anthony Dean, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, University of Winchester**



# PERFORMING ARTS STUDIOS

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## Project Details

Location  
**University of Winchester**

Completion Date  
**2009**

Contract Value  
**£1.8m**

Area  
**1200 sqm**

## Awards

Civic Trust Award  
**2012**

BCIA Finalist  
**2012**

## Project Team

Client  
**University of Winchester**

Architect  
**Design Engine**

Structural Engineer  
**Gyuory Self**

Building Services Engineer  
**Grontmij**

Quantity Surveyor  
**Jackson Coles**

Specification Writer  
**Design Engine**

Fire Engineering Consultant  
**Grontmij**

Acoustic Consultants  
**English Cogger Partnership**

Landscape Consultants  
**Creating Place**

CDMC  
**Allen Holmes**

Building Control Approved  
Inspector  
**STMC**

Main Contractor  
**Geoffrey Osborne Ltd**



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