Case Study

Clatterbridge Cancer Centre

Photographer: Paul Karalius

Transforming Cancer Care

Collaboration makes for a stunning biophilic atrium design with excellent acoustics

The new 11 storey state of the art Clatterbridge Cancer Centre, Liverpool in the heart of City will deliver highly specialist cancer care. Nestled in the city's knowledge quarter it will be positioned to collaborate with the very best of innovation and research in this sector.

The project was 7 years in the making from the client's initial vision to hand over. Construction took 36 months and is part of a £162m scheme. BDP architects led the design, with Aecom providing the engineering including the acoustics. Constructing the project were Laing o'Rourke acting as the principle contractor and Horbury providing the acoustic finishes to the atriums.

Architect:
BDP

Main Contractor:
Laing O'Rourke

Ceiling Installer:
Horbury Group

Ecophon Products:
Akusto Wall A

Solo Freedom

The project team displayed a strong collaborative approach from the outset informed by a clear vision from the client. Throughout the design process physical models and virtual reality were used alongside the BIM models to easily demonstrate how the building would work. Early on in the project the acoustic engineer identified some challenges with acoustics in the two atria which were a critical part of the building design and patient experience. This early intervention allowed an acoustic solution to become part of the interior design of the space and not just an additional functional element.

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A SOUND EFFECT ON PEOPLE

The involvement of Ecophon at these early design stages allowed for a hybrid system to be designed to meet the complex acoustic and aesthetic demands, whilst still being a cost effective solution. We were also able to ensure that the system met the requirements for infection control and cleaning. Due to the knowledge and experience of a specialist installer, Horbury, supported by Ecophon's technical expertise the end result is stunning. Horbury's Lee Murray added 'the cutting lists and templates provided made it easy to follow' and 'the flexibility of the Ecophon system allowed us to tweak things on site if needed'.

CGI: BDP Architects

Matt Cassindari from Ecophon reflects on the importance of early engagement when it comes to this type of design.

'Working with the design team early on in the project was key to its success. A lot of variables in the construction meant designing a hybrid Ecophon system and engaging the installer Horbury prior to installation meant the whole project ran seamlessly.'

'This project was a great testament to the importance of considering acoustics in atriums as they are such an essential part of the building; both aesthetically and functionally. It was essential and they had to be designed for purpose and inclusive.'

Contact Matt for further information.

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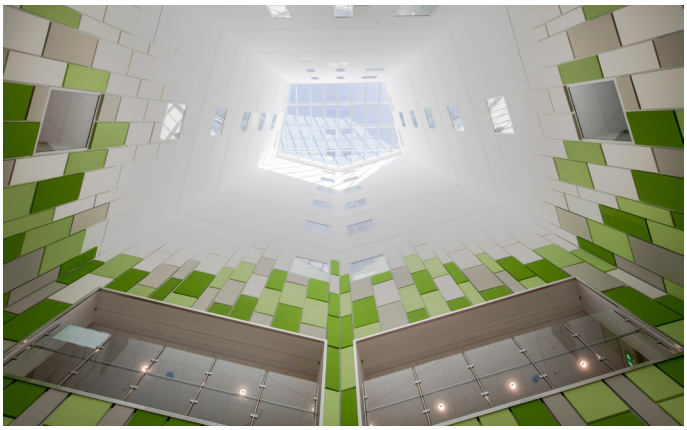
A design inspired by nature

Biophilia, our innate human tendency to seek connections with nature, was a big design influence on the whole building and informed the vision of the project from an early stage. Clatterbridge has an existing site set in a beautiful rural greenbelt landscape, the challenge was to try and recreate this feel in an inner city urban environment. The inclusion of access for patients their family and staff to green space, natural daylight and the outdoors was paramount to achieving this. The design of the entrance atrium which is linked to the winter garden took calming images of nature which were then pixilated and used to create the layout of the acoustic panels in a variety of natural green colours. Acoustics play a part in creating that outdoors feeling when in buildings. The design looks to create a place for people to feel comfortable and the acoustic panels help to achieve this, the main atrium has been described as a calming church like space.Concept Developer for Healthcare Andrea Harman knows how important Biophilia can be in a care environment. Biophilic design incorporates natural elements into our buildings as an intrinsic and co-ordinated part of the setting rather than isolated items. In healthcare this has been shown to have healing benefits. Producing an environment that relaxes and calms people reduces anxiety and stress aiding sleep and recovery for patients and positively affecting staff and visitors. We may not immediately link our preference for certain sound environments to biophilic design, but our desire for calm soundscape when stressed and anxious is fundamentally linked to the natural world, rather than the built environment. For more details about sound levels in hospitals linking to care and recovery see this article written by Andrea Harman for the Journal of Biophilic Design or this podcast.



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