The Black Country & Marches Institute of Technology

Location: Dudley, UK
Client partners:
- Dudley College
- Wolverhampton University

Project Alliance partners:
- Dudley College
- Cullinan Studio [Architect]
- IPInitiatives [Independent Facilitator]
- Speller Metcalfe [Primary Constructor]
- Derry Building Services [MEP Constructor]
- GCA Consulting [Structures + Civils]
- Cundall [MEP Engineers]
- Fulcro [Digital Coordinators]

Completion: August 2021
Size: 4750sqm (GIA)
Project cost: £21.6M

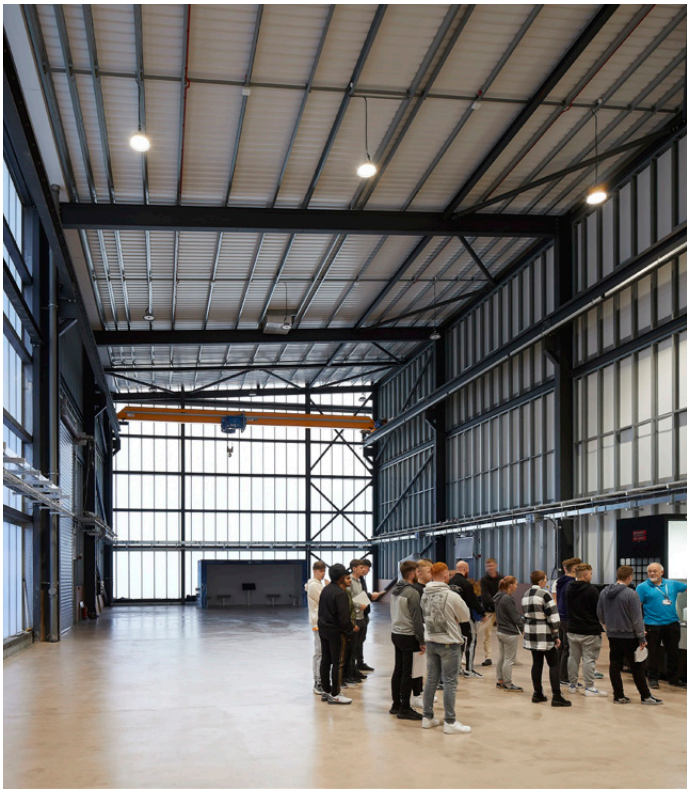
Awards:
- 2022 RIBAJ MacEwen Award - Shortlisted
- 2021 Constructing Excellence West Midlands Awards - Integration and Collaborative Working Award
- 2021 Constructing Excellence West Midlands Awards - Sustainability Finalist
- 2021 West Midlands Structural Award

The Black Country & Marches Institute of Technology (BCMIoT) aims to transform the economy of the Black Country through an industry-led collaboration between employers and further education; part of the UK's wider Industrial Strategy.

The course programme focuses on non-traditional progression routes up to and including degree level programmes across medical engineering and healthcare, advanced engineering and manufacturing, and modern methods of construction, with more than 2000 learners set to be taught at the institute by 2025.

The BCMIoT was completed on time and under budget, during a pandemic, and pioneered the Integrated Project Insurance (IPI) alliance model. IPI supports innovation by aligning the team around cost, time and quality, promoting a culture of mutual trust, no blame/no claim and the freedom for decisions to be made on a best for project basis. Our first sketches were guided by the intelligence of the whole team, avoiding waste and dead ends in the design process. The resulting building is lean with every space and constructional system optimised.

The building form was influenced by its function, buildability, site topography and acoustic considerations. In addition, the building takes a passive approach to deliver fresh air and optimal daylight. The 'T' shaped plan was devised to create two courtyards shielded from road traffic noise so that windows can be opened for ventilation while maintaining excellent acoustics. Teaching rooms are organised around a central atrium topped with a roof lantern that encourages good air movement and fills the space with daylight.



The IoT embodies Dudley College's philosophy to support more young people and adults in to work, to up-skill those in work and to provide essential skills training for the most disadvantaged in society.