

CAMBRIDGE CONSERVATION CAMPUS

Location: Cambridge, UK

Client: University of Cambridge

Appointed: April 2008

Feasibility Study completed: June 2008

Size: 6,500sqm + extensive infrastructure

Construction cost: £28m

BREEAM rating: Outstanding

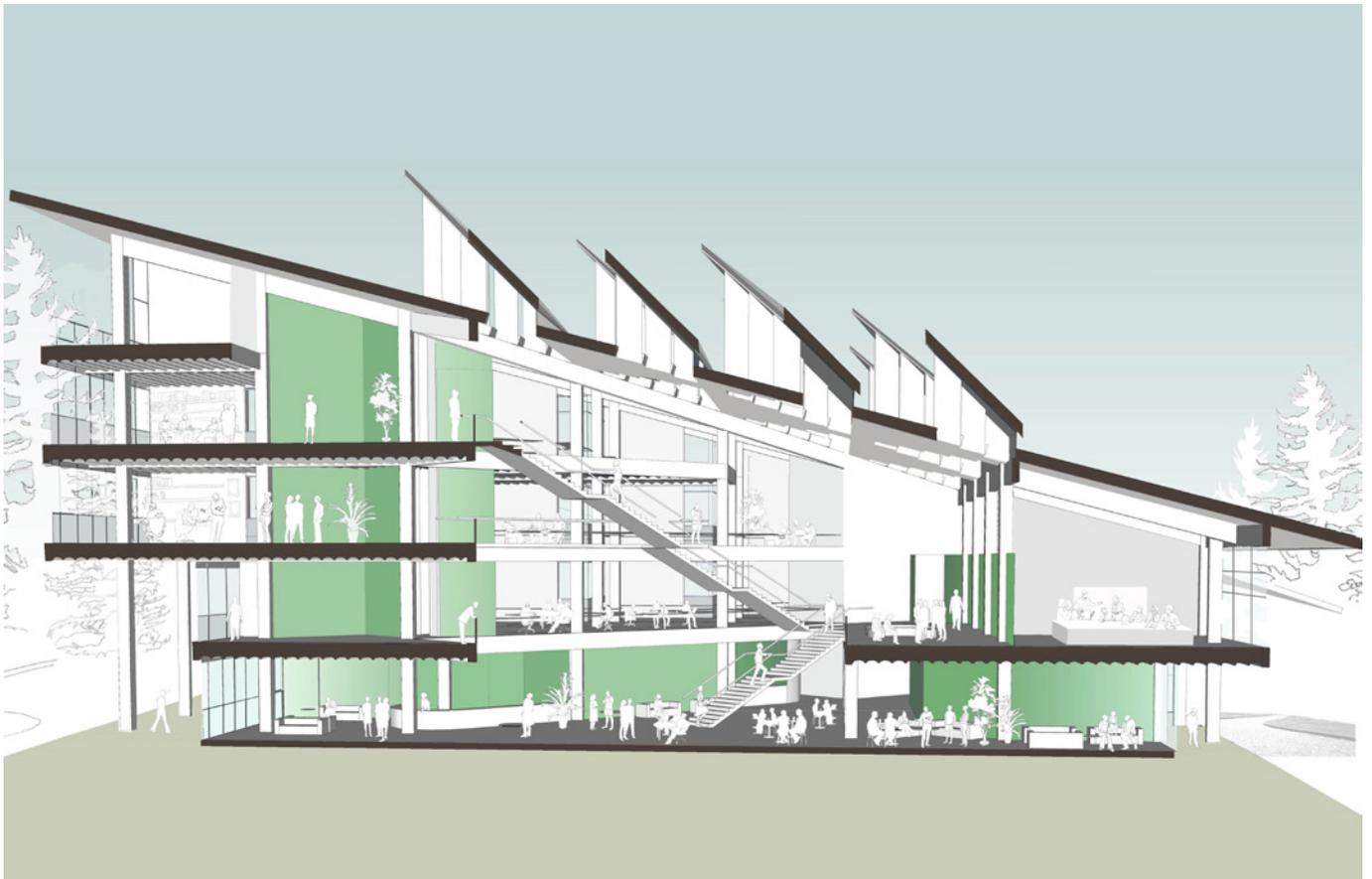
In June 2008 we completed a feasibility study for the University of Cambridge's first BREEAM 'Outstanding' building. The Cambridge Conservation Campus (CCC) was designed to bring together research and teaching of Conservation Studies, and like-minded independent non-governmental organisations.

CCC was intended to enable closer collaboration, open up new avenues of research and understanding, and a place to pool resources and space. It was to draw on the best features of its surroundings, while making great places around it, tying together existing facilities and providing a forum for the advancement of conservation.

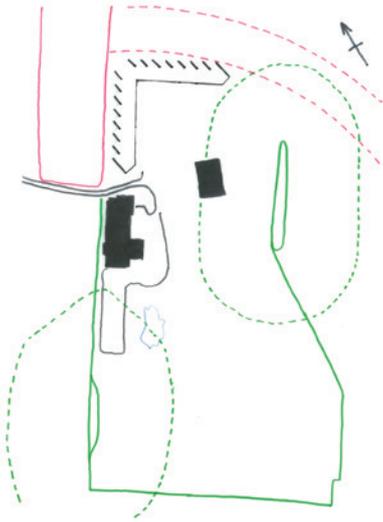
The design proposed to foster collaboration through a single building with working spaces arranged either side of an open, top-lit atrium. This would give a feeling of 'togetherness', as well as allowing as much natural ventilation as possible.

Adaptability is important for the long-term viability of any building as future uses cannot always be predicted. In this design, the key was setting the building up as a framed structure of columns and beams, allowing partitions to be taken down or added as needs changed. A raised access floor with a 400mm void would allow for the repositioning of existing services as well as the future addition of more complex systems if required.

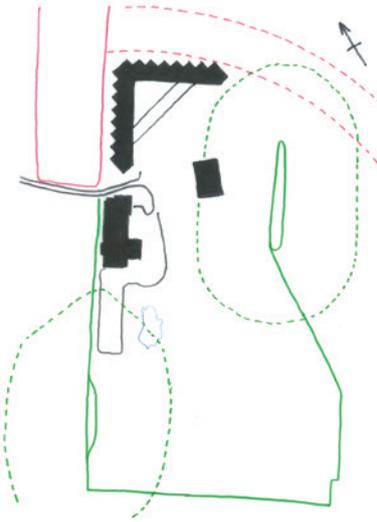
The proposed design achieved a BREEAM 'Outstanding' rating of 96 out of 100.



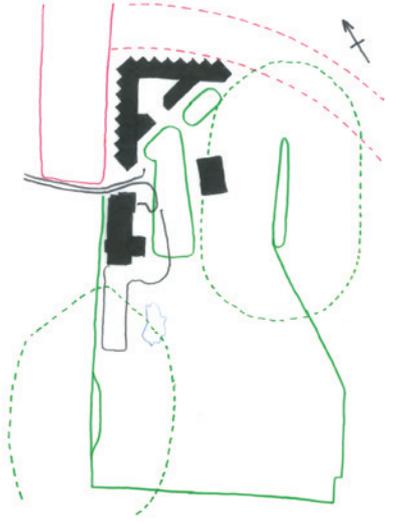
Above: Section through the proposed Cambridge Conservation Campus.



Above: Starting at the north corner of the site, we set out a series of solid walls to shade the low angle east and west light. The walls between which face north and are fully glazed to maximise north-light. This produces a saw-tooth plan, which lends itself to working bays within an open plan office.



Above: Facing the south, we introduce a bar of larger occupancy rooms. These include student working rooms on the ground floor and flexible meeting, seminar and function rooms on the first floor.



Above: In the centre of the plan is an atrium space containing the central shared functions of the centre, including the common areas. This opens out onto a lawn, to the south, effectively an external extension on the centre's living room.



Above: Artist's impression of the new Cambridge Conservation Campus.