

FACULTY OF DIVINITY

Location: Cambridge, UK

Client: University of Cambridge

Started on site: 1998

Completed: 2000

Size: 2,624sqm

Construction cost: £5.2m

Awards:

- RIBA Award
- Concrete Society Awards for Outstanding Structures - Building Category Winner

Designed as a series of south facing terraces, culminating in a four-storey rotunda, the Faculty of Divinity neatly completes this corner of the University's Sidgwick site.

The set-backs and fluid lines of the building work with James Stirling's iconic History Faculty opposite to create a sequence of external spaces on the route through the Sidgwick site.

The building combines a mixture of individual offices for Lecturers and Professors, common rooms, lecture and seminar rooms. The rotunda is crowned by a wonderfully light and airy double-height circular library occupying the top floor and mezzanine. It provides plenty of well-lit reading spaces, including many around the perimeter with views over the gardens and entrance square.

Horizontal cladding, in contrast to the crackling verticals of the History Faculty, includes bespoke louvres that shed water and shade the interior as part of its low energy design.

The exposed concrete construction of this building helps provide heat absorption during the day and at night can be cooled by opening the celestary glazing, which is automatically controlled by the building management system.



Above: Bespoke louvres shed water from the facade whilst providing shade from solar gain and glare.



Above: The cut-out of the library drum forms a shared entrance court with the History Library opposite.



Above: Interior of the north facing top floor double-height library.