

BECKETT PARK LEARNING CENTRE

OFFICIAL OPENING

MONDAY 16 DECEMBER, 1996 *at* 12:00 NOON

12.00pm

Arrival and coffee:- Reception area, East Entrance to James Graham Building

12.15pm

Lecture Theatre B :-Welcome by Leslie Wagner, Vice-Chancellor

12.25pm

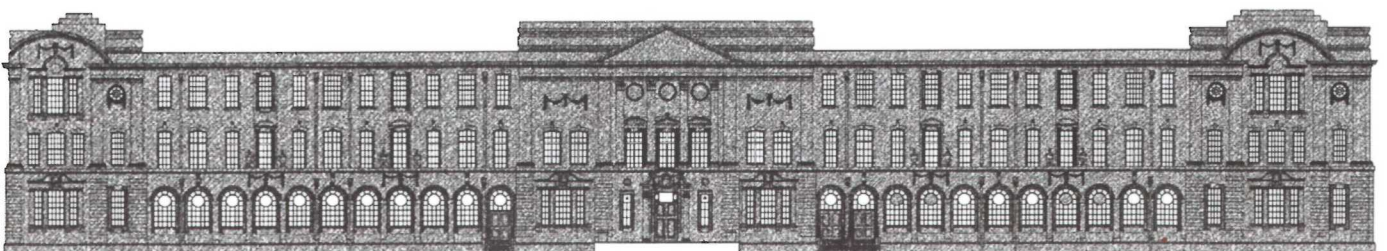
Development of the Beckett Park Learning Centre:- John Heap, Director of Learning Support Services

12.35pm

Brief Tours of the Learning Centre

1.30pm

Buffet Lunch in Main Refectory



JAMES GRAHAM LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT

PROJECT TEAM:

Project Manager Maintenance and Development Manager
Leeds Metropolitan University

Architects Bowman Riley Partnership

Quantity Surveyors Richard Cavadino & Associates

M & E Engineers IBSEC

Structural Engineers AA Associates

Planning Supervisors Symonds Travers Morgan

Clerk of Works Hickton Consultants

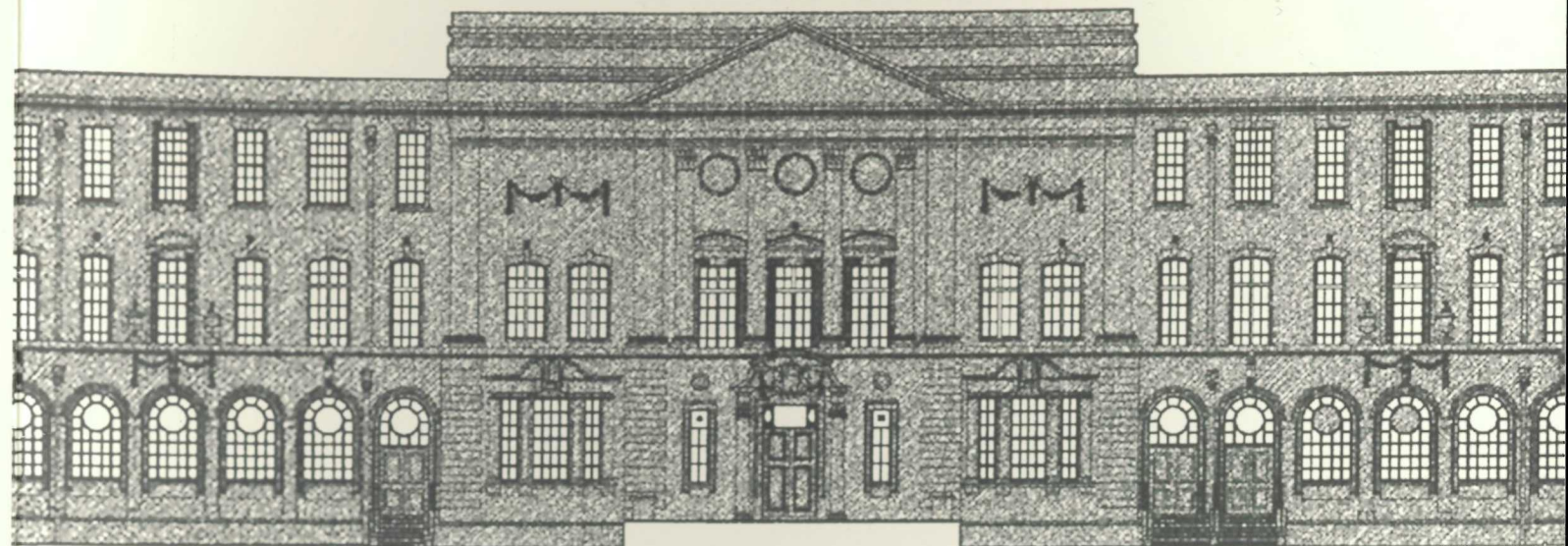
Main Contractors Kier North East

*Mechanical Engineering
Sub-contractor* HPI Ltd

*Electrical Engineering
Sub-contractor* Haden Young Ltd

Project Cost £4.5m

Building Area 7950m²

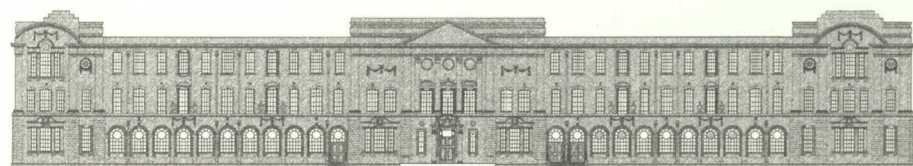


THE LEARNING CENTRE

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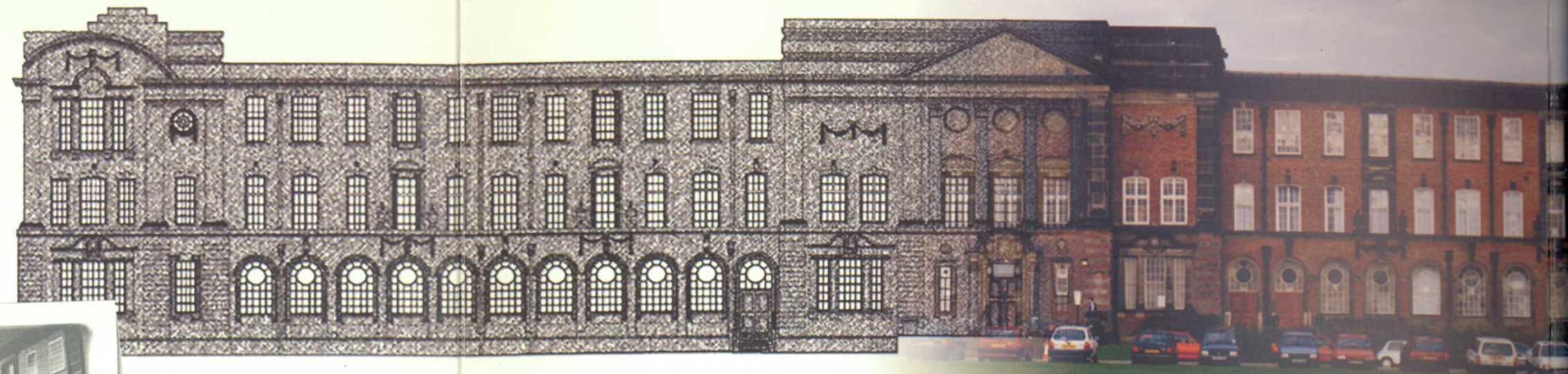
Over 23,000 students study at Leeds Metropolitan University. The main subject areas are business, cultural and education studies, design and the built environment, health and social care, information and engineering systems and languages. Over half of our students study part-time.

The University has a strong vocational tradition and, by engaging in teaching and research, is committed to providing opportunities for a wide variety of people. We believe education changes lives and equips individuals to shape their own life and contribute fully to their organisations and communities.



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THE LEARNING CENTRE BECKETT

City of Leeds College was formed in 1907 (in temporary buildings) and moved to Beckett Park in 1912 on land purchased in 1908 for the purpose by the Leeds Board of Education. The cost was a basic £1,200 per acre for 40 acres (but with a number of "concessions" by Lord Grimthorpe, the seller, this was effectively £893 per acre) with another 35 acres on lease. Among the conditions governing the sale were the stipulations that no part of the residue of the estate was to be sold for the purpose of a racecourse; that no "noisome or offensive trade" was to be allowed on any part of the land surrounding the College; and that Churchwood, not included in the sale, was leased to the Education Committee for a period of 7 years in payment of an acknowledgement of one shilling per annum.

The leased 35 acres were subsequently purchased in 1912 and, at the same time, Lord Grimthorpe donated the 19 acres of Churchwood.

The official opening of the new College buildings was 13th June 1913 and was preceded by a Lord Mayor's luncheon at the Town Hall. The Transport Department was asked to arrange for two special tramcars to be in front of the Town Hall at 2:30 pm to convey the Lord Mayor's guests to Beckett Park. The band of the 7th battalion Prince of Wales' Own West Yorkshire Regiment (Leeds Rifles) played in the large quadrangle from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm and from 4:30 pm to 7:00 pm. Alderman Fred Kinder, Chairman of the Governors of the College, took the Chair at 3:00 pm and Mr Pease (President of the Board of Education) gave an

address to the students and declared the College open. In the course of this speech there was a mild interruption by an elderly suffragette, who was gently led to the door.

In 1914, the buildings were requisitioned by the War Office to become a hospital. After 1918, it took several years for the College to regain full use of its premises and it was 1924 before all students could come back into residence. The hospital continued in wooden huts on the playing fields until 1927.

In 1933 Carnegie College of Physical Education opened on the same campus - the capital cost of premises and initial equipment being met by the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust.

In 1939, the Campus was once again requisitioned by the War Office. War was declared on 3rd September and before lunchtime the control of the college had passed to the military authorities. It was intended to become a hospital but, since the anticipated large numbers of casualties did not materialise, it was converted into a training centre for the Royal Army Medical Corps. Students and staff were evacuated to Scarborough.

The College re-opened in 1946. The playing fields had been used as a tented camp and their restoration required the meticulous removal of discarded razor blades.

A major expansion, to meet the increased demand for teacher training, took place in the early 1960s. This included improvements to the refectory which in 1963 served 3,100 meals each day and required weekly amongst other items:

10 sides of bacon, 2 cwt of butter, 2 cwt of onions and 4,000 eggs. On a daily basis 70 gallons of milk and 150 loaves were consumed and on Shrove Tuesday 5,000 pancakes were served.

In 1963 the library was extended onto two floors to meet the needs of the growing College.

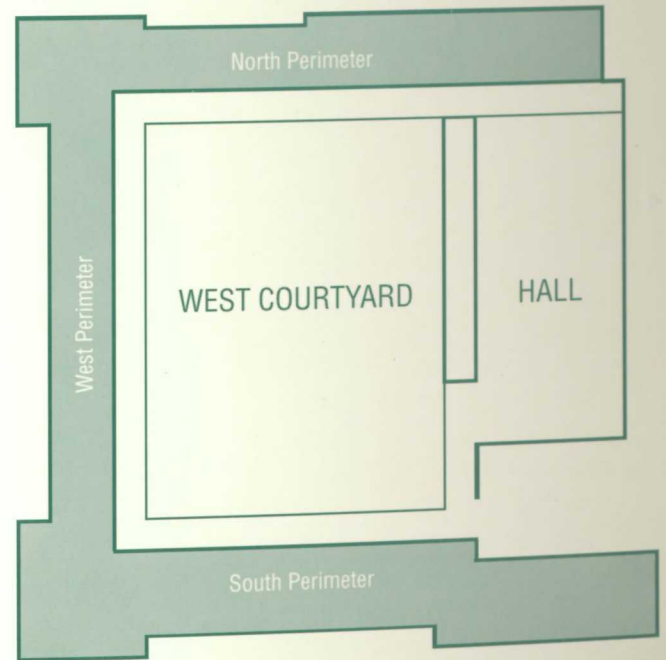
The City of Leeds College and Carnegie College merged in 1968 to become "The City of Leeds and Carnegie College" and in 1976 the College became part of Leeds Polytechnic. This was marked by a garden party, by a performance of "Trial by Jury" given by the College Light Opera Society, by "Here We go - This Integration" (an evening of "humour, nostalgia and talent") featuring an all-staff cast and by a formal dinner in the College refectory.

In 1978 the Great Hall was damaged by fire and the entire roof and floor were destroyed. The repair work took more than two years and the Hall was renamed the James Graham Hall after the Director of Education who was responsible for the building of the original college.

Over the last two years (1994-96) there have been numerous changes and improvements to the buildings, with many of them being converted from residential to academic use to accommodate the growth in student numbers of the University. This has been accompanied by a number of major developments including the creation of the Learning Centre (offering integrated, self-access, multi-media support for learning), improved sporting facilities, and new catering facilities.

The Learning Centre was developed in two phases. The first phase, completed in September, 1994, involved the redevelopment of the James Graham Hall, the original auditorium within the main building. This was converted with the insertion of a mezzanine floor to form the Learning Centre entrance and library loans counter on the ground floor with a reading room on the first floor. Considerable care was taken to preserve the oak panelling and ornate Venetian stained glass windows in order to maintain the character of the building.

Phase two was conceived and carried out with the aid of a grant from the HEFCE. Construction work started in the spring term of 1995 and completed in September, 1996.





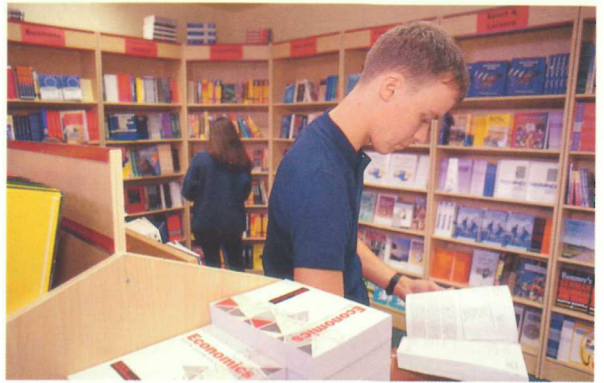
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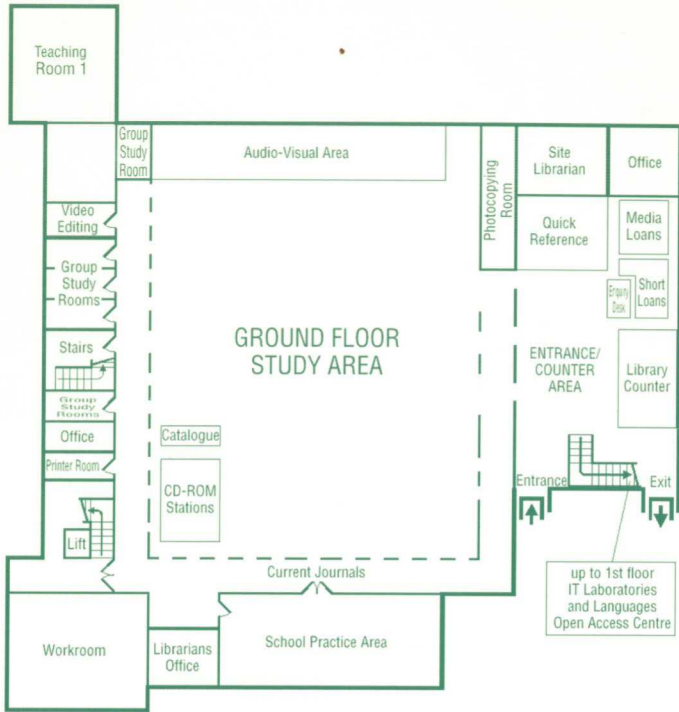
It was essential to maintain a working library on the campus throughout the construction period and this requirement presented many logistical problems for the project team to address in programming the construction work. The first part of the project involved the demolition of the ground floor reading room in the west courtyard and the erection of a new structure comprising new ground, first and second floors within the courtyard void. The second part of the project involved the refurbishment and reconfiguration of the perimeter corridors surrounding the courtyard at ground, first and second floor level. During this period the University was notified that the Department of National Heritage had listed the building as being of special architectural interest.

The rationale behind the project was to deliver a 21st century Learning Centre within the spatial constraints of a traditional building. This would need to create flexible traffic flows from the new central "courtyard" floors through to the old perimeter corridors and achieve a sense of balance and harmony throughout the scheme.

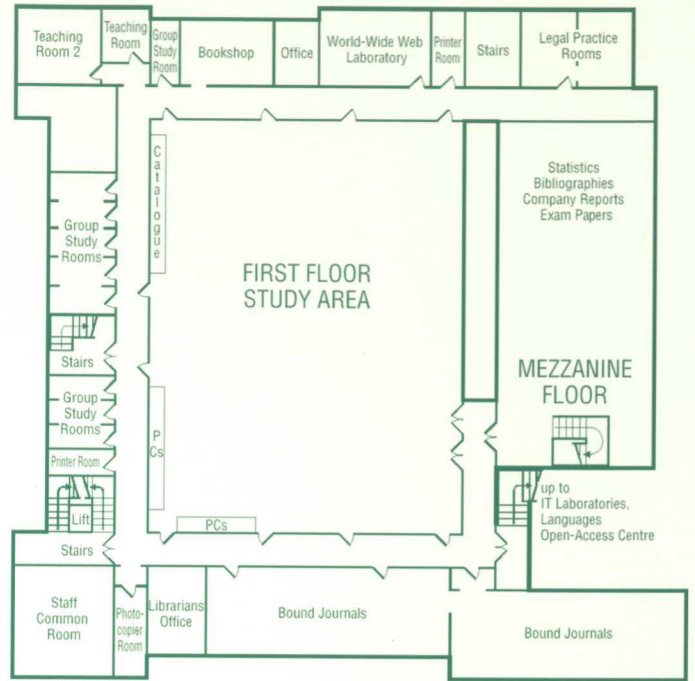
Despite the constraints of the original Edwardian architecture, the final outcome has proved to be highly successful and a credit to the project team. The new premises combine the retention of the original architectural detailing with modern concepts of spatial organisation, lighting and finish.

The Learning Centre contains a comprehensive distribution of IT network points and access to power so that most student study places can be adapted to modern IT-supported study methods. In the scheme a wide range of electronic and audio visual information can be directly self-accessed by students at study places which are also sited adjacent to the more traditional, printed, information





LEARNING CENTRE - Ground Floor



LEARNING CENTRE - First Floor

sources. Currently there are 62 self-access PC stations on the integrated ground and first floors (including 23 specifically to access the World Wide Web) and a further 360 PC stations within classrooms on the 2nd floor of the scheme.

A principle aim of the project was the creation of a total of 1040 study places within a pleasant study environment, including 14 Group Study Rooms to enable students to work on group projects without disturbing individuals pursuing quiet study on the main floors.

The Group Study Rooms, like the main courtyard floors, have the cabling infrastructure installed to take multi-media equipment and to receive satellite television broadcasts.

Beckett Park is now ready to start its second century as a provider of high quality education for the citizens of Leeds and the region.



LEARNING CENTRE - Second Floor