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architecture

The RIBA Awards

The project involved the improvement of recreational facilities – providing bar, games, concert, events, dining and coffee bar areas – for growing student numbers on this uninspired campus of 1960s and 1970s buildings. After stripping out partitions, a space was created on the ground floor of the main teaching and administration block and expanded with a timber-framed glazed extension overlooking a courtyard, which creates an airy inside-outside space.

The rationale behind the internal arrangement was to place strategically a series of significant built objects or pieces of furniture to create both open and intimate spaces. The bar is a robust drum which unfolds when open, providing bench seating; a wooden box houses vending machines and two box-like screens with holes punched through line up with circular windows. The easily-demountable furniture has a Buckminster-Fuller feel to it. The 1960s concrete coffered ceiling has been exposed and services are suspended from it. The floor is reclaimed pitch pine, raised floor areas are reached by ramps, defined by plinths which act as seats.

JURY COMMENT This is an exemplary project and demonstrates that good design is not dependent on a substantial budget but on the creativity of the architect, the engagement of the client and the enthusiasm and commitment of all concerned. The students of Grimsby College clearly enjoy the fruits of this collaboration – lucky devils.'

ADDRESS Nuns Corner, Grimsby, Lincolnshire

CLIENT Grimsby College

CONTRACTOR sub-contractors via Estates Department

CONTRACT VALUE £150,000

