



**The University Challenge**  
An exhibition of recent architecture  
for higher education in the UK



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Like many towns of its size, Grimsby has expanded its higher and further education provision to cater for the increasing demand for part-time and evening courses.

Grimsby College approached Hodson Design in December 1997 to design the first student facility on campus. Following research of social centres with college representatives, a multi-use, open plan solution with an evening-only bar was agreed.

The common room is in two parts, a conversion of the existing 1960s block and the addition of a glass-fronted extension. Four elements are placed within the main area: a drum-shaped bar enclosure; a housing for the vending machines; and two square screens with apertures that line up with circular windows to create an 'inside-outside' vista. All elements are 2.4m high and crafted using a stressed-skin construction. The drum unfolds in three arcs to reveal a circular bar. This ply-clad enclosure works either as an intimate space or as a focus of activity when the room is full. Introducing these elements creates both open and closed spaces in the two areas and create vistas and transitions between them.

**consultant team**

structural engineer **Michael Heal Associates** services engineer **Combitech (UK) Ltd**  
quantity surveyor **Grimsby College Estates**

contract  
individual  
minor works

value £  
0.15m

size m<sup>2</sup>  
450

construction  
4 months

completion  
10/98

contractor  
individual sub-  
contractors