

## Hickton Clerk of Works Better by Degrees at the University of Liverpool

Hickton, one of the UK's leading Clerk of Works practices, has recently played a crucial part in the £30m refurbishment of the Department of Engineering at The University of Liverpool. The development involved the amalgamation and refurbishment of four existing buildings, along with a new-build entrance foyer and courtyard. This was a diverse project that benefited from the expertise of the Hickton team, who were involved on site from the initial stages.

The company was commissioned by the University to ensure the project progressed exactly to the design specifications and was completed to the required standard.

Hickton is an award winning ISO9001 Clerk of Works practice that provides highly qualified and experienced professionals to ensure that construction projects are completed 'right first time'. Its goal is to offer clients 'confidence in construction', which means ensuring the project meets exacting design requirements.

The new centerpiece of the Department of Engineering, which was designed by Sheppard Robson architectural practice, is an innovative two-storey 'Active Learning Laboratory.' Hickton was closely involved in the creation of The Laboratory, a double-height, part-naturally ventilated, glass-clad structure, which appears to float above the existing podium building below. In order to create this visually stunning design, Hickton worked with HBG, the contractor on site, to ensure an accurate fit of the glass panels. With problems of stresses generated within glass, tolerances had to be strictly adhered to.

The work involved building of a new entrance as well as total refurbishment of the laboratories in the Harrison-Hughes and the original Walker Building. The upper floors of the tower were also removed to allow building of the Active Learning Laboratory on the second floor. The Laboratory now offers magnificent views to both of Liverpool's famous cathedrals.

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Bob Littlewood, Director at Hickton explains: "This was a diverse project as it involved new-build and also a refurbishment of multiple buildings with very different architectural styles. The completed faculty now creates an inspiring environment for the students as well as helping strengthen Liverpool's status as European Capital of Culture."

Liverpool's Department of Engineering was completed in October 2008 and now offers students one of the largest and best-equipped learning centres in Europe.

A spokesperson for The University of Liverpool explains: "We have been immensely impressed with the professionalism of Hickton, especially as we also had extremely positive feedback from the contractor, who appreciated their help and guidance on site."

Hickton Clerks of Work on this project were Maurice Youd (Building) and Alan Washington (M&E).