

School of Drama, Film and Visual Arts

Where: Canterbury, Kent. Who For: University of Kent. What: 2898 sqm educational floorspace



Architect: Hawkins Brown. ©TimCrocker

PLANNING

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University arts building design supported

A three-storey faculty building proposed at the University of Canterbury in Kent has won approval after a ruling that its design was acceptable and would reduce the need for students to travel.

The university buildings, mostly dating from the 1960s and 1970s, created a campus containing a series of distinct pavilions set in a rolling landscape. The proposed building would be sited close to the gateway of the campus. The inspector found that its zinc roof would not appear alien or intrusive given the use of this material on other buildings nearby.

The scheme was intended to allow the university's drama, film and visual arts department to be consolidated in a single building and its existing premises to be converted into study bedrooms. The resultant increase in the number of students living on campus would reduce the need for them to travel in for study purposes and would increase the site's overall sustainability, the inspector held. On that basis, she concluded that the financial contribution towards transport infrastructure sought by the council was unnecessary.

DCS Number 100-052-772

Inspector Hilda Higenbottam; Hearing

Canterbury City Council initially refused this proposal, mainly on design grounds, in 2007. The University of Kent at Canterbury then instructed CMA Planning to appeal against this decision. The appeal was allowed in 2008 and was featured in Planning Magazine, as shown here.

The University of Kent's new Jarman Building School of Arts was then completed in December 2009 and went on to win the prestigious 2010 RIBA Award.

