



British Library Extension

London, UK

From the very beginning Graham Stirk showed a deep understanding of the building that Sandy and MJ designed. Graham's early concepts responded sensitively to key reference points in the original design: its logic and geometry, its internal flow and use of light, its deployment of repeated patterns and materials.

Sir Roly Keating, Chief Executive, The British Library



Location
London, UK

Client
British Library and
SMBL Developments Ltd

Date
2015 -

Construction cost
£500M (including fit-out)

Site area
14,300sq m approx

Floors
12

Development Manager
Stanhope

Structural engineer
Arup

MEP engineer
Arup

Landscape architect
DSDHA

Community Consultation
London Communications
Agency

Planning Consultants
Gerald Eve LLP

Townscape Advisor
Tavernor Consultancy Ltd

Heritage Advice
Cordula Zeidler

Cost Advice
Alinea Consulting



The British Library Expansion project is a once in a generation transformation opportunity to extend the British Library's site to make it the most open, creative, and innovative institution of its kind anywhere in the world. The development is located at the heart of London's Knowledge Quarter and will provide 100,000 sqft of Library facilities to significantly expand its outreach, education, conservation, and exhibitions programmes. The Library accommodation is integrated with commercial uses, new headquarters for the Alan Turing Institute and Cross Rail 2 infrastructure.

The scheme will provide broad community benefits, including the creation of thousands of new jobs, training and re-skilling opportunities for local people, and a range of affordable employment premises, which will help to regenerate neighbouring communities.

The existing Library will be opened up to the northeast and southwest, creating publicly accessible routes and a series of public realm improvements, including a major new cultural

foyer at street level. Extensive landscaping and most of the ground floor of the extension will be open to the public. 600,000 sqft of commercial space to support large, medium, and small enterprises is positioned above the library facilities responding to the space demand for life science, biotech, and related medical and science-based commerce. 50% of the commercial premises have the possibility of being configured as wet labs with the remaining spaces suitable for write-up areas, dry or computation labs or as standard offices.

The project's holistic sustainability strategy has driven the design process with ambitious targets using the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals framework. These targets take the environmental goals above and beyond current practice with a project ambition to reduce embodied carbon by 40%; operational energy by 60% and water use by 50% from current baseline. BREEAM 'Excellent' and WELL 'Gold' certifications are targeted with aspirations for BREEAM 'Outstanding'.