
The Sainsbury Building Worcester College, Oxford



01. The building is set in the landscape as a focus at the end of the lake
 02. Shared kitchens overlook stairs to promote social interaction and security

03. A sunken common room and terraces integrate the new building with the lake
 04. The common room occupies the corner and commands the terrace

Our project for Worcester College, Oxford, is an early and successful example of our work in the area of student accommodation. The building forms a threshold between the private world of the College garden and the city outside.

The theme of an unfolding landscape characterises the College's gardens, in which the building is set. A serpentine lake seems to beckon the visitor from the College's main buildings towards the new building, which appears to be an island in the lake.

The scheme is conceived as a community of rooms set in groups around kitchens. The glazed, cabinet-like quality of the kitchens creates an open, sociable atmosphere in the shared parts of the building. In contrast, the bed-sitting rooms are designed for visual and acoustic privacy. The common room is positioned close to the water with its floor at punt level.



03.



02.

“The incredibly difficult task of successfully placing a new building in such a special setting has here been met with architectural distinction.”

Civic Trust Awards



04.