

New Images for Harrow College Unveiled



MJP Architects has unveiled its designs for One Harrow, the 32,480 sq m building which is set to replace two existing Harrow College campuses. Harrow is the first of the major London Further Education Colleges to benefit from the government's new funding regime, regulated by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). The new college will also be the first building to make a contribution to the London Borough of Harrow's (LBH) plans for their regeneration of Harrow Town Centre and will set the standard for design and urbanism. MJP's proposals for the College and for the adjacent housing include the reconfiguration of the current site to provide a landscaped route helping to link the open parkland on the slopes of Harrow Hill (which inspired both Byron and Betjeman) back to the shopping streets of the Town Centre. This new park will provide enhanced facilities for public recreation and playspace, and there are plans for a footbridge allowing a second link across the tracks.

Matthew Westmore, Director of Estates and Facilities, Harrow College believes that:

"This will be an important development for Harrow and for Harrow College. The new college building will make a significant contribution to improving the education facilities for both Harrow residents and others and will lead the regeneration of Harrow town centre".

The new college and housing have been conceived as five "fingers" feeling their way into the parkland, with a new landscape springing up between the buildings. MJP's proposals even have a series of cascading planted terraces (in front of public areas such as the Refectory and Learning Resource Centre) which climb up between the russet coloured teaching wings. The landscape design has sought to retain all the major trees along the front of the site, providing a screen to the base of the developments, whilst the upper storeys of the buildings respond to the skyline of the town centre.

Central to the College's vision for their new building is a desire to welcome the community in: the central atrium is open to the public via an internal street, allowing prospective students a sneak preview whilst they make enquiries about courses, and giving everyone access to the "shopfronts" of the hair, beauty and nail salons. This internal street connects two new public squares on either side of the College, one serving the Station and the other the new footbridge and both entrances have cafes where students and the public can mingle. The new building's proximity to both the underground and bus station means that students and staff really will be encouraged to use public and sustainable transport.

Liz Pride, Director of Education, MJP Architects comments:

"We have tried to create an elegant, contemporary building that will support the College's teaching and community activities, and provide all students an inspiring experience of studying."

Public consultation on the new building is taking place this month and a planning application is to be submitted in early 2008.

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Notes to editors

MJP Architects is one of the leading architectural practices in the country, formed in 1972, and now an employee benefit trust with around 40 dedicated architectural staff.

MJP's work ranges from major masterplanning initiatives and regeneration projects to one-off house designs and even furniture.

Many of the buildings are on contentious sites involving detailed planning negotiations and high quality design to achieve consents which optimise the value of the site.

We are currently masterplanners for the Universities of Warwick, Birmingham and UCL. We are working on housing schemes in Jersey and London, and have new Embassy staff accommodation on site in Bangkok.

MJP has won 23 Civic Trust Awards and 15 RIBA Awards in the last 30 years.

Harrow College is a Further Education College with two campuses based in Harrow on the Hill and Harrow Weald. The College has over 3,000 students in its Sixth Form Centre and 8,000 Lifelong Learning Centre learners, mainly from Harrow and the surrounding boroughs. Further information can be found at www.harrow.ac.uk

What is the proposal?

To create a new building for Harrow College, merging the activities on the two existing campuses at Harrow on the Hill and Harrow Weald onto one site and provide exemplar learning facilities for the London Borough of Harrow and northwest London.

What does Harrow College do?

Harrow College is a major provider of Further Education to people in Harrow and the surrounding area. It provides a full range of courses for 16-19 years learners – A levels, Work-based Apprenticeships, Access to Higher Education courses, vocational training diploma and certificate courses (eg BTEC and GNVQ) and a range of courses in lifelong learning.

How many students are there?

There are around 4,000 students at the College at any one time.
They are aged between 16 and 75. About 60% of students are aged 16-19.

How does the new size compare to the existing facilities?

The new building provides about 40% more accommodation than the existing buildings for the same number of students.

How big is the new building?

The new building will be 32, 440 square metres (349,000sqft). At its highest point the building will be 9 storeys above ground level stepping down to 3 storeys.

Who are the architects?

The building has been designed by architects MacCormac Jamieson Prichard who have worked with Churchman Landscape Architects and Sprunt (Education space planning specialists).

For further information and images please contact Richard Robinson at MJP Architects on 020 7426 9227.



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