ADVANCED ENGINEERING CENTRE BRIDGWATER & TAUNTON COLLEGE



LOCATION: BRIDGWATER
CLIENT: BRIDGWATER & TAUNTON COLLEGE
COMPLETION: 2017
VALUE: £4.2M
SIZE: 2536M^2
SERVICE: ARCHITECTURE
SECTOR: EDUCATION
CONTRACTOR: KIER CONSTRUCTION
LANDSCAPE: AUSTIN-SMITH:LORD
STRUCTURES: ATKINS
SERVICES: ATKINS
COST CONSULTANT: HILLS

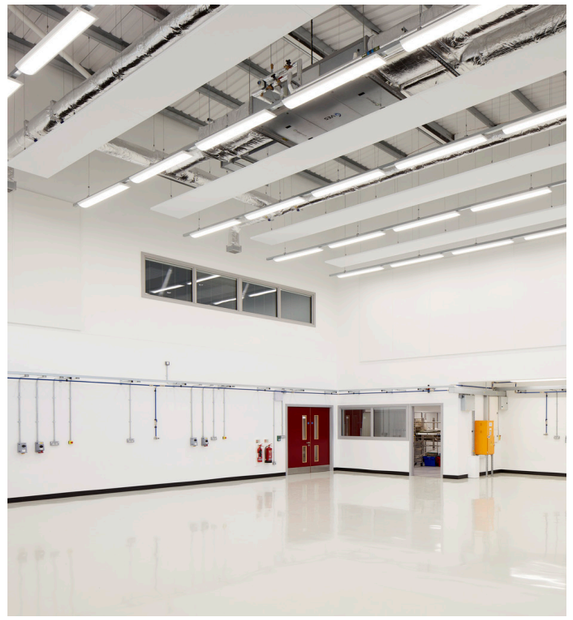
The new Advanced Engineering Centre at the Bridgwater campus expands and enhances existing training facilities to offer a level of specialised engineering training for Bridgwater & Taunton College.

The 2536m^2 centre complements the existing Energy Skills Centre and accommodates the growing number of engineering students attending the College, plus growth in numbers linked to the Hinkley Point C development, specifically apprenticeships.

The building contains three workshops and 14 classrooms for general teaching and Computer Aided Design focussed training, along with associated changing spaces for students and staff accommodation.











The architectural ideology behind the design was to capture the purpose of the building in its appearance, and produce an 'engineered' form. A rigorous control over the alignment of external elements drove this concept, creating continuous lines around the facades, that blend seamlessly between the curtain wall mullions through to the cladding panel joints.

Control over the internal spaces went hand in hand with this, to create an order to the primary facade's glazing, and draw attention to the spaces within.

The internal spaces are positioned so the classroom spaces receive generous amounts daylight from the large, sloped glazing facade, whilst the workshops, with controlled lighting levels, are placed to the rear of the building.

The cafe is situated as an extension to the main building form, and creates a light and spacious area with an adjoining external terrace, to create a vibrant dining area.