



Royal College of Art
Postgraduate Art & Design

ARCHITECTURAL FACT SHEET

Overview

The Royal College of Art (RCA) is the world's largest community of postgraduate art and design students. For eight consecutive years, the RCA has been ranked as the world's number one university of art and design - attracting artists, designers and innovators from across the globe. Its campuses have been designed by notable figures in the field of Architecture: Sir Hugh Casson and 'Jim' Cadbury-Brown designed the 1961 Darwin building in Kensington, now a grade II listed building; Haworth Tompkins created the Painting, Dyson & Woo buildings in 2009, 2012 and 2015 as the RCA expanded its campus in Battersea and now, in 2022, the boldest addition yet to its estate, designed by architects Herzog & de Meuron.

The Herzog & de Meuron building marks a critical juncture in the RCA's history as it embodies the College's transformation into a new paradigm for the creative arts in higher education: a dynamic STEAM-focused postgraduate university, bringing STEM based research and teaching (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths) into play with the traditional arts and design disciplines for which the RCA is rightly renowned.

The new Herzog & de Meuron Battersea building is the physical manifestation of this ambition. The 15,500 square-metre development will transform the Royal College of Art by delivering enhanced workshop and studio space for students, as well as communal and social facilities to create a meeting point for talent and ideas. It will bring together areas from sculpture to computer sciences, creating cross-disciplinary answers to global questions in areas such as ageing populations, sustainability, rapid urbanisation and artificial intelligence.

The project also brings benefits to the local community with new public realm spaces, a public engagement programme, and improvements to the area of Radstock Street in front of the Rausing Research & Innovation Building.

Described by one architectural critic as 'rugged' the Herzog de Meuron building gives more than a passing nod to its predecessor, the Darwin building in Kensington which is regarded as one of Britain's finest examples of 'Brutalism'. The stacked workshops of Darwin are echoed - but with greatly increased floor plates - in the Herzog & de Meuron building. The vast, saw-tooth roof,

supported on slender white steel columns, reinforces the RCA concept of a 'factory of ideas' and mirrors the saw-tooth roofs in the adjacent Dyson and Woo buildings .

Location

Royal College of Art Battersea, Parkgate Road, London SW11 4NL

The new campus is located to the south of, and adjacent to, the RCA's current Battersea campus within the Battersea Creative Quarter. Howie Street, running west to east, is the main thoroughfare for the united Battersea Campus.

Battersea is increasingly becoming known as London's new creative quarter, with a wealth of cultural assets and a growing number of galleries, alongside the arrival of TfL's new Northern Line extension in September 2021. Innovative tech companies are moving in, including Apple, which is making Battersea its UK headquarters. The RCA's new flagship building will add to this vibrant mix and aligns with the London Borough of Wandsworth's ambitions for the area.

Key Project Dates

- 2016 RCA given exceptional funding of £54M by the UK Government to create a new building in Battersea
- 2016 RCA acquires the freehold site on Howie/Elcho/Parkgate streets.
- 2016 Herzog & de Meuron appointed architects following an international invited competition
- 2017 Planning approved by Wandsworth Council
- 2018 Construction starts with Kier Construction London Ltd
- 2021 Building Completed
- 2021 Fit-out starts
- May 2022 Opening of new RCA Campus

Project Leadership

The development of the new Battersea building is overseen by the RCA. The RCA is led by its Vice-Chancellor Dr Paul Thompson and its non-executive members of Council, Chancellor, Sir Jony Ive and Pro Chancellor Sir Peter Bazalgette.

Executive Architecture Team

Herzog & de Meuron as Architect / Lead Designer with Mott MacDonald as Structure and Services engineer

RCA Project Specifications

Total area: 15,500 square metres

Site area: 47,038sqft / 4,370sqm

The Rausing Research & Innovation Building: across 8 floors 3,723 sqm

The Studio Building: across 4 floors, 8,368sqm of which 5,753sqm is dedicated studio space.

Architectural Features & Key Facts

- The Studio Building** The Studio Building consists of four storeys of studios and workshops for Sculpture and Contemporary Art Practice and Design Products. Designed as social and educational spaces of creative transfer and collaboration, the studios will also accommodate temporary exhibitions and large-scale works.
- The Hangar** Located in the Studio Building, the double-height hangar is a multifunctional activity space at the heart of the reconfigured campus for large-scale events and the assembly and exhibition of projects. The Hangar will become the focal point for RCA artists and makers and their interactions with the public including events, screenings, performances, exhibitions and graduate shows.
- Robotics Research** A smaller additional hangar and gallery spaces offer flexible research testing and assembly areas for intelligent mobility, design engineering, sculpture and robotics. In these purpose-built spaces, students and researchers can undertake cutting-edge research, learning and teaching, combining creative techniques, mechanisms and functions from nature and art, along with approaches from the experimental sciences. Robotics Research will further the development of new technologies with a focus on aquatic and aerial robotics, and robotic arms for use in construction and engineering.
- The Rausing Research & Innovation Building** The Rausing Research & Innovation Building consists of eight floors of dedicated independent and confidential research space providing a new home for:
- The Helen Hamlyn Centre for Design, which undertakes design research and projects with industry that contribute to improving people's lives.
 - The Intelligent Mobility Design Centre and MA Intelligent Mobility are now united across two floors.
 - InnovationRCA - housed in the Clore Innovation Centre on levels 5 and 6 of the Rausing Research & Innovation Building - providing workspace for start-ups as well as facilities for the centre's enterprise, entrepreneurship, incubation and business support activities.
 - The Computer Science Research Centre, enabling cutting-edge research and innovation at the interface between art, design and computer science with immediate and tangible impact.
 - The Materials Science Research Centre - focusing on the invention and the experience of materials to address real world challenges, specifically environmental sustainability, and human health and

wellbeing.

- The Robotics Laboratory - combining creative techniques, mechanisms and functions from nature and art, and approaches from the experimental sciences, to develop new robotic technologies enhancing access, safety and performance in a wide range of industrial applications.
- Seminar and conference facilities will be housed on the top floor, providing a new knowledge exchange centre for use by the College and external partners.

Intersection with Local Community

The RCA works closely with local groups, residents, schools and businesses to develop collaborative projects and create a positive impact in the social and cultural fabric of our local communities in Battersea, White City and Kensington. The expansion of our Battersea Campus has provided an opportunity for us to build on this important work, developing and strengthening our relationships with local communities in the Battersea area. Since 2018, over 10,000 people have participated in the RCA's community engagement activities including events, exhibitions, tours and workshops.

The open design of the building's ground floor has public entry points and access through the site, integrated street furniture and visual, audible access through large windows for the community to engage with the College's core business.

Sustainability

Sustainability and energy efficiency are central to the new Battersea Campus development. Approximately £3 million has been invested in making the building BREEAM Excellent, through a combination of integrated design and most significantly a commitment to low and zero carbon technologies.

The new facilities at Battersea will provide a sustainable future for the RCA, ensuring the continuation of its global contribution as the world's number one university for art and design.

Architecture & Design Firms

Herzog & de Meuron

Established in Basel in 1978, Herzog & de Meuron is a partnership led by Jacques Herzog and Pierre de Meuron together with Senior Partners Christine Binswanger, Ascan Mergenthaler, Stefan Marbach, Esther Zumsteg, and Jason Frantzen. An international team of nearly over 500 collaborators including the two Founders, five Senior Partners, ten Partners, and 41 Associates work on projects across Europe, the

Americas and Asia. The main office is in Basel with additional offices in Berlin, Munich, Paris, London, Copenhagen, New York, San Francisco, Hong Kong, Berlin and Copenhagen.

The practice has designed a wide range of projects from the small scale of a private home to the large scale of urban design. Many projects are highly recognised public facilities, such as museums, stadiums, and hospitals, and they have completed distinguished private projects including offices, laboratories and apartment buildings. Awards received include the Pritzker Architecture Prize (USA) in 2001, the RIBA Royal Gold Medal (UK), the Praemium Imperiale (Japan), both in 2007, and the Mies Crown Hall Americas Prize (USA) in 2014.

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Architect Quotes

Herzog & de Meuron: "The RCA campus in Battersea is conceived as a porous and flexible 'territory' of platforms upon which the varied needs of the RCA curriculum are given space to change and grow, enabling the transformation of space as needed during this process. The studio and research buildings are designed as communities unto themselves - a place that encourages interactions between students, faculty and staff.

Our intention is also to create a civic connector, encouraging circulation through the site and inviting exchange between members of the RCA community, the neighbourhood and wider city.”

Herzog & de Meuron Team

Partners: Jacques Herzog, Pierre de Meuron, Ascan Mergenthaler (Partner in Charge)

Project Team: John O'Mara (Associate, Project Director), Giuseppe Giacoppo (Project Manager), Carmo Montalvão (Project Architect), Stuart Hill (Operations Manager), Jeremy Addison, Javier Artacho Abascal, Mikolaj Bazaczek (Visualisations), Tina Bergman, Marinke Boehm, Marija Brdarski, David Connor, Bruno de Almeida Martins (Visualisations), Dave Edwards, Niklas Erlewein, Paul Feeney, Elizabeth Ferguson, James Grainger, Merethe Granhus, Vasileios Kalisperakis (Visualisations), William Korytko, Maria Krasteva, Dan Ladyman, Johnny Lui, Luke Lupton, Kwamina Monney, Niklas Nordström, Piercarlo Quecchia, Carlos Tolosa Tejedor

Interior Design and Key Features

Overview Throughout the interior design process, the RCA has sought to commission furniture and design products by RCA alumni wherever possible in order to create a living gallery of great design by RCA graduates, highlighting the significant contribution the College has made to furniture and industrial design over the years.

The sustainability activities and aspirations of the manufacturers has played an important role in their selection.

Wayfinding Calvert 107 is being used as the wayfinding font at the new Battersea campus with Margaret Calvert being consulted by Atelier Works during their design process. Calvert taught at the Royal College of Art for almost 40 years and was Head of Graphics from 1987 to 1991. Since then her fonts have been a mainstay of the College's graphic identity.

Furniture Tip Ton Chair, Vitra – designed by Edward Barber & Jay Osgerby [both graduated in Architecture from the RCA in 1996]

Lem S80, La Palma – Shin & Tomoko Azumi [Shin: MA Industrial Design, 1994; Tomoko: MA Furniture Design, 1995]

Bird Stool, designed by Michael Marriott [MA Furniture Design, 1993] for Very Good & Proper, Ed Carpenter [MA Design Products, 2001], André Klausner [MA Design Products, 2002].

Arc Stool, Cuthom – Jemma Ooi & Nathan Philpott [both MA Textiles, 2007]

Sam Son chair, Magis – Konstantin Grcic [MA Industrial Design, 1990]

Several designs by Pearson Lloyd – Luke Pearson & Tom Lloyd [Luke: MA Furniture Design, 1993; Tom: MA Industrial Design, 1993] E8 table, Zeitraum – Mathias Hahn [MA Design Products, 2006]