



WELCOME TO PEMBROKE

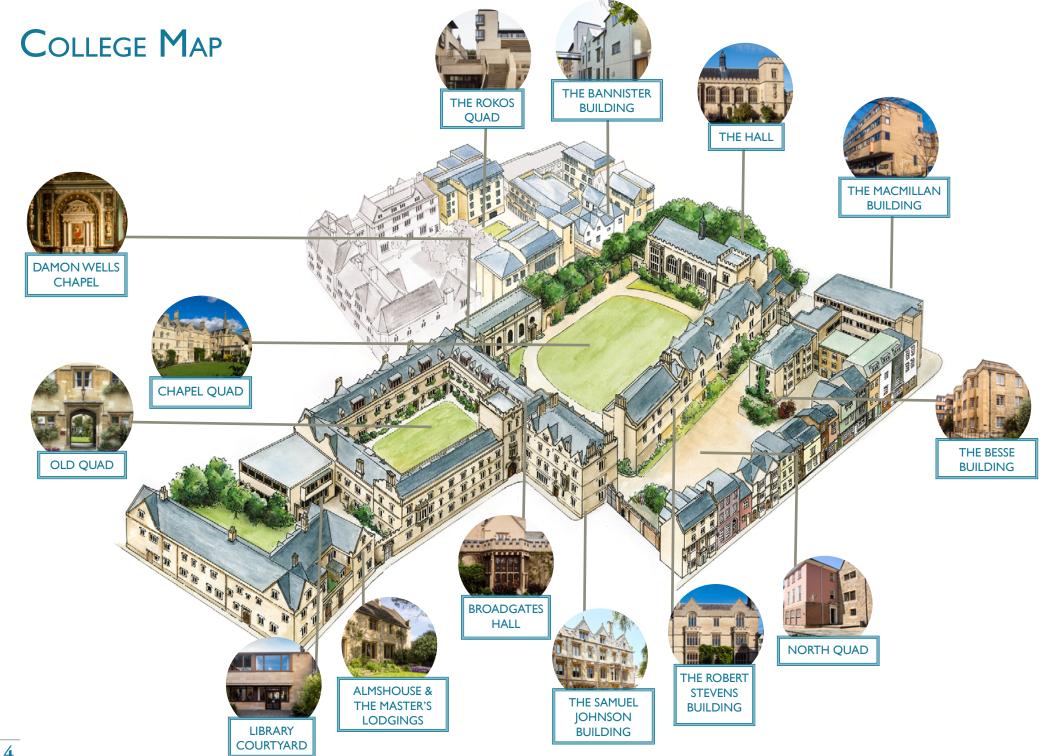
Pembroke College, Oxford, is located in Pembroke Square, just off St Aldates. The College was founded in 1624 by King James I of England, with funds from Abingdon merchant Thomas Tesdale and Berkshire clergyman, Richard Wightwick. It is named after William Herbert, the 3rd Earl of Pembroke and Lord Chamberlain, who was, at this time, the Chancellor of the University of Oxford.

The main Pembroke site is based around four principal quadrangles: Old Quad, Chapel Quad, North Quad and The Rokos Quad. These are grouped around a series of 'staircases' and modern buildings, which serve as accommodation for Fellows and students, teaching rooms, social spaces and administrative offices (please see 'College Map' on p4).

During the middle ages, numerous 'academic halls' served as centres for learning across Oxford. Broadgates Hall, the precursor to Pembroke College, was a 14th century medieval academic hall whose last principal, Thomas Clayton, became the first Master of Pembroke College. Whilst the earliest records of Broadgates date from the 14th century, the 1620s witnessed the beginning of its transformation and incorporation into the College we know today.

Opposite: The Mahfouz Garden and bridge
Right: Pembroke College entrance and Porters' Lodge with view to Old Quad







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OLD QUAD

Entering Pembroke through the Lodge, you step into Old Quad which dates from the 17th century and includes an entrance to the 14th century Broadgates Hall.

Completed in 1626, the south side of the quad was built on the 12th century City Wall, with the west side finished in the same year. A lack of funds, and the events of the mid-century, meant that the east side was not completed until 1670, and

the north side in 1691. The final piece was the entrance tower, finished in 1694 with a Renaissance classical facade, bringing the quadrangle to completion.

Much of this work was motivated by the driving energy of John Hall, Pembroke's longest serving master (1664-1710).

The new frontage of 1829, with its battlements, additional storey, and two richly carved oriel windows, is said to be the first significant example of revived medieval architecture in Oxford.



The exterior of Old Quad was refaced in Gothic style in the 1829-30, by Daniel Evans, with simpler changes made to the inner façades. The new frontage of 1829, facing onto Pembroke Square, with its battlements, additional storey, and two richly carved oriel windows, is said to be the first significant example of revived medieval architecture in Oxford.

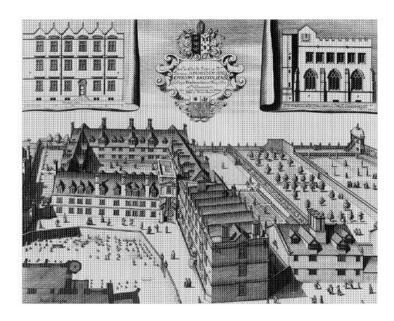
The gravel surface of Old Quad was replaced by a lawn between the late 1920s and early 1930s. In the 1820s refacing, a third storey was added to the entrance tower, above the room occupied by Samuel Johnson when he was a student here in 1728-29.

Another notable feature of Old Quad is the bas relief plaque dedicated to Pembroke alumnus James Smithson, who founded the Smithsonian Institution in Washington.

Bottom row

Oxford Almanack, c. 1830, drawn by Mackenzie, engraved by Le Keux. This highly detailed engraving illustrates the fine north façade of Old Quad, newly refaced in Gothic style. The north end of the old Almshouse can be seen in the middle ground. Image source: J. Platt, Pembroke: A History in Pictures (Oxford, 2001), p. 10.

Plaque dedicated to James Smithson, Old Quad, Pembroke College, Oxford.









Top row

Michael Burghers, Engraving of Pembroke College, I 700. This image illustrates the completed quadrangle, the original gateway tower in Renaissance classical style, the new Master's Lodgings, and the College gardens. Image source: J. Platt, Pembroke: A History in Pictures (Oxford, 2001), p. 4.

Wheeler & Day postcard of Old Quad, c. 1875, Pembroke College Archives, PMB/N/1/1.

BROADGATES HALL

Historic Broadgates Hall once stood in relation to its neighbouring academic halls, prior to their demolition. In the early days of the College the building was extended and, in 1709, an extra storey was added. Despite later alterations, including the addition of a bay window and the elevation of the transverse section of the roof, part of the original hall survives as two walls in Broadgates Hall today.

Since the foundation of Pembroke College, Broadgates Hall has assumed various functions. It was used as the College refectory and kitchens until 1848, when the present Hall was built, and then as the main College Library until 1974, when it was converted for use as part of the Senior Common Room.



Broadgates Hall exterior, view from Chapel Quad Broadgates Hall, interior

Opposite

Broadgates Hall Library, c. 1962, Pembroke College Archives, PMB/N/3/2. © Gillman & Soame.









Above

The Dining Hall, exterior

Opposite

Chapel Quad, with partial view of the Robert Stevens Building and Broadgates Hall

CHAPEL QUAD

An archway leads from Old Quad to Chapel Quad where you can see the west side of Broadgates Hall, the Chapel (1732), the Hall (1848) and the North Range, comprising two staircases of student rooms and the Robert Stevens Building. (Figs 11-12)

Chapel Quad was first known as 'New Quad' or, sometimes, 'the Grass Quad', until North Quad was opened in 1962. Before the expansion of the College in the mid-19th century, this area was home to various other medieval halls, tenements and the College gardens which can be seen in historical drawings and accounts of the site (such as Burgher's illustration).



THE DAMON WELLS CHAPEL

The construction of the Chapel was underway when Samuel Johnson came to Pembroke in 1728 and was completed in 1732. It was designed and built in a plain classical style by William Townesend, the most prominent Oxford mason of his day. Townesend's father had previously contributed to earlier masonry work at Pembroke.

Prior to 1730, Pembrokians worshipped in the Docklinton aisle of St. Aldates Church. There was a brief return to this practice in 1933 when the ravages of death-watch beetle were discovered in the Chapel roof.

The painting over the altar (copied by James Cranke from part of a Rubens painting in Antwerp) was added in 1786. In 1884, Charles Kempe, the renowned stained glass artist and a graduate of Pembroke, was asked by the Master and Fellows to redesign the interior. He remodelled it in a highly decorative 'Holbein-Swiss-Renaissance' style, and a marble altar was installed the following year. The Chapel has retained its original choir stalls and screen from the 1730s.

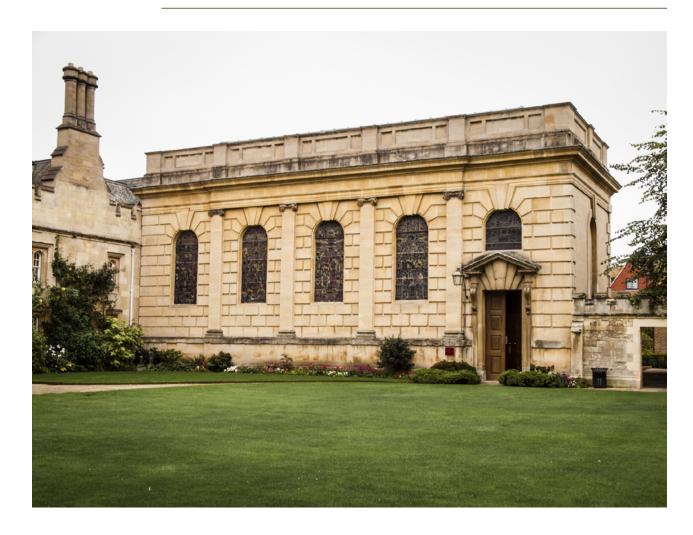
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The Damon Wells Chapel, exterior view from Chapel Quad

Opposite

The Damon Wells Chapel, interior

The Damon Wells Chapel was designed and built in a plain classical style by William Townesend, the most prominent Oxford mason of his day.







There was no music in the Chapel until 1893, when an organ was installed in the ante-Chapel as a result of a petition by the undergraduates. Built by Charles Martin of Oxford, the first organ survived for 100 years, when it was replaced by new instrument by Canadian organ builder Fernand Létourneau, his first in England, installed in 1995.

The Chapel also contains the College's war memorial plaques and just outside stands a sculpture by John Harvey of three figures, known as the Mourning Women, erected by the Junior Common Room in 1948 as their own tribute to the Pembroke fallen.

In 1972 the College Chapel, whose interior and exterior had suffered damage from two and a half centuries of pollution, was fully restored through the generosity of an American alumnus and major benefactor, Dr. Damon Wells (1961), whose name it now bears.

A Gentle History of the Damon Wells Chapel, Pembroke College, Oxford (by Chaplain Emeritus Reverend Dr John Platt and alumnus Brian Wilson) outlines the stages of the Chapel's life and the gifts which have enabled it to be the base of liturgical, pastoral and welfare work in the College. The publication is available to purchase online.



Opposite

The Damon Wells Chapel, ceiling

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(Left) John Harvey, Mourning Women, erected in 1948 outside the Damon Wells Chapel

(Right) Installation of the Létourneau organ in the Damon Wells Chapel, 1995. Pembroke College Archives, PMB/N/4/22.



THE HALL



Designed by John Hayward, a nephew and pupil of Sir Charles Barry, the building of the Hall commenced in 1848 and was completed in 1850. It has a roof built to the medieval hammerbeam design, and a large tower with a niche holding a statue of King James I who granted the College its Foundation Charter in 1624.

The Hall incorporates all the elements you would expect of a neo-medieval hall: tall windows and a large bay window, a tower, the hammer beam roof, a lantern, dais, cross passage and gallery. The original stained glass was commissioned from Messrs Chance of Smethwick, Birmingham; the chimney piece is of Painswick stone; the range work of the Hall is of Bladon stone and the dressings of Bath stone from Combe Down. M. Arding of London was the builder.

Decorated with portraits of the founders, other benefactors and former Masters of the College, the Hall is where most undergraduates and many others dine either formally or informally six nights a week. It is also the location for many important College events such as Freshers' Dinners, and Gaudies (College reunions).

The 36 heraldic shields around the roof represent former students, University Chancellors who were Visitors of Pembroke ex-officio, Principals of Broadgates, and Masters of the College, as well as other benefactors and Fellows. The stained glass windows represent the arms of Visitors, benefactors, Fellows and, most recently (1955), the regiments and other branches of the Services in which served

the Pembroke men who fell in the Second World War.

When the memorial windows were installed the previous windows were put into storage. In the 1990s, these windows found a new home at The Ames Library, Illinois Wesleyan University, where they were fully restored and put on display.

The current high table is an impressive piece of craftsmanship. Designed and made in 1984 by Richard La Trobe Bateman, the seven-metre-long table is made of just four English oak boards and supported on a distinctive truss structure,

which has kept it flat and true for over thirty years. La Trobe Bateman also designed and made the distinctive oak chairs.

The Hall and its associated kitchens were extensively refurbished during 2010-11 in a project which included the creation of a purpose-built servery, the installation of a lift to improve disabled access, underfloor heating and the development of a new College bar in the undercroft.

When not in use by the College, the Hall may be hired for private dinners. (Visit our Conferences pages for details).

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(Left) Statue of James I in the façade niche of the Dining Hall (Below) Pembroke's high table, designed and made by Richard La Trobe-Bateman, seen standing with his wife Mary

Opposite

The Dining Hall, interior view. Image by Christopher Chavez, 2016





THE ROBERT STEVENS BUILDING

The North Range opposite the Damon Wells Chapel, also designed by John Hayward, was completed in 1846 and was then known as the 'New Buildings'. Today it includes Fellows rooms and accommodation in Staircase 9 and 10, and the Senior Common Room (SCR), Dining Room and Parlour. In October 2009, it was named The Robert Stevens Building in honour of Professor Robert Stevens, Master 1993-2001.



(Above) The Robert Stevens Building, including SCR, Dining Room and Parlour

(Below) The Robert Stevens Building, including Fellows rooms and student accommodation in Staircase 9 and 10





The North Quad

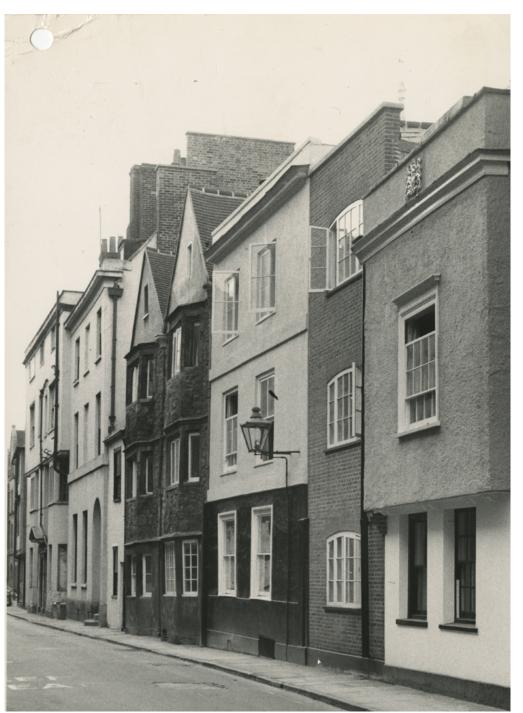
In the north-east corner of Chapel Quad is the entrance through to the North Quad. It was formed by the closure of Beef Lane in 1960 (originally Beef Hall Lane, this ran between St. Ebbe's and St. Aldates) and the incorporation into the College of a row of houses on Pembroke Street.

The buildings on the north side of Beef Lane were demolished to form the open space of the quad. The private houses on the south side of Pembroke Street were gradually acquired by the College, refurbished as student accommodation and teaching rooms, and altered so that access was only possible from within the Quad.

North Quad was formally opened in 1962, and the former houses now make up staircases 13-18. Staircase 13 is the oldest, with a 16th century timber frame and stucco. The architectural styles from across several centuries sit together with surprising harmony. In 2007 the repair and restoration of the former numbers 16-21 Pembroke Street was recognised by an award from the Oxford Preservation Trust for the "contribution made to the preservation and enhancement of Oxford's heritage".

Right

Pembroke Street c.1962, Pembroke College Archives, PMB/N/7/3. © Moore, Simpson & Cleverley.





The Opening of North Quad by Harold MacMillan, 29th June 1962, Pembroke College Archives, PMB/N/7/7. © Gillman & Soame.

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The Samuel Johnson Building

The original Master's House (now the Samuel Johnson Building) was built in 1695, marking the completion of the College's first buildings. This was later enlarged and refaced in Gothic style by Daniel Evans in 1829-30. Formerly the site of Cambey's Lodgings, this replaced a late 16th century house built by George Summaster, penultimate Principal of Broadgates Hall. Samuel Johnson often visited his friend and sometime fellow undergraduate William Adams (Master 1775 – 1789) here and the building was named in Johnson's honour in September 2009 to mark the tercentenary of his birth.



The Samuel Johnson Building, view from Pembroke Square

THE BESSE BUILDING

Named after its founder, Sir Antonin Besse, the Besse Building (by Worthington and Sons) was opened in 1956, prior to the creation of the Quad, and serves as undergraduate accommodation. It was linked to the Pembroke Street houses by an extension in 1966. Sir Antonin was a generous benefactor in Oxford, and in 1950 his major donation to the University was used to found St Antony's College.

THE MACMILLAN BUILDING

North Quad also includes the Macmillan Building, designed by Sir Leslie Martin (see also the McGowin Library), which is a more modern provision of student accommodation, opened in 1977. It was named after the former Prime Minster, then Chancellor of the University and

College Visitor, Harold MacMillan, who appreciated having "so handsome a building being named after me... Gladstone only managed a suitcase." The building includes retail units fronting onto St Ebbe's Street.



The Besse Building



The MacMillan Building, view from St Ebbe's Street

LIBRARY

COURTYARD

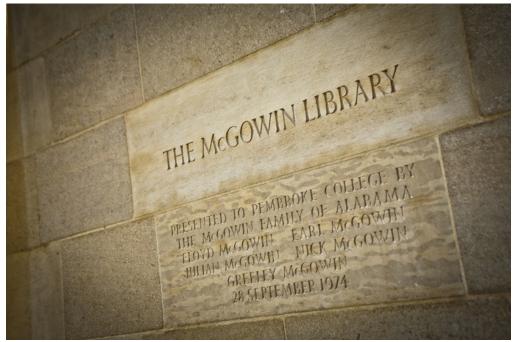
To the east of Old Quad is a courtyard, reached through a short passage, giving access to the McGowin Library, the Almshouse and the Master's Lodgings.

From its foundation in 1624, until 1709, the College's library was housed in a chamber above Docklinton's aisle of St Aldates Church. When Bishop John Hall (Master 1664-1709) bequeathed his substantial collection of books to the College there was no longer sufficient space in the church. The books were transferred to a room above Broadgates Hall, later moving into the main body of Broadgates when the new dining hall was built in 1848.

By the end of the 19th century Broadgates had also run out of space for books. A number other College rooms were converted to make additional storage space and various expansion proposals were put forward, including a library extension to the Chapel. Eventually, in 1974, the McGowin family of Alabama (several of whom are alumni of the college) generously funded the construction of a purpose-built three storey library on the site of the old bath-house.

The McGowin Library was designed by Sir Leslie Martin, architect of the Royal Festival Hall on London's Southbank, as well as the St Cross Building (which is part of the University of Oxford's Law Faculty) and the Tinbergen Build ing (which houses the Psychology and Zoology departments) in Oxford.





Current page

(Above) The McGowin Library (Below) The McGowin Library (engraving)

Opposite

The McGowin Library, view from Library courtyard





ALMSHOUSES & THE MASTER'S LODGINGS

The range of buildings that now includes the Master's Lodgings were built from 1525 by Cardinal Wolsey as almshouses for pensioned soldiers and sailors. The building took the form of a courtyard, with a tower, and staircases giving access to dormitory rooms. There were gardens to the south, with a 'house of convenience' next to the town wall. The almshouses were owned by Christ Church College until 1888, when they were purchased by Pembroke College.

In 1829, a proposal by Pembroke College to demolish the almshouses and rebuild the east front of the Old Quad as a grand entrance facing Christ Church was rejected. The almshouses were partly demolished and rebuilt in 1834, widening the lane between Pembroke and St Aldate's Church by 20ft, and renovating a derelict section of the building, to designs by Underwood, leaving two separate blocks. In 1877 it was converted into a house for the Treasurer of Christ Church, Reverend Godfrey Faucett, with a new wing linking the two blocks. It was recently discovered that this work was undertaken by the architects Bodley and Garner.

The almshouses were purchased by Pembroke College in 1888 and tenanted for 40 years. They were converted into the Master's Lodgings in 1929. Administrative offices, guest rooms and undergraduate accommodation were developed into the buildings in 1967. Previously, the Master had resided in what is now the Samuel Johnson Building, adjacent to Broadgates Hall.



Unist Church Almohouses, during removal of N. side in 1834, to widen approach to Pembrohe College. [Fraum by J. Fisher]

Opposite

The Master's Lodgings and Garden

Below

(Left) J. Fisher, drawing (1834). This drawing illustrates the removal of the north side of the Christ Church Almshouses to widen the approach to Pembroke College. Source: Bodleian Library, MS. Top. Oxon. J. Fisher, Drawings of Places in Oxfordshire, c. 1805-c. 1879

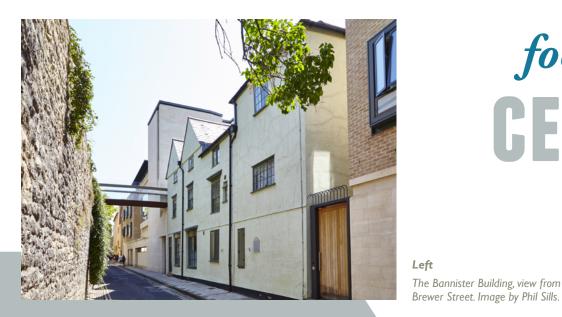
(Right) The Almshouses, view from Library Quad



THE BANNISTER BUILDING

Named after former Master, Sir Roger Bannister (1985-93), The Bannister Building is an 18th century townhouse, converted to provide accommodation for graduate students in Brewer Street and opened in 1996.

This building was extensively refurbished during 2011-12 and has been reconfigured and restored. It now forms part of the buildings complex surrounding The Rokos Quad, and is inhabited by undergraduates.

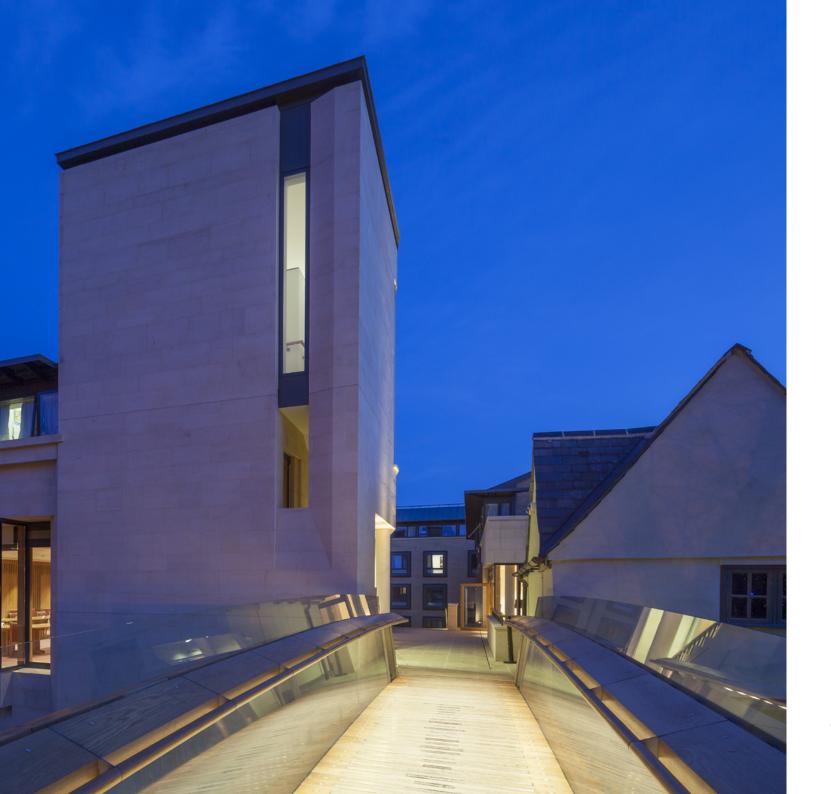


footbridge in Oxford for a **CENTURY**

A glass-sided footbridge was cons ructed to join the NEW buildings to the old, the first new







LeftThe glass footbridge. Image by Quintin Lake.

THE ROKOS QUAD

After many years of planning and exploring options for purchasing land adjacent to the historic Pembroke main site, planning permissions were granted and the builders (and archaeologists) moved in to start work in late 2010.

A glass-sided footbridge was constructed to join the new buildings to the old, the first new footbridge in Oxford for a century.

The Oxford practice of Berman Guedes Stretton were selected as architects, in competition with five other strong contenders.

From the south-west corner of Chapel Quad there is access to the footbridge

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Stairs in the Rokos Quad. Image by Quintin Lake

Opposite

The Rokos Quad. Image by Quintin Lake

across Brewer Street, which leads to The Rokos Quad, around which are situated The Henderson Building, The Harold H W Lee Building and The Schild Building. This large complex of new buildings was completed in early 2013 and also includes The Wagstaff Building, The Mahfouz Building and the fully refurbished Bannister building. Taken together these new areas provide not only student accommodation, but also Farthings Café, the Pichette Auditorium, several seminar and meeting rooms, an art gallery, music practice rooms and new outdoor spaces.

The Rokos Quad was formally opened by HRH The Duke of Kent KG at a ceremony in April 2013. It is named after Foundation Fellow and benefactor of the College, Chris Rokos (alumnus 1989). This momentous development at Pembroke gives the College state-of-the-art facilities alongside its traditional spaces, and is enjoyed by students and conference guests alike. Since its completion it has been widely praised and awards have been received from the Oxford Preservation Trust and the Institution of Structural Engineers.









THE SIR GEOFFREY ARTHUR BUILDING

Designed by Robert Maguire and Keith Murray, the Sir Geoffrey Arthur Building, known as the GAB, is about ten minutes' walk from the main College site, on the banks of the River Thames, providing social spaces and accommodation for students. Opened in 1990, it was named after a former Master (Sir Geoffrey Arthur, 1975-85) and comprises two quadrangles (one named after Senator William Fulbright who matriculated at Pembroke in 1925). Popular with students, the distinctive style of this building bears comparison with the same architects' work at Worcester College's Linbury Building.

Above

One of two quads in the Sir Geoffrey Arthur Building

Below

The Sir Geoffrey Arthur Building

Words

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Contributors

We are especially grateful to Dr Tim Brindley for sharing his research and expertise on the College's architectural history and to Pembroke's Archivist, Amanda Ingram, for her valuable insight and knowledge of the College Archive.