

Associated Architects
Universities

Muirhead Tower
University of Birmingham

Brief

The Muirhead Tower is a sixteen-storey building comprising over 12,000sq.m. of gross floor space in two towers and a podium base, designed by Sir Philip Dowson of Arup Associates and completed in 1971. Although exceptional design quality this landmark building has suffered from failure of its glazing system, and deterioration of the exposed concrete has made the podium unsafe. The brief requires these technical issues to be resolved together with complete upgrading of M&E services, fire engineering, improved accessibility and vertical circulation.

Solution

The building is to be sensitively remodeled and refurbished for the Schools of Social Sciences and Humanities and also to include office space for Information Services. The refurbished tower will accommodate 150 academic offices and 230 post graduate write-up spaces. The podium will be remodeled around the existing Allardyce Nicol studio theatre providing additional rehearsal spaces and changing and technical facilities. Central student facilities will be provided including a suite of lecture rooms for between 60P and 100P, an entrance cafe bar, replacement lifts and toilet cores, and improved accessibility throughout the building. The concrete is to be repaired and the glazing system is to be replaced with a double skin which controls the thermal and solar performance of the building which is currently deficient. The podium level is to be extended to provide additional stairs, space for the cafe and to provide a new building main entrance. The project is due to start on site in October 2006 and complete in the summer of 2008.



Client: University of Birmingham
Project Value: £25 million
Completion Date: July 2008

