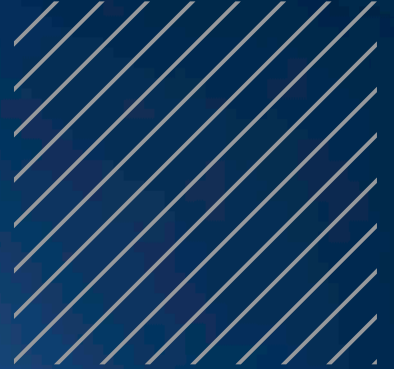




UNIVERSITY OF  
WINCHESTER

# WEST DOWNS NEWSLETTER

JULY 2020





Entrance piazza and view from Romsey Road

## Construction complete on new West Downs Centre

Almost two and a half years after a groundbreaking ceremony in January 2018, the University took possession of the new West Downs Centre from contractor Osborne in May 2020.

The interior fit-out of the flagship learning and teaching building is underway, with the building due to open its doors to new and returning students and staff at the start of the new academic year in September.

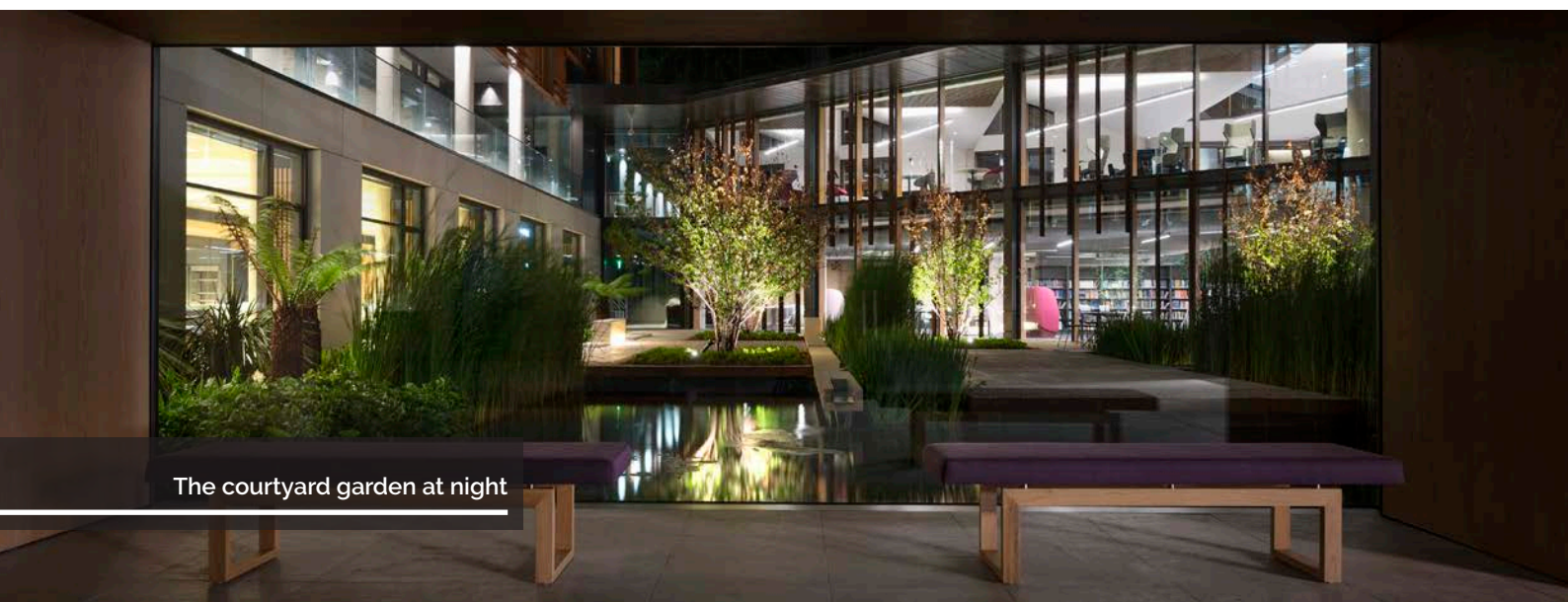
The University is putting in place a range of appropriate measures across all its buildings and campuses, including social distancing, to ensure students and staff are safe from the risk of Covid-19.

Home to our growing portfolio of programmes, including digital and computer-related degree courses and health and wellbeing programmes, the building boosts available

teaching space by 20 per cent, which is set to help in implementing appropriate social distancing measures.

"It is a huge thrill to now have ownership of our fantastic new West Downs Centre which has been delivered within budget. I want to thank everyone who has been involved for all their hard work to get us to this point," said Professor Joy Carter CBE, DL, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Winchester.

"These new state-of-the-art facilities will provide an outstanding learning environment for future generations of students here at Winchester. I also hope the people of Winchester will be proud of this new addition to the city's civic buildings, as we are here at the University," Professor Carter added.



The courtyard garden at night

## Green credentials

The West Downs Centre is set to achieve the 'Excellent' rating of the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) - the benchmark standard for the construction of environmentally sustainable buildings in the UK - with 'Outstanding' credits for energy, contributing to the University's ambition to become the most sustainable higher education institution in the UK.

Features of the building include: solar panels, a 300sqm wildflower roof on the top of the drum-shaped Auditorium, built-in bird and bat boxes and carefully selected building materials, rainwater harvesting to recycle water from the roof of the Learning Hall to provide flushing water as well as irrigation for the trees and plants. The building is thermally efficient with mechanical ventilation and heat recovery systems to help minimise the amount of energy that can escape to the outside.

Winchester is the first UK university to secure Green finance for campus development, with a £30m loan from Triodos Bank, Europe's leading sustainable bank. Triodos Bank is a global pioneer in sustainable banking, using the power of finance to invest in projects that are good for people and the planet.

## Healthier people through better buildings

The West Downs Centre is one of the first university projects in the UK to register for WELL Certification, an accreditation scheme which recognises buildings that support and enhance human health and wellbeing.

The WELL Building Standard (WELL) is a performance-based rating system for measuring and certifying features of buildings and indoor spaces that positively impact human health and wellness.

Features of the development that boost wellbeing include a contemplation space for practising mindfulness; access to nature through the courtyard garden; landscaped areas for encouraging outdoor use; and reduced harmful buildings emissions, including air and water testing.

Currently, there are 215 WELL Certified projects around the world, with just seven certified projects in the UK. WELL Certification is due following an inspection of the completed building.

## Contemporary design, inspiring spaces

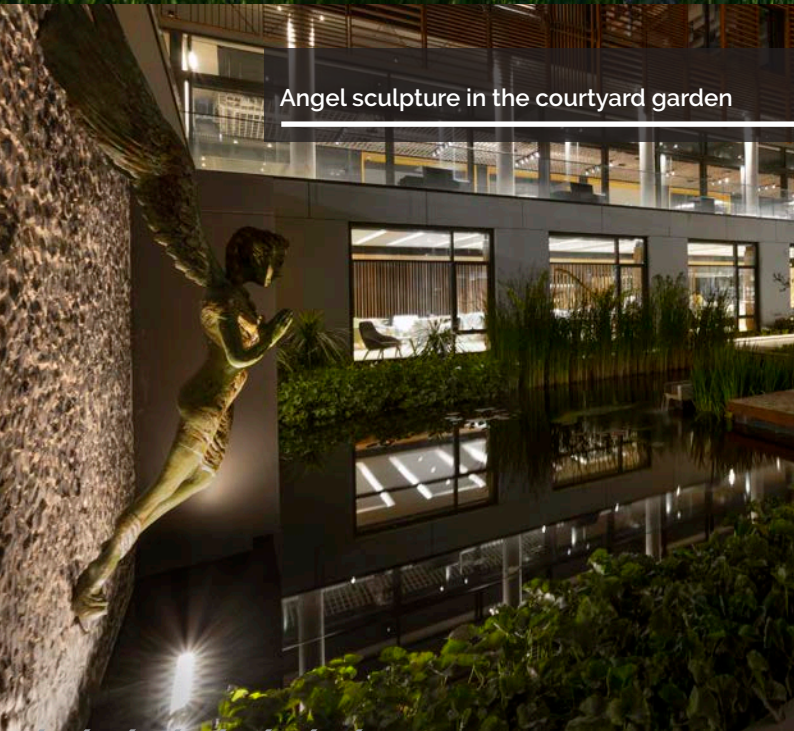
The contemporary design by Winchester-based Design Engine Architects includes a 250-seat drum-shaped auditorium, which will host public events, art gallery, café, food hall, library, social learning areas and versatile teaching spaces. There are also plans to open a zero-waste shop. Many of these facilities, including the café and shop, will be open to the public to enjoy.

The entrance piazza features informal seating areas, while an enclosed courtyard with a water feature offers a quiet space for reflection at the heart of the building.

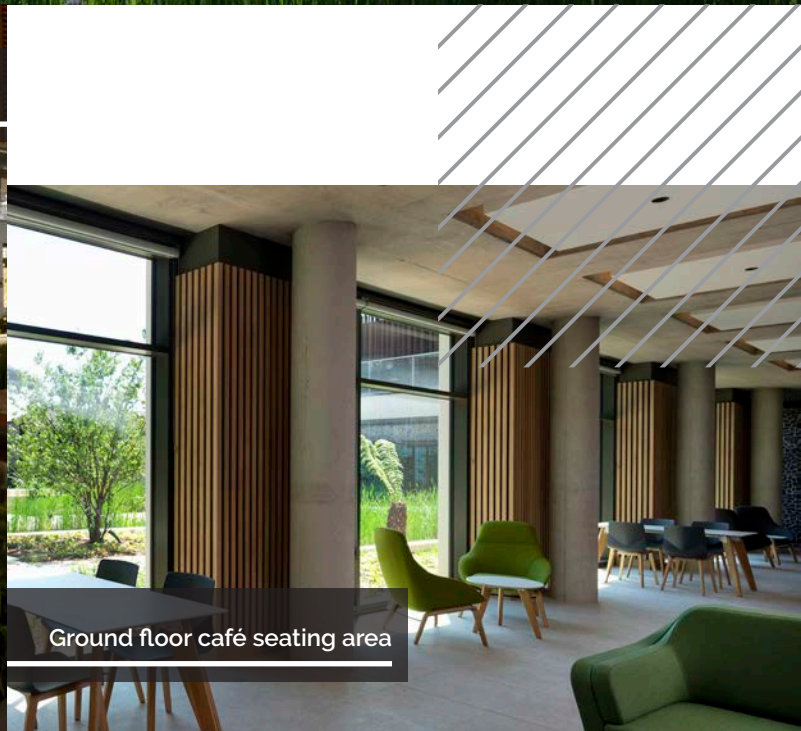




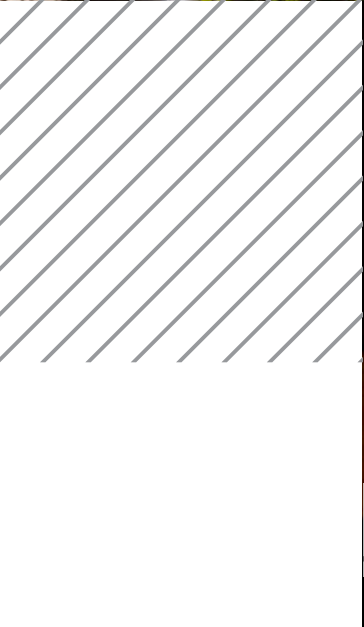
Looking east past the Auditorium to the Learning Hall



Angel sculpture in the courtyard garden



Ground floor café seating area



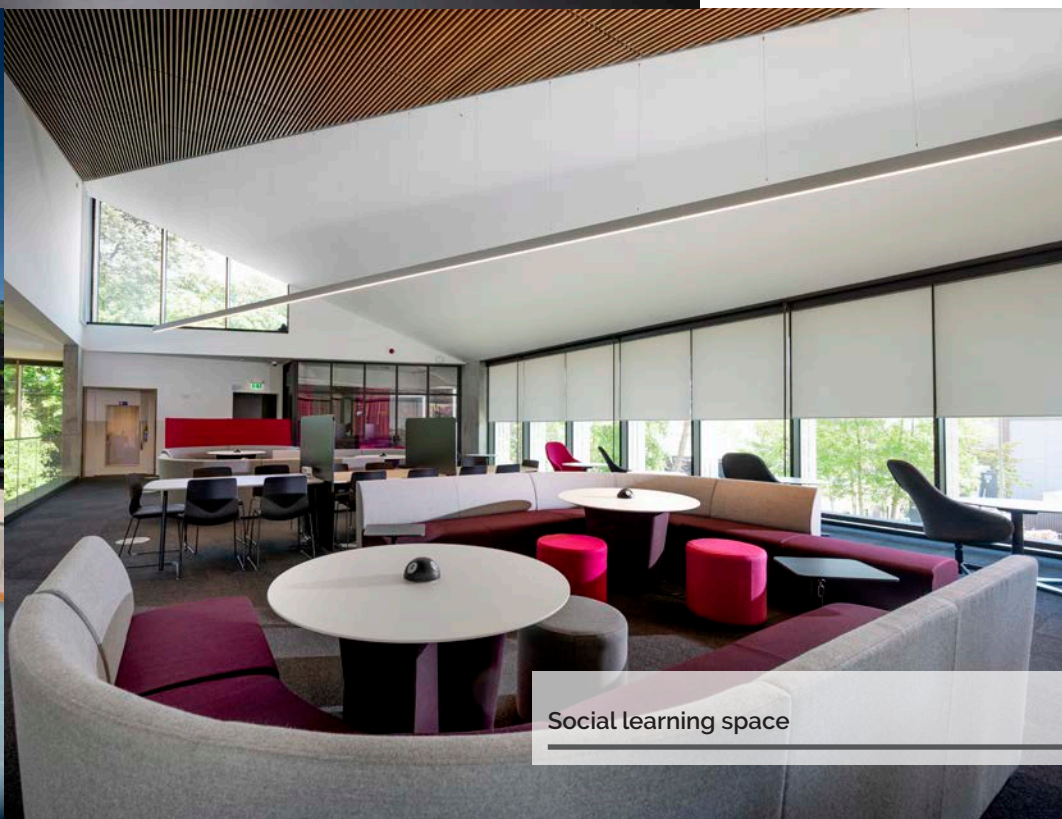
The Contemplation Space



Inside the Auditorium



Outside on the first floor terrace



Social learning space

## Meetings of the West Downs Neighbourhood Liaison Group

The University of Winchester hosts a West Downs Neighbourhood Liaison Group evening meeting twice a year. The meetings are an opportunity for University staff, Winchester Student Union, local neighbours, councillors, Neighbourhood Watch and other interested parties to meet and discuss University activity. Everyone is very welcome to attend any or all of the meetings.

If you would like further information about these meetings please contact Liz Sanders.

Email [Liz.Sanders@winchester.ac.uk](mailto:Liz.Sanders@winchester.ac.uk) or telephone 01962 827312.

## More information and contact us

Visit our YouTube channel at

[www.youtube.com/UniofWinchester](https://www.youtube.com/UniofWinchester)

to watch short films about the development and timelapse videos showing the construction.

If you have any queries about the new West Downs Centre, please email: [campusdevelopments@winchester.ac.uk](mailto:campusdevelopments@winchester.ac.uk)

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