

# Architecture and Public Art



# Architecture and Public Art

In the early 1960s Battersea College of Advanced Technology was a potential university in search of a campus and Guildford was a town in search of a university. Many people pledged support to Dr Peter Leggett, Vice-Principal of the College and subsequently the University's first Vice-Chancellor and in March 1963 Guildford Borough Council also supported the idea. The Robbins Report, published in October 1963, included proposals that Colleges of Advanced Technology should become technological universities, which added weight to the proposal. The Report suggested that a University of this size would require around 360 acres.

In March 1964 development proposals were submitted to Surrey County Council for 200 acres initially, increasing to 300, for the land immediately beneath Guildford Cathedral and at Manor Farm (later reaching the recommended 360 acres with the addition of the Research Park). In May of that year the Government approved the College's move to Guildford. George Grenfell Baines of the Building Design Partnership (BDP) was appointed Planning Consultant and his firm commissioned to design the University buildings. Lessons learned from recently built universities were included in the design.

In December 1964 the plans for the Stag Hill site were presented to a meeting of the local authorities and other groups involved and because of a number of objections a three-day public inquiry was held in October 1965. Permission was granted in January 1966 and the University was granted its Charter on 9 September 1966. The decision to build on Stag Hill meant that the University would be an urban institution and a 'dynamic part of Guildford' (Planning Report, November 1964). George Grenfell Baines' plans concentrated development in the middle of the site with three 'bands of activity' – residential, social and academic – with parking largely confined to the perimeter. He envisaged a 'compact hill town clustered below the Cathedral, surrounded



*Senate House Fig. 1*

by trees, with an encircling wall of academic buildings'. This linear model was taken up as the preferred layout for provincial universities. The tree planting and landscaping has been immensely successful and is fully described in a leaflet, *Trees At Surrey*, produced in 2003 by Gordon Hartman, Nigel Hodge and Simon Smith.

The Government provided £3.5 million of the original £6 million capital cost and the shortfall was made up by a very successful major Appeal. Nevertheless, because of these financial constraints and the need to build quickly it is generally acknowledged that the original buildings were utilitarian rather than architecturally distinguished but even over 40 years later they remain in use and skilful refurbishments have improved their appearance. The 1960s academic buildings were designed and built with flexibility in mind. The structural module allowed for a variety of spaces to be constructed within the shell. The test of how flexible a design is can only be achieved over time.

During the past 40 years these buildings have been modified, refurbished and remodelled to accommodate high tech biolabs, teaching space, engineering labs and offices within the same style of building. They have proved to be capable of meeting the initial life cycle criteria as dictated in the original brief and design, and to be sustainable. They have featured in a number of Funding Council design guides and in *An Approach to Laboratory Building* (August 1969, Laboratories Investigation Unit). Stag Hill Residences (duplex rooms) designed by Maguire and Murray were award-winning. Senate House (Fig. 1) was one of the first new buildings on campus and the clockface was a gift from Charterhouse School.





*Sir Austin Pearce Fig. 2*

In more recent times the campus has been transformed by the erection of landmark buildings, predominantly as the result of architectural competitions.

A tour of the present University starts at the Piazza, the new gateway for most people as they arrive. Ahead lies the **AUSTIN PEARCE BUILDING** (Fig. 3), named after Sir Austin Pearce, Pro-Chancellor from 1986 to 1993, subsequently Pro-Chancellor Emeritus until 2004. His portrait bust by Tim Beswick (Fig. 2) is on the ground floor. The building was opened on 10 July 1997 by HRH The Duke of Kent and



*Austin Pearce Building Fig. 3*



*Alan Turing Fig. 4*

cost £8 million. (Architects: ADP. Project Architect: Roger FitzGerald.)

It houses IT Services, 24 hour open access computer laboratories, the School of Law and four Lecture Theatres. Looking into the atrium we

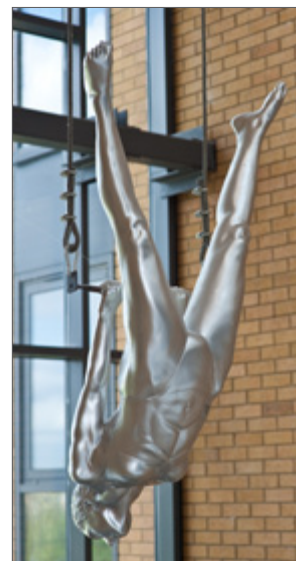


*Management School Fig. 5*

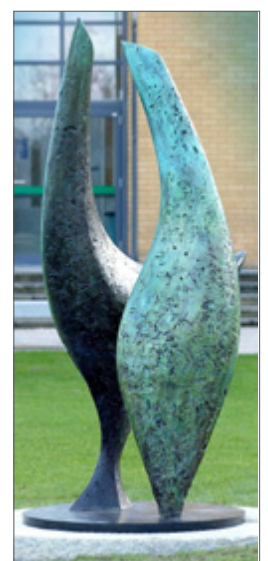
can see suspended the figure of an acrobat by Natalie Staniforth (Fig. 6), who trained at Wimbledon College of Art, and whose home is in Guildford.

On the Piazza in front of the building to the north is a statue of Alan Turing (Fig. 4) by John W. Mills PPRBS, ARCA, unveiled by HRH The Earl of Wessex on 28 October 2004. Alan Turing is considered to be the 'Father of Computing' and early in his life lived for a time in Ennismore Avenue, Guildford.

Also on the Piazza is a bronze sculpture, *Knife Birds* (Fig. 7) by Bridget McCrum FRBS. It was inspired by African tribal knives she saw in the British Museum. It was unveiled in 2004 by Sir Idris Pearce, Pro Chancellor Emeritus, who, encouraged by the then Vice-Chancellor Professor Patrick Dowling (Portrait by June Mendoza, Fig. 27), first persuaded the University to set aside a Fund (Per Cent for Art) for sculpture and landscaping.



*Acrobat Fig. 6*



*Knife Birds Fig. 7*

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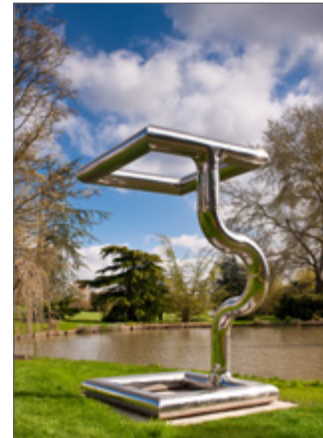


*All The Gang Are Here Fig. 8*

On the left of the Piazza is the **MANAGEMENT SCHOOL**, (Fig. 5) completed in 2003 at a cost of £14 million and opened on 12 October 2004 by Kim Howells, Minister of State for Lifelong Learning. 6,600m<sup>2</sup> in size and one of the most energy efficient buildings in the United Kingdom, it has a central atrium and triple glazed windows with integral blinds. Lighting levels are controlled by a sensor light on the roof and it is cooled at night by an absorption chiller utilising waste heat from the University Combined Heat & Power plant. It contains a 420-seat Lecture Theatre, the Lakeside Restaurant (open to the public for lunch) and Sorrento's Coffee Bar. Materials reflect the existing architectural language found on the



*Spine Fig. 9*



*Narcissus Fig. 10*

perimeter of the campus: gold buff bricks to the two upper storeys, strip windows and blue-grey curtain walling to stair towers. In addition the façade treatment is enhanced with feature bays on each face and the use of pre-weathered zinc cladding to pick out key elements such as stair tower flanks and the curved wall of the lecture theatre. In 2003 the building won a Heritage Award from Guildford Borough Council for Environmental Sustainability and in 2004 the Guildford Society's Award for Best New Building.

Going towards Senate House, three bronze wolves are visible among the trees to the left of the road. They are called *All The Gang Are Here* (Fig. 8) and are by Carol Orwin SWA, a

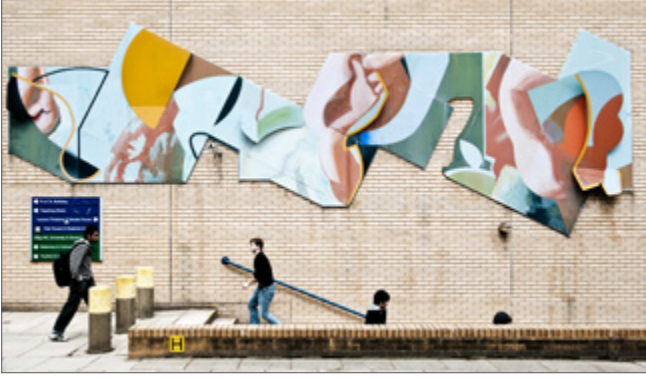


*Geodesic Dome Fig. 11*



*Thinking Of My Future Fig. 12*





*Duncan Newton Mural Fig. 13*

sculptor in the animalier tradition who lives in Guildford. They were installed in February 2007.

Further on the Geodesic Dome (Fig. 11) is to be seen on the left. It was presented to the University in 1982 on the occasion of the Space Structures Conference hosted by Professor Zygmunt Makowski, based on the original construction by Buckminster Fuller.

*Spine* (Fig. 9) by Diane Maclean FRBS is sited by the lake, and was highly commended in the Guildford Heritage Awards 2005. The sculpture was made as a memorial to her father, a surgeon, and is constructed of stainless steel which changes colour according to the light and reflects the surrounding trees. It was installed in February 2004.

In front of the lake, by Senate House Square, is the stainless steel sculpture *Narcissus*, (Fig. 10) lent to the University by the internationally eminent sculptor William Pye FRBS, Hon. FRIBA, who has a house at Cutt Mill, near Puttenham. He saw the *Narcissus* by Bernini in Florence which inspired the abstract forms of the reflective stainless steel sculpture that he has made.

Behind Senate House, in the amphitheatre, is a sculpture *Thinking Of My Future* (Fig. 12) by Zimbabwean sculptor Christopher Chipfuya, Art Conservator at the National Gallery of Harare. It has been given in memory of Sir David and Lady Orr by their daughters and was unveiled by Baroness Bottomley of Nettlestone, Pro-Chancellor, on 28 February 2010.

Nearby, on the outside of the Lecture Theatre Block, is a mural by Duncan Newton (Fig. 13) painted on three separate aluminium panels in 1980. It was commissioned by the Arts Committee under the Chairmanship of Professor Terence Lee, with the design work funded by the Arts Council and the cost of the materials met by the University.



*HRH The Duke of Kent Fig. 15*

Continuing towards Yorkies Bridge the distinctive grey shape of **THE DUKE OF KENT BUILDING** (Fig. 14) stands to the right of the road. (Architects: Sir Nicholas Grimshaw and Partners. Project architect: Chris Nash.) This iconic building was finished in 1999 and cost £10 million. It houses the Faculty of Health & Medical Sciences and is dedicated to HRH The Duke of Kent KG, Chancellor of the University since 1977, whose portrait by Paul Fitzgerald hangs inside (Fig. 15).

The building is highly visible from the town and won the Concrete Society Award in 2000 as one of the top 100 buildings in the world. The lecture theatres, study rooms and administrative offices benefit from a high degree of natural daylight filtering through from the atrium as well as the large areas of clerestory glazing on the outer walls. The building is essentially



*Duke of Kent building Fig. 14*

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*Millennium House Fig. 16*

a reinforced concrete structure with exposed concrete. The use of timber Glulam beams for the roof structure creates a stunning open plan area on the top floor. The nose of the building is curved in two directions and clad in pre-weathered zinc. Beside it a podium is linked to the five storey block below ground level. The steps between the two line up with the Cathedral and the Students' Union.

The building opposite, **MILLENNIUM HOUSE** (Fig. 16), (known as The Train from its shape and its proximity to the railway line) was also conceptually designed by Sir Nicholas Grimshaw and Partners, to be in sympathy with the Duke of Kent Building. The detailed design was completed by local architects Gerry Lytle and the building, which houses student residences, was opened in 2000 and cost £4.5 million.

On the hill behind the Duke of Kent Building is the Students' Union. On the outside is a ceramic mural created by students at the then Roehampton Institute Art Department (Fig. 17).

Returning towards the main entrance, the academic buildings on either side of the Spine Road are joined by walkways. In 1996 they were the subject of a project for the MA course in Site Specific Sculpture at Wimbledon College of Art and adhesive dots, as shown in the watercolour



*Students' Union mural Fig. 17*

by Heather Tipton (Fig. 18) were applied by Peter Jeffery, a second year student. Originally it was intended that they should be there for three months only but somehow they have survived the passage of time.

Just before the Spine Road joins the Perimeter Road it is flanked by two matching buildings. The third of the buildings at the University designed by Sir Nicholas Grimshaw and Partners, the **ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE (ATI)** or Daphne Jackson Building, (Fig. 20) has 2,800m<sup>2</sup> of floor space and cost £10 million. It was opened by Lord Sainsbury of Turville, Minister for Science & Innovation, on 7 October 2002.



*Walkways Fig. 18*





*Professor Daphne Jackson Fig. 19*

It has been constructed to provide for the merger of a number of groups whose combined knowledge and skills place the University at the cutting edge of research. Facilities include clean rooms, optical and specialist laboratory spaces, ancillary workshops, offices and meeting rooms. The low energy approaches included natural ventilation to cellular space and mixed mode ventilation to the open plan research area.

Daphne Jackson, whose portrait by Jane Allison (Fig. 19) hangs inside, was appointed Professor of Physics in 1971, the first woman to hold a Chair in Physics. She became Head of the Department and served as Dean of the Faculty of Science for some years. She initiated the Women Returners scheme and died in 1991.

Opposite is **INTERNATIONAL HOUSE**, (Fig. 20) reflecting the academic style of the ATI Building. Designed by local architects Lewis and Hickey, it was completed in 2003 at a cost of £8.4 million. The four-storey building provides 258 student bedrooms arranged in six-bedroom self-contained flats. Unusually it has been designed with the inherent flexibility to permit the future conversion into academic offices.



*Guildford School of Acting Fig. 21*



*Advanced Technology Institute and International House Fig. 20*

Leaving the campus the **GUILDFORD SCHOOL OF ACTING'S** new building (Fig. 21) was completed in 2009. (Architects: Penoyre & Prasad. Project architect: Peter Penoyre. Contractor: Volker Fitzpatrick). It provides 15 new dance and drama studios, all fully environmentally controlled, 10 tutorial/practice rooms, changing and shower facilities, café and an IT and resource room. The building also accommodates the GSA administration and offices.

The large (104m<sup>2</sup>) and medium (88m<sup>2</sup>) studios are arranged on three floors, around two sides of a central atrium space. Clerestory glazing above the atrium brings natural light into the heart of the building and into the studios through internal glazed screens. The ground floor of the atrium is a generous circulation space which also includes the student café and refreshment area. This can open out to the new piazza formed in front of the building. Also at ground floor level, two studios are capable of being opened up into one large performance space.

This will complete the 80 acre site on Stag Hill, two million square feet of buildings, with



*Multi Faith Centre (Artist's impression) Fig. 22*

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*Dr Peter Leggett Fig. 23*



*Sir George Edwards Fig. 24*

the exception of the planned **MULTI FAITH CENTRE** (Fig. 22). (Architects: BCH, London. Project architect: Martin Heijne.) Planning permission has been obtained and fund-raising is proceeding to enable the building to go ahead.

Apart from those already mentioned, other buildings have been dedicated to prominent individuals, notably the Teaching Block to Dr. Peter Leggett (Portrait by Norman Hepple, Fig. 23), first Vice-Chancellor, the front end of the Library block to Sir William Mullens, first University Treasurer 1966-1975, and the building between Senate House and the Lecture Theatre block to Philip Marchant, an architect who had been a member of the governing body of Battersea College of Technology and later chaired the University Development Committee for 10 years. The Library, built in the early 1970s, was in 1981 officially named the George Edwards Library after Sir George Edwards, OM, CBE, FRS, DL, an



*Professor Patrick Dowling Fig. 27*



*The Surrey Scholar Fig. 26*



*Library Extension (Artist's impression) Fig. 25*

outstanding aeronautical engineer who was Chairman of the British Aircraft Corporation from 1963 to 1975 and the University's first Pro-Chancellor (1966 to 1979). The library contains his portrait bust by Sheila Mitchell FRBS (Fig. 24). In 2011 an extension to the Library, the Learning Resource Centre (Fig. 25), will be opened to bring in new technology and social space, providing a more modern environment for free learning.

Two blocks of student residences have been given dedications: Twyford Court, opened in





*Postgraduate Medical School Fig. 28*

1994, was named after Eric Twyford, Chief Executive of Guildford Borough Council, who was Chairman of the University's Buildings and Estates Committee for several years; Bellerby Court, opened in 1999 and built in partnership with Spelthorne Housing Association, marks the many joint ventures between town and gown supported by Bill and Doreen Bellerby, both of whom served for over 40 years as Borough Councillors, were former Mayors, were awarded the MBE and are now Honorary Freemen of Guildford.

The entrance to the University was given striking emphasis in March 2009 by the unveiling by the Chancellor, HRH The Duke of Kent, of a 5 metre high stainless steel stag by Allan Sly FRBS who was also the sculptor for *The Surrey Scholar* (Fig. 26) in Guildford High Street. *The Surrey Stag* (front cover) is his stylised interpretation of the University's crest, in heraldic parlance "on a wreath or and azure a stag trippant proper resting the dexter forehoof on a key".

## Manor Park Campus

The Manor Park Campus is currently the scene of large-scale construction. Already completed is the **POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL** (PGMS) (Fig. 28), a regional centre of excellence for health education and research. (Architects: ADP, from a concept by Arup Associates.) Constructed in 2005 at a cost of £10 million, it is a steel-framed building, fully air-conditioned, one third laboratories, two thirds academic space. In front of it is *Spiral* by Bridget McCrum FRBS, (Fig. 29) carved from Clipsham stone and donated to the University by Juliet Arnold in memory of her husband Simon.



*Spiral Fig. 29*

The first phase of the **MANOR PARK RESIDENCES** (Fig. 30), containing 750 bedrooms, was completed in 2006 at a cost of £31 million and the second phase with 568 bedrooms was completed in 2009 at a cost of



*Manor Park Residences Fig. 30*

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£24 million. (Architects: Broadway Mallion.) They have been built with mixed materials and with lift access to all rooms. They will eventually accommodate 4,000 students, plus a number of rooms for staff. The three- and four-storey buildings are grouped to create both a 'public' street scene and to enclose semi private courtyards providing secure areas with a high degree of passive surveillance within a car free campus.

A network of footpaths and cycle paths provides a safe and secure route to the existing Stag Hill Campus. The building design relies on the use of a restricted palette of materials, including sustainable cedar cladding and render, used in different proportions in different zones to create varied combinations of materials.

Landscaping has been designed to retain existing trees and hedgerows wherever possible, to enhance these with semi mature trees and to create new open spaces designed to contribute to local bio-diversity, provide wildlife corridors and create opportunities for new habitats. The buildings and integrated services, which include natural ventilation to bathrooms, have been constructed to high standards of sustainability and energy efficiency and have achieved an excellent BREEAM rating.



*Triple Ripple Fig. 31*  
Left to Right: Professor Brian Falconbridge,  
Diane Maclean, Professor Christopher Snowden,  
Vice-Chancellor

In a prominent position stands *Triple Ripple* (Fig. 31) by Diane Maclean FRBS, unveiled in February 2008 by Professor Brian Falconbridge, President of the Royal British Society of Sculptors. It stands 4 metres high and is made from highly polished steel. At night it is lit by constantly changing multi-coloured lighting effects linked to street lighting. A two-dimensional piece of work by Diane Maclean, produced in collaboration with cancer researchers, is installed in the Postgraduate Medical School.





*Surrey Sports Park Fig. 32*

## Surrey Sports Park

The facilities for students, staff and the local community have been given an immense boost by the construction of the £36 million **SPORTS PARK** (Fig 32), situated on the land bordering the A3. (Architects: Faulkner Brown. Contractor: Willmott Dixon). It was opened in April 2010 and contains a 50-metre swimming pool, three multi-purpose sports halls, eight squash courts, climbing wall, two activity rooms, health and fitness suite, social areas including café and bar and extensive changing facilities. The development also contains a new terrace of sports pitches, two floodlit all-weather pitches and eight outdoor tennis courts.



*Guildford Clinic Fig. 34*

## Surrey Research Park

The construction of the **SURREY RESEARCH PARK** was begun as a 'green field site' in 1981. Planning Consent was achieved in 1983. In early 1984 the University began its own development programme on site by putting in roads and services. Building began in mid 1984 and the first company took occupation in July 1985. Today the Park is now valued at over £100m, has a rent roll of £9.5m and is home to over 130 companies. It is a tribute to the efforts of the second Vice-Chancellor, Professor Anthony Kelly (Portrait by June Mendoza, Fig. 33), John Lewis and Leonard Kail, University Architect and University Secretary respectively at that time. The construction and development of the Park has been undertaken by Professor Stephen Baker and Dr Malcolm Parry over the past 25 years.

A number of different architectural practices have been involved but one of the finest buildings is 170 Priestley Road occupied by the Guildford Clinic (Fig 34). It was originally constructed for the Borax Group and started life as large industrial scale laboratories plus space for prototype development and some commercial functions. It was designed by Ketley Gould Architects, completed in 1994 and constructed by James Longley & Company. The building is constructed in traditional materials with a Welsh slate pitch roof and set in its own 5 acres of parkland with views over one of the Research Park lakes. The building is one of the largest on the Park with a floor area of 19,800m<sup>2</sup>.



*Professor Anthony Kelly Fig. 33*

**Patricia Grayburn**

June 2010

**Patricia Grayburn** worked in the Architect's Department of the London County Council for 8 years, during which time she commissioned sculptures and murals for housing estates, several of which are now listed. She then became Head of Press and Public Relations for the Royal Festival Hall and since 1983 has been Arts Administrator at the University of Surrey. She is currently responsible for the Public Art programme at the University.

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