



# FURTHER & HIGHER EDUCATION

# DKA

## *DELIVERING EXCELLENCE FOR THE NEXT GENERATION*

Over the past decade, there has been a shift in education design. Colleges and Universities are charged with preparing young people for the workplace which require the best facilities to develop their skills and mindset. Teaching spaces and social spaces have taken on a collaborative, business-like feel, and specialist vocational courses align themselves with industry, demanding the best research environments. Today, a university faculty and a corporate headquarters are almost indistinguishable and they both need to attract the best people, whether it be students or employees. Students meet their future employers through placements and internships, further strengthening the bond between industry and academia. The buildings we design are vessels for knowledge and excellence.



# WHY DKA?

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DKA have broad education experience from nursery to university level, including public and private education. We have worked with standalone colleges, created Sixth Form Centres for schools and academies and more recently, completed University projects. We can draw experience from both our wider education experience and commercial projects to create buildings that encourage innovation and creativity.

We have worked with Bridgwater & Taunton College since 2001 on their Bridgwater and Cannington campuses, completed designs for general teaching, labs, catering, sports facilities and master planning. In addition, we have completed bespoke buildings for Constructions Skills Training, Animal Welfare, Health & Wellbeing and a National Centre of Excellence for Nuclear Skills. Each of these must balance the needs of creating dedicated teaching space that is also flexible enough to reflect the changing syllabus.

Campus environments can be challenging sites; they have often developed in an ad hoc way resulting in difficult residual pockets of land for development. Older building stock may hamper new development or be expensive to bring up to modern standards. Site safety and security must be considered where the campus operates a year-long teaching programme. New buildings must link into the existing infrastructure of services, IT and fire safety. Pedestrian flows, vehicles routes and parking may need adapting but without compromising the unity of the campus.

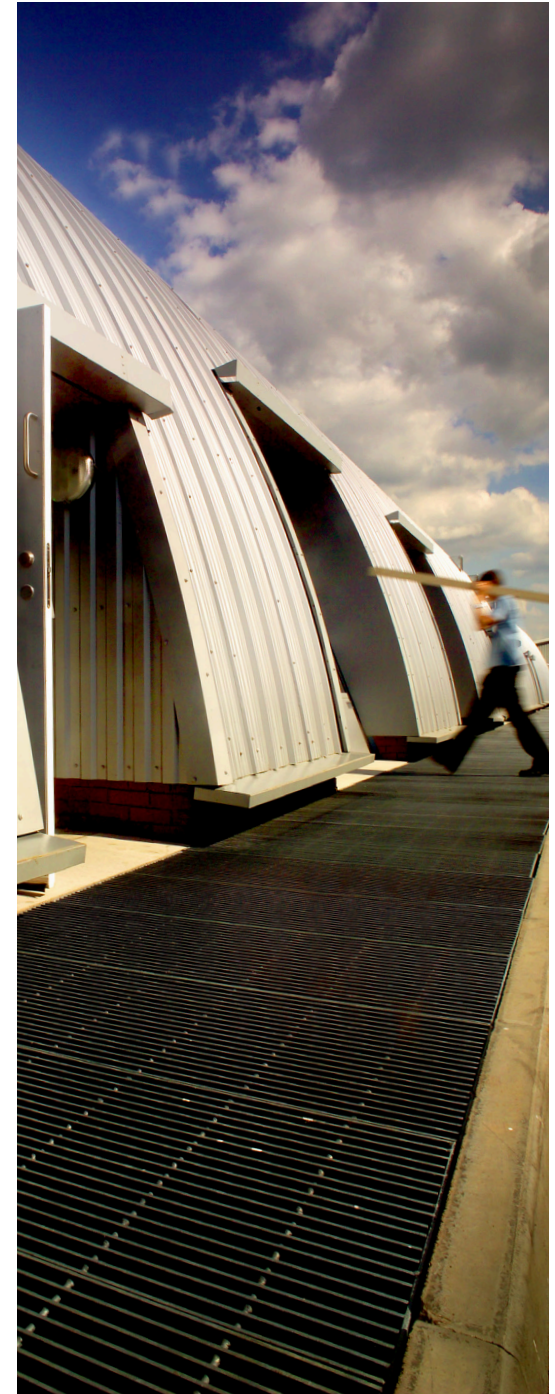
At the University of Bristol, DKA have completed a major refurbishment of the engineering faculty within a 1950s building. The client team not only wanted to refresh the key ground floor spaces, but create new ways for students to meet, work and socialise. The scheme also redresses changes in student population, providing more welfare for female students and gender-neutral toilet facilities. We consulted widely with the client body on access, safety, security, inclusivity, material specification and maintenance. They appreciated our careful approach to recording the brief and reporting progress through the design and construction.

Our design skill, methodical approach and technical knowledge of complex building types has helped our clients deliver many challenging projects in this sector.

# SERVICES

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Our Further & Higher Education experience covers new build, refurbishment and extensions to Sixth Form Centres, Further Education Colleges, Adult Learning and Training Centres and University schemes. We are on a framework with University of Bath and can provide architecture, lead design and interior design services. DKA can act as Principal Designer for CDM 2015.



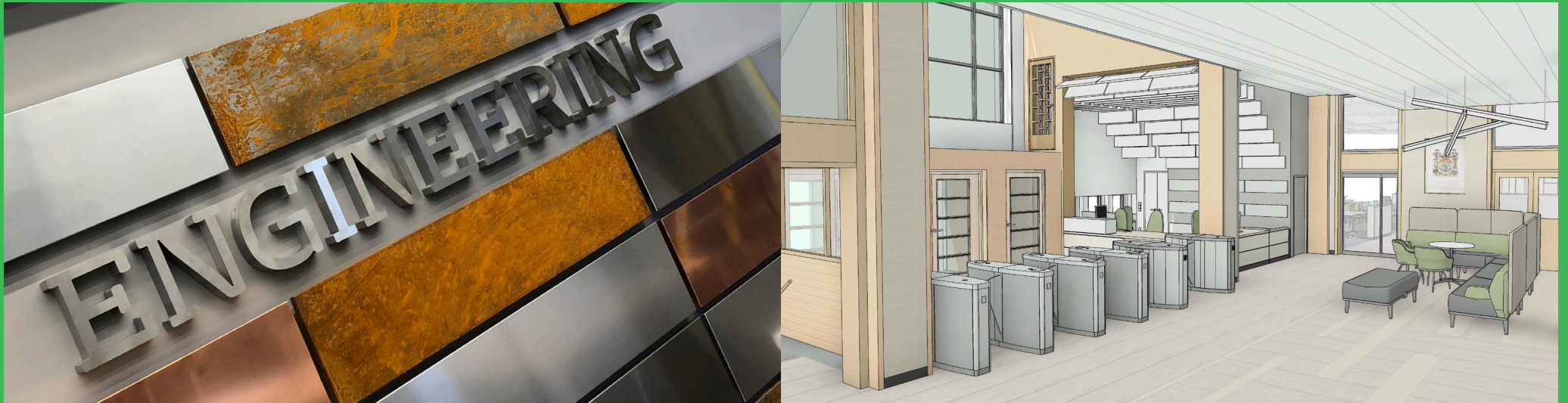
# UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL QUEEN'S BUILDING REFURBISHMENT

## *REINVIGORATING INTERIOR DESIGN FOR SUPERIOR STUDENT EXPERIENCE*

DKA worked with John Perkins Construction (JPC) to design and deliver phased refurbishment and interior design improvements within the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Bristol. The project scope included the main reception, a new café, student study rooms, open plan faculty offices, student support functions, general laboratories, break-out spaces and improved welfare facilities. The scheme adds greater flexibility and improved toilet facilities to be more inclusive to all genders.

During an intensive pre-construction phase, we engaged widely with key university stakeholders to capture the brief and incorporate applicable university standards. As Principal Designer, we helped guide the surveys and investigations including topographical and asbestos. Modelling the scheme in Revit, we coordinated our architectural layouts and interior design concepts and created furniture schedules and finishes boards for sign off. The Room Data Sheets acted as the key point of reference with architecture, M&E and all fittings clearly identified.

The revitalised main entrance is particularly successful; original timber panelling and stone-faced walls are retained alongside a welcoming new reception area, including a showcase feature wall displaying typical engineering materials. The café and Student Study Rooms (SSRs) enjoy 24-hour access by students, with very large existing windows on the north wall providing excellent light to the space for meeting and eating. Similarly, the expanded office spaces utilise the building's high ceilings and large windows to maximum effect. Glazed partitions in strategic locations increase surveillance and allow additional light to the rooms.





# ENERGY SKILLS CENTRE BRIDGWATER & TAUNTON COLLEGE

## *REALISTIC TRAINING ENVIRONMENTS FOR NUCLEAR SKILLS*

The Energy Skills Centre is a National Centre of Excellence for the Nuclear Industry located on the Bridgwater Centre campus. It has a dual purpose; a teaching facility for the college's engineering department and specific nuclear training programmes. Part funded by EDF, the 3,000sqm centre that achieved BREEAM 'Excellent', has a state-of-the-art welding workshop and a teaching roof to demonstrate a variety of renewable technologies.

The accommodation is split into two wings over two floors around a common reception atrium. The east side of the building houses large flexible workshops for machining and welding. To the west is a 500sqm Realistic Working Environment (RWE) with overhead crane to mock-up scenarios inside a live power station. A two-storey classroom wing connects the two and comprises labs, engineering classrooms (CNC, CAD) and traditional teaching spaces. Despite the proximity of the railway, these rooms are naturally ventilated utilising an innovative attenuated periscope design.

As lead designer (and latterly novated to the main contractor), DKA had a key role with stakeholder consultation and brief collation. We had regular meetings over the life of the project with department heads and visited the existing engineering rooms to collect data on legacy equipment. We produced room data sheets, room elevations and equipment schedules which were eventually used by installers on site. Although the project pre-dated our use of BIM, this same process has been employed since using Revit as a tool for briefing, sign-off, tendering and installation.

The project was constructed on a busy campus requiring careful planning for timing of deliveries and health and safety. The project had many stakeholders including external industry partners who had their own expectations and bespoke requirements. The Energy Skills Centre was opened to great acclaim in 2012 by the Head of EDF and has become the benchmark for teaching accommodation at Bridgwater & Taunton College.



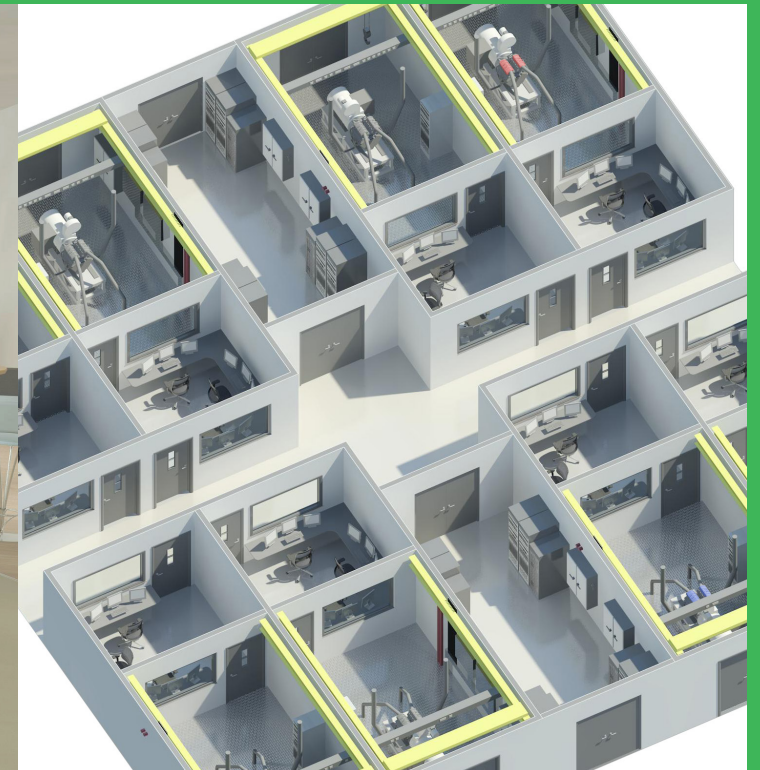


# THE INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED AUTOMOTIVE PROPULSION SYSTEMS, UNIVERSITY OF BATH

## *HARNESSING DKA'S EXPERIENCE FOR R&D INNOVATION*

The Institute of Advanced Automotive Propulsion Systems (IAAPS) is a state-of-the-art automotive testing and research facility for the University of Bath. Tendered through the University's Research Consultant Framework, the project is being designed in collaboration with Stride Treglown architects. The joint venture pools our respective strengths; with DKA bringing relevant project experience and strong industry relationships from high-end automotive testing facilities for Mercedes-Benz, Ricardo and Millbrook.

When complete, the facility will offer leading test space for manufacturers to collaborate with university engineers and postgraduates. As the industry moves away from combustion engines, the centre will not only develop more efficient performance but develop battery and electric car technology. It's location on the Bristol and Bath Science Park will create a regional hub for associated industries and research.



# CONSTRUCTION SKILLS & INNOVATION CENTRE CANNINGTON

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## *LOCAL SKILLS TRAINING FOR NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS*

Located a few miles from Hinkley Point, the Construction Skills and Innovation Centre is a key training base for one of Europe's largest construction projects. The centre is dedicated to training all manner of civil engineering skills to ensure the local workforce can be instrumental in the success of future UK nuclear projects.

The site is split into external practical teaching and classroom based theory. The classroom block contains flexible teaching space allowing a variety of courses to be taught at different skill levels. The surrounding land is carefully planned for mechanisation training including diggers, excavators and scaffold erection. The building is naturally ventilated, naturally lit and has a low energy footprint.

After a couple of years in operation, the centre was adapted to offer the UK's first Steel Fixing training course. This will be the largest single trade at Hinkley C and requires a dedicated skills programme. The training areas consist of a series of platforms, where trainees will construct steel cages to form beams, walls, columns and slabs up to 12x12m suspended 2m above the ground. DKA have been involved in each phase, helping adapt the centre for successive training programmes.

More recently the centre has run Construction Live, a hands-on construction course for engineering graduates. DKA helped design a series of exercises giving the students experience of ordering materials, operating plant and erecting small building elements including ground beams, masonry walls, cladding and road building.



## OTHER PROJECTS

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- CONSTRUCTION TRADES FOR BRIDGWATER & TAUNTON COLLEGE
- WRITHLINGTON SCHOOL ALC
- SHELDON SCHOOL SIXTH FORM CENTRE
- HEALTH & FITNESS CENTRE FOR BRIDGWATER & TAUNTON COLLEGE
- ST MARK'S CLASSROOM FOR BRIDGWATER & TAUNTON COLLEGE
- APPRENTICE TRAINING CENTRE FOR MERCEDES-BENZ
- SMALL ANIMAL CENTRE FOR BRIDGWATER & TAUNTON COLLEGE
- CANNINGTON STUDENT ACCOMMODATION BLOCK AND MAIN HALL AND OFFICE REFURBISHMENT FOR BRIDGWATER & TAUNTON COLLEGE
- MASTER PLANNING EXERCISES

# KEY PEOPLE

## ALEX BELL

*DIRECTOR - BSC (HONS) MARCH ARB RIBA  
RIBA CONSERVATION REGISTER (CR)*

Alex has worked at DKA since 2002, becoming a specialist in sustainable design, commercial and education projects. He qualified as an architect in 2004 and later as a BREEAM Assessor. Alex possesses a strong design awareness combined with a methodical approach to managing projects and teams. He loves to find alternative design solutions to add value to a project.

[alex.bell@dka.co.uk](mailto:alex.bell@dka.co.uk)



## JAMES BASTABLE

*DIRECTOR - BSC (HONS) BARCH PGDIP RIBA*

James has been at DKA for over 10 years, becoming Director in 2017. He specialises in Industrial and Education projects whilst maintaining an ability to work across all sectors. James possesses strong technical knowledge and is able to manage and lead project teams to ensure the successful delivery of projects and in 2011 he qualified as a Project Manager.

[james.bastable@dka.co.uk](mailto:james.bastable@dka.co.uk)



## JON FIFIELD

*SENIOR ARCHITECT - BSC BARCH PGDIP*

When Jon joined DKA he brought with him valuable experience in the field of conservation and work to listed buildings. He is a Senior Architect with experience of working on a variety of different building types, with an emphasis on education projects.

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# ABOUT DKA

*We apply our design vision and technical expertise to create buildings that are expertly designed, carefully resourced and robustly built.*

A firm built on reputation and referral, we are a Bath based independent architectural practice celebrating a proud 25-year history based on quality and relationships.

We pride ourselves on being reliable, personable and professional experts in our respective fields across a multi-sector portfolio of work including residential, commercial, education, healthcare, engineering and defence ranging in size from £0.5m to £50m.

We are an ISO9001 registered practice offering architectural services, master planning, interior design, project management, BIM management and design co-ordination services.

DKA understand that good design must stand the test of time, so for a short time we, as architects, are custodians of the future creating the foundations for the societies of tomorrow.

We look forward to working with you on your next project.

*DKA: DESIGNING THE FUTURE, TODAY*

*"STAFF ARE VERY PERSONABLE AND LISTEN TO THE CLIENT REQUIREMENTS RATHER THAN TRYING TO IMPRESS THEIR OWN INTERPRETATION... SOMETHING THAT PROVES INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT WITHIN THE EDUCATION SECTOR"*

*LOCAL AUTHORITY EDUCATION PROJECT MANAGER*

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