

Pembroke College

Client The Masters, Fellows & Scholars of Pembroke College

Value £6.5m

Status Masterplan completed 1988

Foundress Court completed 1998

Given the college's unending need for further accommodation and the restriction on site within the densely developed town fabric of Cambridge, the addition of nearly 100 student rooms, a fellow's set, computer centre, meeting rooms and new Master's Lodge was a challenge requiring a very comprehensive masterplan.

The complex nature of this building in an urban context between town streets and a collegiate interior is illustrated by the fifteen elevations that make up the exterior. The two perpendicular wings of the building form the new boundaries to one of the college courts. At the northern end, the building resolves as a raised, cloistered garden; at the western end, the master's lodge forms the end of the building. At the intersection of the wings there is a main stair which rises up below the roof lantern. The lantern demarcates the new college entrance. To the street side, six new small courts of different character are formed between projecting pavilions.

The building is formed from in-situ concrete slabs supported on load bearing blockwork walls. The fabric of the building has been developed using some of the most innovative specialists and testing bodies to create a building with an anticipated life of over 200 years.

The project was awarded an RIBA award in 1998, a Civic Trust Award in 1999 as well as Natural Stone Award in 2000.

Eric Parry Architects



© Peter Cook