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Secondary Glazing

Harris Manchester College



Benefit: Warmer, Quieter

Type: Refurbishment

Listing: Grade II

Harris Manchester College is one of the constituent Colleges of the University of Oxford. Late Victorian, the buildings contain ornate wooden panelling, gothic revival architectural detailing and large stained-glass windows.

With a new construction site opposite the north side of the main building, the fragility of this Grade II Listed Building and its original features became apparent and noise and dust ingress an issue. Five rooms were affected: two meeting rooms, a student common room, and the Tate Library.

This project, part of the College's larger greening plans, was led by Fellow Librarian, Sue Killoran, who set about researching solutions to help reduce the noise breakthrough, and to make the building more energy efficient and reduce wasted heat through the draughty single glazed windows. Secondary glazing was the most appropriate option. Selectaglaze was contacted to provide advice on treatments and support in gaining

Listed Building Consent by producing the application drawings; as well as to fulfil the glazing requirements.

In the two meeting rooms: Series 20 slimline vertical sliding units were installed; colour matched in a wood grain finish to complement and blend in with the wood panelling and reveals. They were glazed with 6.8mm



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acoustic glass and positioned to optimise the cavity, ensuring high levels of acoustic reduction, as well as providing access for cleaning and maintenance. The window sills had inset heating grilles, so if the secondary glazing was installed as usual, the timber ground would have cut across the grille, with heat getting lost in the cavity and the creation of a passage for sound to travel. By designing an enlarged rebated timber, the secondary could be supported and sealed around the full perimeter but still leave clear route for air from the heating grill.

The primary windows in the Tate Library are tall gothic arched windows, with three stained glass windows forming a main bay. They all had single glazed openings which did little to prevent draughts or keep the noise out. To complement the interior décor and leaded casings, the timber sub frames and secondary glazing profiles were colour coated in 9005 Jet Black Matt. The timber was scribed on site and installed prior to the manufacture survey, to ensure exact measurements were taken.

The towering gothic arches reached almost 4.5m tall and had a mezzanine cutting them part way, which made the design and installation tricky. The portion of the window below the mezzanine was a Series 10 horizontal sliding unit. Stacked on top, in an area not

requiring on-going access, were two series 42 fixed lights. Above these up to the spring point, was another Series 10, followed by three Series 42 curved fixed lights including reverse curving to follow the lines and details of the tracery at the head. Installed with 6.8 laminate glass and a generous cavity; the space is quieter, warmer and provides some UV protection to the books and manuscripts in the Library.

The student Common Room required a solution to stop noise ingress from the neighbouring construction site, and also to stop noise escaping from it and disturbing local residents. Series 20 slimline vertical sliders were installed in white to match the interior design.

"Selectaglaze helped us manage the whole process from beginning to end and we are delighted with the end result. Buildings with Grade II Listing need to be treated with care and respect and Selectaglaze proved to be the perfect company to work with in this respect. We also had Judges from the Oxford Preservation Trust visit the buildings and inspect the glazing on 25th September; and we await news to see if we have been awarded a certificate in their annual awards." Comments the College.

The College has started its journey towards making its buildings more sustainable and creating a more comfortable environment for all users of its spaces.

