

A 21st century learning environment...



Coleg Gwent was founded in 1992 as a result of a merger between further and tertiary education in Gwent. With over 32,000 students and 1,500 staff, the college is the largest further education college in Wales and one of the biggest in the UK, offering a wide range of academic and vocational courses.

The City of Newport Campus is one of several new campus facilities that make up Coleg Gwent. It was designed by HMA architects in Cardiff and built by Cowlin Construction Ltd.

From the outset, the brief was to create a learning facility that would provide students with state of the art facilities and a structure that would provide a pleasant and comfortable learning environment. To achieve this goal the design team have combined natural materials such as timber cladding together with large areas of glazing to maximise daylight. This process required careful calculation to ensure that the facility was not subjected to excessive solar heat gain in the summer months.

As experts in their field, Par Louvre Systems Ltd were chosen to supply and install a passive louvered Brise Soleil shading system that not only provides functional shading, but also forms a striking architectural feature on the building. The system proposed by Par is made up of elliptical louvre blades 200mm wide, which hang from horizontal support arms attached through the façade of the building to support steelwork. The blades are held in position using a novel and cleverly engineered fixing arrangement (see inset picture) that adds to the hi-tec look of the building. The shading system projects 1600mm out from the façade and extends the length of the South and West elevations on each of the two levels. It fully conforms with part L2 of the building regulations regarding solar heat gain in buildings. Special brackets were installed by Par behind the glazing mullions to support the load of the shading system. Architectural struts angled back to the façade above the louvre system provide further support.

Nash Campus - Newport