



Project: North Eastern University
Client: Workplace Creations
Designer: Workplace Creations
Location: St Katherine Docks, London
Programme: 10 Weeks
Sector: Education



The Brief

To accommodate a growing student population, North Eastern University, has relocated its NCH campus to a larger location in historic St. Katherine Docks, Central London.

Spread over two floors, and totaling 38,000 sq. ft. of space, the design of the new campus building is required to accommodate multiple flexible teaching and learning spaces as well as administrative offices.

Working for design and build contractors, Workplace Creations, Hurst Joinery Projects was approached to produce a number of bespoke joinery elements, to help them bring their vibrant interior design concepts, including flexible seating and feature staircase, to life.

The Solution

Working in close collaboration with Workplace Creation's design team, Hurst manufactured and installed a striking, contemporary oak clad staircase with integrated recessed LED lighting and glass balustrade. Linking the two floors whilst providing a central focal point, the design of the staircase also incorporates Bleacher seating and large planter to extend the functional purpose of the staircase.

In addition, Hurst provided acoustic paneling, further comfortable, fabric covered banquette seating, tables with wireless chargers as well as feature tear drop tables designed to spin, for multiple communal areas, break-out areas and zones throughout both floors. A range of quality materials were used in the design of the joinery elements including laminated oak veneer, solid surface materials and black steel.



Project Challenges

- A fast turnaround was required to ensure the project was completed before students returned to university for the new 2021/22 academic year. Despite suffering supply challenges due to Covid-19, the program - from initial consultation to completion of installation - took a total of 10 weeks. Zero snagging issues were reported upon completion.
- Precision surveys were required to ensure the intricate details and co-ordination of all of the elements of the staircase came together. This included ensuring the floor levels were even, all steps equally lined through and the lighting installation was co-ordinated with the electrical contractor.

The Result

Hurst were proud to be involved in this project. Whilst functional and flexible, the University has a dynamic and inspirational, open-plan space which can be re-configured for multiple purposes to cater for the needs of the students, faculties, and administrative staff. Following the successful delivery of this project, Hurst has been awarded the second phase of the project which will involve delivering the joinery elements for the second floor of the building.