

Mountbatten Update

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Mountbatten short listed for RIBA award

The scale and presence of the Mountbatten complex is structurally and visually exciting

The Mountbatten Building has been short listed for a top architecture award. Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) Awards are given for buildings that have high architectural standards and make a substantial contribution to the local environment. The awards are annual, and have been running continuously since 1966.

The £55m Mountbatten project is amongst a small number of buildings in the Southern region which are in line to win a coveted 2009 RIBA award. RIBA judges liked its "simple, dynamic forms" and said the design allowed it to "embody 21st century scientific research in a sustainable, academic setting."

The Mountbatten Building houses the university's School of Electronics and Computer Science (ECS) and its Optoelectronics Research Centre ORC and is a key element in maintaining the University's global reputation for world leading research in nanotechnology and photonics.

Professor Harvey Rutt, head of the ECS, said: "The stunning design of the building matches our claim to be cutting-edge and state-of-the-art, and is a fitting home for the world-leading research it will facilitate."

The regional winner, to be announced on May 21, will be eligible to be short listed for the RIBA Stirling Prize honouring the best new buildings in the country.



The Mountbatten reflects the University's world class research in photonics and nanotechnology.

The new building is now under University management, and many of the users are busy settling in to their new office and laboratory accommodation. An element of the "fit-out", i.e. the installation of high-tech equipment, still to be completed. This final step which will enable the Mountbatten to be fully operational is being managed by Gentles Consulting, and their temporary offices have now replaced those of the contractor, though with a smaller footprint, on the upper Nuffield car park. This final element of the work should be completed by the end of 2009 and will also include the relocation of researchers, currently housed in temporary accommodation around the University's Highfield campus, to their new bespoke facilities.

