



The  
University  
Of  
Sheffield.

The  
University  
Library.

# The Diamond

## At The University of Sheffield

*Anne Horn*  
*Director of Library Services and University*  
*Librarian*

*LIBER Architecture Group Seminar, April 2018*



**The Diamond is the largest capital investment in teaching and learning ever undertaken by the University (£81 million)**



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# The Diamond at TUoS

An evolving, living space

The Vision

- ✓ Student-led learning
- ✓ New Multidisciplinary L & T Approaches
- ✓ New Services
- ✓ New technologies
- ✓ New Partners





## Elements of the Vision

- A landmark building, linking the city's engineering heritage to its advanced technological future.
- Learning from the award-winning Information Commons and enhancing our outstanding student learning experience.
- The freedom to move from formal learning spaces, to laboratories with high-tech equipment, to informal learning spaces.



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## Partners in Design:

*Powerful Academic Drivers*

- Facilities to support Engineering's success and growth
- Relocation and adjacency of Arts & Humanities
- Pressure on student learning spaces across the University,
- Supported by Library and CICS (IT)



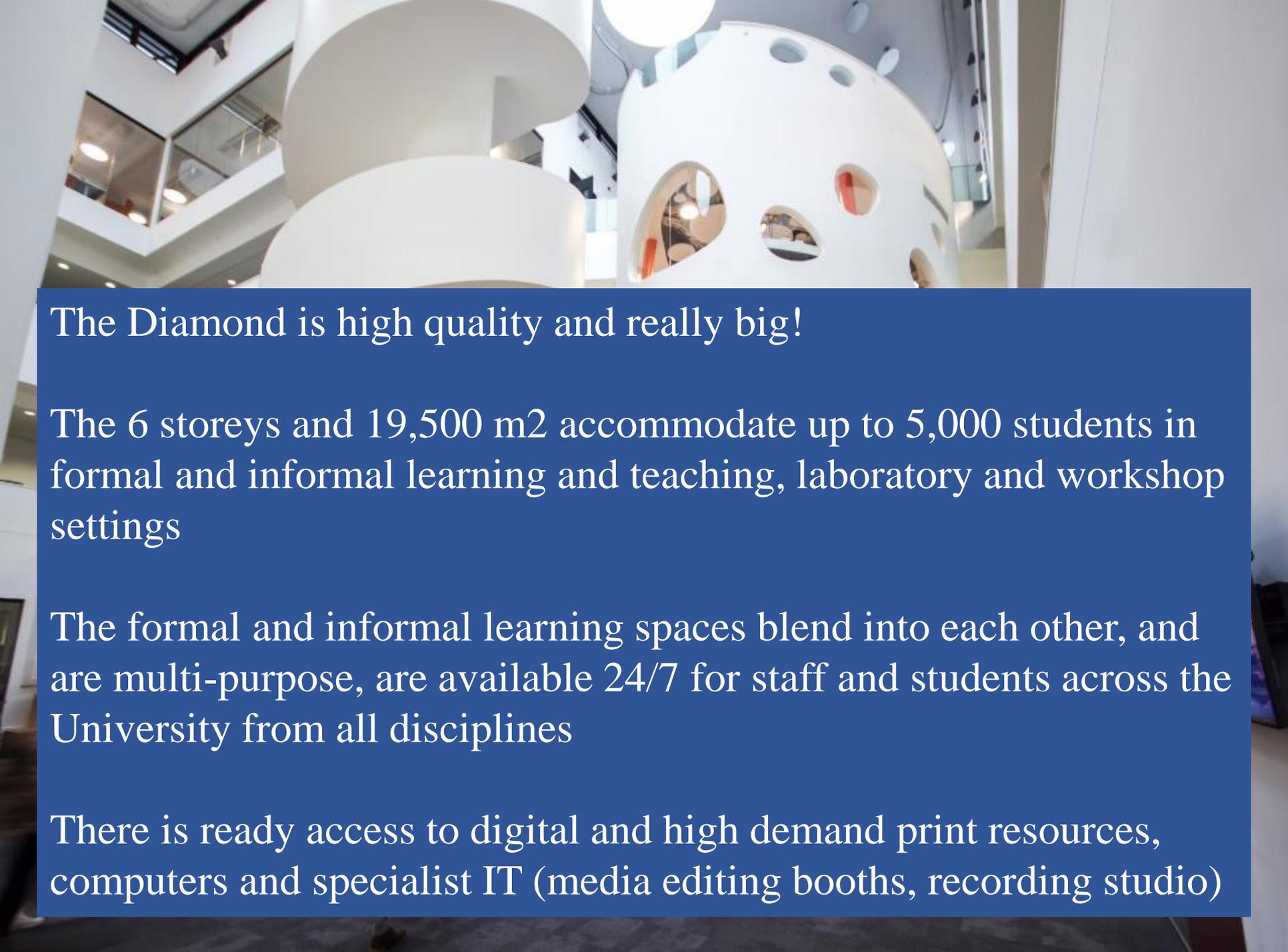


Creating **500 jobs** during the construction period alone, with **400 permanent new jobs** within the University

Contributing **£44.5 million** to the local economy during construction and the first year of operation

Making an annual contribution of more than **£20 million** to Sheffield's economy

**And, most importantly, creating a bigger and better learning and teaching environment for our students and staff.**



The Diamond is high quality and really big!

The 6 storeys and 19,500 m<sup>2</sup> accommodate up to 5,000 students in formal and informal learning and teaching, laboratory and workshop settings

The formal and informal learning spaces blend into each other, and are multi-purpose, are available 24/7 for staff and students across the University from all disciplines

There is ready access to digital and high demand print resources, computers and specialist IT (media editing booths, recording studio)



**Low density spaces** enabling effective long duration study, 100% occupancy without degradation of **study space quality**, and **collaborative workspaces** to enhance student learning.



## The design provides

Lots of glass provides a window into seeing learning activities in **laboratories & formal teaching spaces**

**informal learning** and breakout spaces promote **collaboration and cross-disciplinary working**

**An environment fit for the 4th industrial revolution!**



## Specialist Laboratories



**The Diamond** is named after its distinctive anodised aluminium and glass facade, which draws inspiration from the detailing of the surrounding historic buildings and in particular the stone tracery that frames the windows of the adjacent church.

It also references ‘cellular automaton’, a discrete model studied in the field of engineering and used by the University to describe how the microstructure of steel changes during processing



**The Library in the Diamond: Top Floor**



**The Library spaces are throughout the core of the building**  
1,200 study spaces added to the Library network  
Over 400 additional computers (desktop); laptop loans available.



**The MindSphere Lounge** – an exciting new collaborative space designed in partnership with Siemens – a space for collaborating, learning, discovering knowledge and uncovering the value of data and applications that leverage the Internet of Things (IoT).



**What works well**

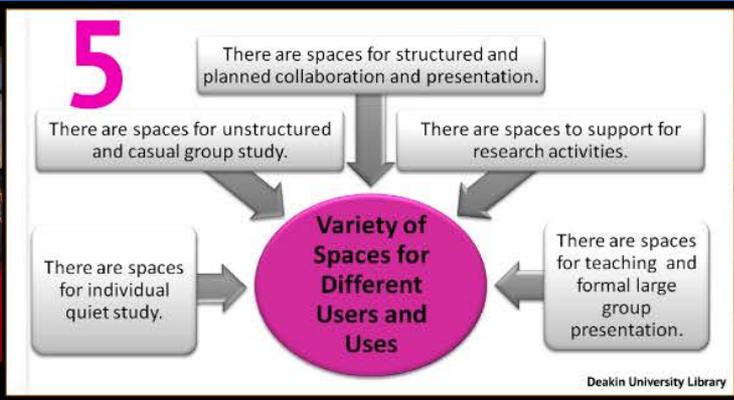
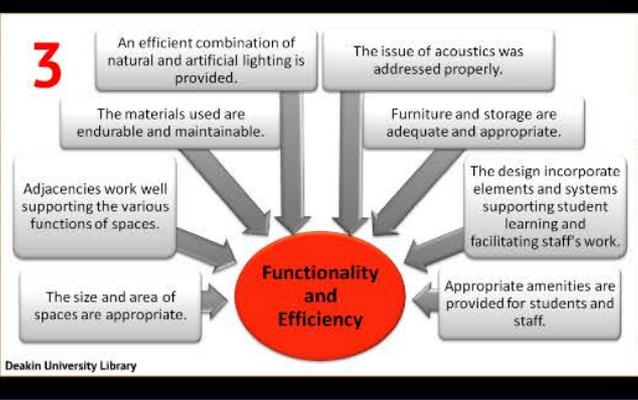
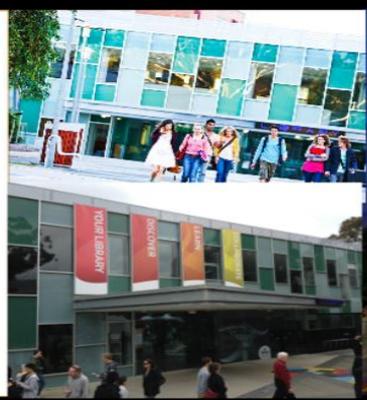
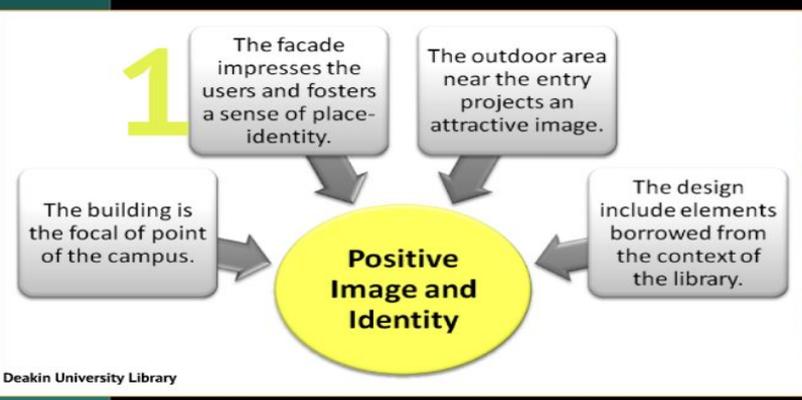
**What has changed**

**How do we keep learning?**

# Criteria of Quality (CoQ)

1. Foster Positive Image & Identity
2. Create Inviting and Welcoming Entry
3. Are Functional and Effective
4. Are Flexible and Adaptable
5. Are Varied Supporting Different Users & Uses
6. Are Social & People-Centred
7. Foster a Sense of Place and Inspiration
8. Provide Environmental Comfort and Sustainability
9. Are Accessible, Safe and Secure
10. Integrate Technologies





# Other Evaluation Tools & Methods

## User Experience Research Methods

Touchstone Tours

Guerrilla Interviews

Observation

Love & Break-up Letters

Card Sorting

*Andy Priestner Workshop, TUoS 20 March 2018*

## IFLA Questionnaire About Library Buildings

General	Building	Services
Facts and figures	Entrance area	Service Areas
Location	Materials	Shelving
Accessibility	Flooring	User areas
Sustainability	Ceilings	Children's Area
Safety and Security	Acoustics	Young Adults
Flexibility	Openings	Staff Areas
	Lighting	Automation
	Furniture	Maintenance

