



Herbarium and Library

THE TASK:

The RBGE Herbarium and Library Building is a scientific research facility and archive of plants. Located on Inverleith Row at the Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh, it was opened in 1964. The building was extended to the east in 1966 with the intent of adding a second floor extension later, to accommodate the ever-increasing national archive of preserved plants. In 2004 the RBGE commissioned the second floor extension of the east wing to provide additional study and storage space. A specific Client requirement was to keep the existing accommodation operational throughout the construction work.

THE DESIGN:

The existing roof slab was suitable to be the slab for the new floor. The new extension was constructed in steel frame, clad with cast stone and a low pitch insulated metal roof. This enabled the lines and profiles of the existing form to be replicated and offered a more speedy erection than the in-situ concrete frame of the original lower floors. The details of the masonry cladding were faithful to the style of the original, incorporating elegant arched windows and indented columns and fascias. With only limited site access and lay down space, the steel frame construction allowed components to be fabricated off-site and then incorporated directly into the construction on delivery to site.

THE SERVICE:

A co-operative approach and constant liaison between all design team members was a key factor on following the agreed design program and budget.

THE RESULT:

The design of the new second floor achieves a high quality, low maintenance extension consistent with the original character of the building.

CLIENT

Royal Botanic Garden
Edinburgh

PROJECT VALUE

£1m

PROJECT TYPE

Education – New Build

SERVICES

Architecture

COMPLETION DATE

December 2005

FURTHER DETAILS

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