



University of Manchester, SEP

THE MISSING LINK – BRIDGES INSTALLED AT MANCHESTER UNIVERSITY'S MULTI-MILLION POUND SCIENCE FACILITY



A 32 tonne bridge designed by Wilson Mason Architects has been lifted into place at Manchester University's new science facility.

The bridge is one of three that will link the £39m Smith Extension Project (SEP) to the surrounding Stopford and Michael Smith campus buildings, allowing scientists to share specialist facilities.



The steel structured, 27 metre long bridge will be clad with curved aluminum and glass, providing it with a 'futuristic' look, in keeping with the scientific nature of the extension facility. Two similar, smaller bridges are also being installed. Recyclable materials were selected for the construction of all of the bridges.

Wilson Mason have also designed the SEP building itself. Part of the university's overall masterplan, the extension, situated off Upper Brook Street, will house the University's Life Sciences and Medical faculties over 9,465 sq m (101,880 sq ft).



Alan Williams, regional partner for Wilson Mason Architects says of the latest phase in the project. "We designed the bridges with a three dimensional structure, surrounding a central walkway. This avoided the use of heavy steel supporting beams underneath the bridges that would have ruined their streamlined, elliptical profile. We hope the bridges will now provide an open and visually interesting link between the university's various science facilities."



The Smith Extension is scheduled for completion in August 2008.

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