

# Case Study

## Healthcare

### **Innovation & Medical Education Centre, Ulster Hospital**

#### **Facts about the project**

Innovation & Medical Education Centre, Ulster Hospital, Belfast

Architect: James Kearney of Isherwood & Ellis Architects

Contractor: Shaw Montgomery, CCL Interiors, Belfast

Project size: 400m<sup>2</sup>

Products: Ecophon Solo™ Rectangles 2400 x 1200 and 1200 x 1200

The South Eastern Trust's Quality, Improvement and Innovation Centre (QIIC) at Ulster Hospital has been opened by Health Minister Edwin Poots. The Innovation Centre has been set up with an aim to support all Trust staff to bring forward innovative ideas that will deliver improvements and lead to excellence in service provision.

For this they needed to create an open, adaptable environment for education and training that supported different types of communication and meetings.

The QIIC is on the refurbished ground floor of the SEHSCT Headquarters Building at the Ulster Hospital and has three syndicate rooms and a large central hub area, divided by portable display units. Syndicate rooms 1 and 2 can open up into a hub space, which can cater for larger meetings and events. It also has a medical education centre and teleconferencing facilities.

Ecophon's Concept Developer for Healthcare, Andrea Harman explained how important good acoustics are in a multi-use facility like QIIC. "The glazed walls in the meeting rooms potentially posed an acoustic challenge as did the open plan space because this could potentially be used by more than one group at the same time and used for workshop style knowledge transfer. The challenge is to provide the optimum acoustic environment for everyone where the noise from one group does not interrupt another."



Architect, James Kearney had speech intelligibility front of mind when he specified Ecophon's class A Solo ceiling rafts for the open plan meeting area. "When the volume of the main area became apparent, I knew instantly that it had to be exploited yet remain functional as a congregational space. Solo square and rectangle was the only product I could think of to give me the right look. I used the existing high ceiling height to my advantage, setting the panels at different levels within the volume to maximise effect."

James has used Solo free hanging units in a layered design, which not only absorbs sound, but also create a distinctive, contemporary and well-finished look.

Andrea describes the completed centre as "an attractive high quality space that looks modern and is adaptable to the needs of the users, helping to inspire people and promote creativity and learning".

Alan Crampton, Ecophon Regional Sales Manager, commented: "The centre has great visual appearance, something different to a traditional ceiling, which absorbs sound, making the space useable for any scenario."

James said: "I am very happy with the finished effect. The end-users say that it is one of the first things visitors notice when they enter the

space. It creates a very modern feel, to a very open and flexible space. We also used the Ecophon Focus E T24 XL 1600x600 in the main corridor to great effect. The longer tile helped create a unique arrangement."

Shaw Montgomery of contractors CCL Interiors also worked on the project. "As an EPIC Contractor, we work with Ecophon products on a continual basis. We like them because they look good aesthetically while providing very good acoustics for the end user and this sets them apart, especially in the education sector. Their hygiene range are also excellent."

James Kearney added: "Ecophon stand out because of their range and quality of products and the technical support provided. It's always very easy to get assistance when required."

For more information please contact:  
Alan Crampton, 07979 703421

