

Case Study

Education



UTC College, Norfolk

Facts about the project

University Technical College, Norfolk

Architect: LSI Architects LLP

Contractor: Kier Group plc

Project size: 1100m²

Products: Ecophon Solo, Akusto Wall, Combison, Hygiene Performance,



University Technical College (UTC) Norfolk is a specialist engineering school that in September 2014 opened its doors to over 200 pupils aged between 14 and 19.

Formerly a warehouse, the 5,400m² building has been transformed into classrooms, specialist teaching labs, computer suites, independent study zones, a dining space and an employers' lounge, where students can meet with businesses connected to the energy and advanced engineering sectors.

Ecophon's Sarah Dawson, worked with LSI architect Richard Bassett and Adrian James Acoustics, to find a cost effective solution that would bring acoustic control to the existing warehouse.

"We specified Ecophon because we had used the product successfully before. We knew it was easy to work with, and that we could trust it," explained Richard.

Reducing the sound levels of the original warehouse was vital. As an educational establishment, acoustics are important so that tutors can be heard in a classroom environment, and to ensure optimal listening comfort for students – all with the aim of being conducive to learning.

"We were able to reduce the reverberation in the existing warehouse building, from four seconds to below two seconds, for its new educational use," Richard confirmed.

It was also important to create a building that provides an inviting, enjoyable, and motivating environment, to be in for both students and staff.

"We were aware of the way Solo™ panels can be used to create large format, striking features, within an interior. At UTC, we used Solo panels, with a combination of standard and non-standard colours of Akutex FT, around a balustrade up-stand to define the main 'forum' presentation space. In addition, the panels offered a good selection of fixing options, and Solo panels can be wet cleaned, while wall panels can be vacuumed – an important maintenance criteria in an educational environment."

The finished result is a neat, aesthetically pleasing installation with good use of colour, a contemporary feel, and integrating an EPIC Service ceiling.

LSI use Ecophon on a regular basis, particularly for education projects and BB93 compliance. They plan to specify Ecophon products in upcoming developments.

For more information please contact:
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