



CASE STUDY

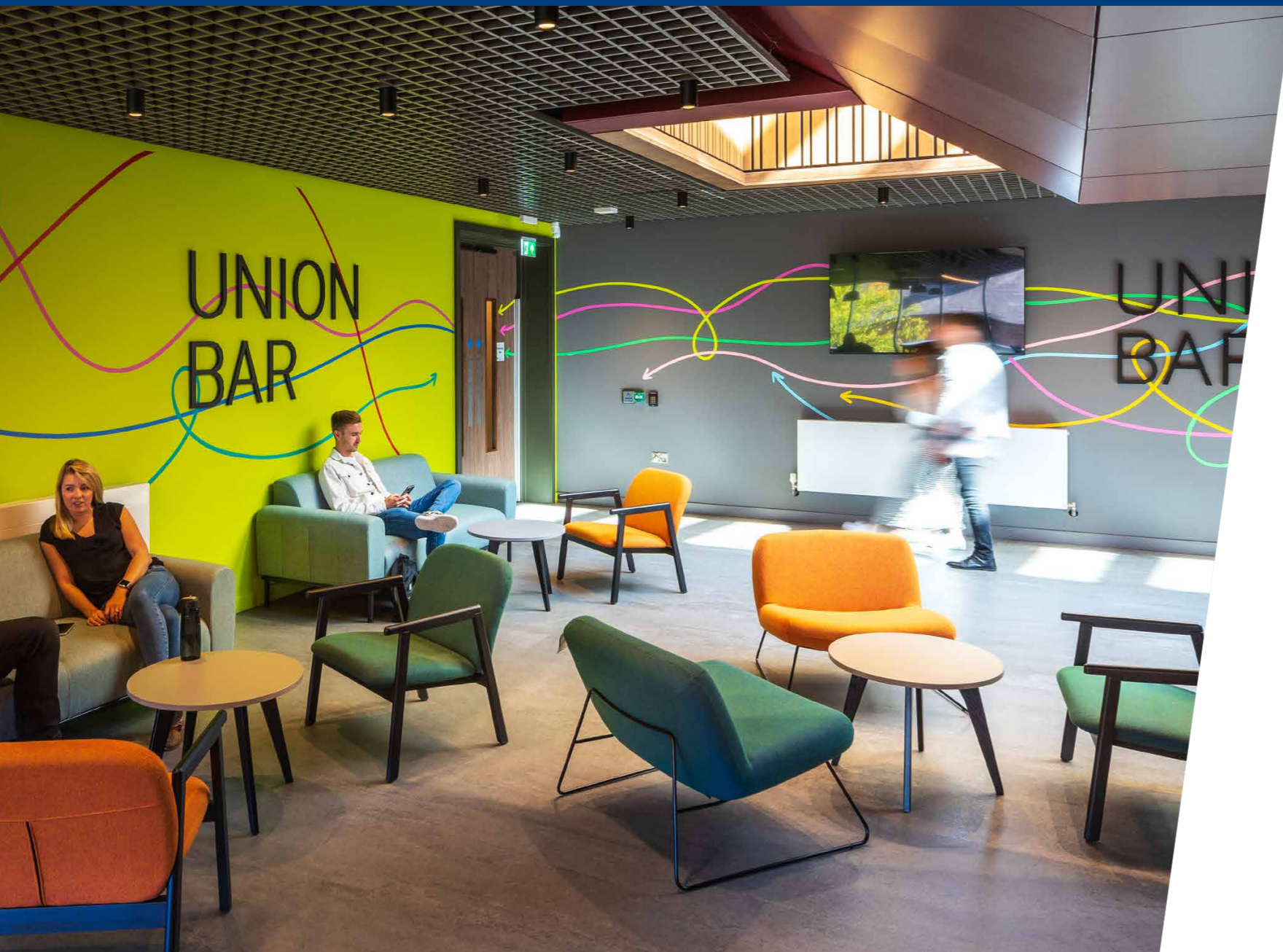
# ONE ELMWOOD QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

Northern Ireland  
United Kingdom

**KNAUF**

*Build on us.*

*New £42m student centre at Queen's University Belfast (QUB), provides state-of-the-art facilities for students in an environmentally friendly setting.*



## *A Campus at the Heart Of Belfast's Cosmopolitan City*

Queen's University is a member of the Russell Group, and one of the United Kingdom and Ireland's leading universities which continues to shape and serve the world through research and teaching. Based in the heart of Belfast, Queen's University is committed to enhancing its historic campus and the surrounding conservation area while providing 21st century facilities for education and research.

- **Owner** Queen's University Belfast
- **Architect** RPP Architects Ltd with Hawkins\Brown
- **Lead Contractor** Felix O'Hare
- **Contractor** Convery Ceilings
- **Year of Completion** 2022
- **Photographer** © Gareth Andrews Photography



## One Elmwood, a Net Zero Ready Building

Over the last 10 years the University has invested £350 million in developing world-class facilities with ambitious plans to invest a further £350 million over the next decade.

As part of the development programme a new 11,000m<sup>2</sup> state-of-the-art building was required that could bring together the university student services and students' union hub to ensure students could access services and collaborate in shared space.

## The Challenge

The new One Elmwood development replaced a tired dilapidated building that was no longer fit for contemporary student life. It needed to seamlessly build on existing services complementing the existing Lanyon, Whitla and Elmwood Hall buildings creating the right environment to host a full range of student services, from well-being advice and financial support to careers and other learning support and developmental opportunities.

The aim was to create a new heart for the campus, with the Students' Union and University services in one place for the first time.

With its rich historical context this was an opportunity to establish a focal point, that could be the epicentre of life on campus, fostering a vibrant community for students, staff and the public.

A critical success factor for this large mixed space, that could combine relaxation, quiet study and social activity was acoustic performance. Environmental credentials were also vital to ensure a development that was future proofed for generations.



One Elmwood marks a new chapter for life at Queen's. Set right at the heart of campus, the 11,000m<sup>2</sup> state-of-the-art building brings together University student services and the Students' Union alongside a range of facilities so students can access services, collaborate in shared spaces, get support and advice, and socialise in a range of venues. This is a major investment in our students and student services so that we can continue to offer world-class amenities which complement our historic campus. This contemporary structure builds on existing services, shared spaces and support across campus and online to help with seamless engagement between Schools, the Students' Union and the University services with the student at the centre. This building is designed to be the hub of Queen's, with accessibility, lots of collaborative spaces, and a place where students can go for help, relaxation, study and social support.

**Ian Greer,**  
Vice-Chancellor, One Elmwood

## The Build

The centre has been designed as a simple, flexible structure suitable for a variety of different uses under one roof. The impressive glazed exterior floods the building with light. The welcoming foyer is a large, flexible space decorated with a mature palette of deep reds and timber to create a calming atmosphere.

The Student Lounge, which opens up onto the student terrace, offers quiet rooms and a place students can gather and prepare lunch together. In contrast the second floor features one of the longest bars in Belfast for drinking and socialising, as well as the 'Wee Bar' for smaller, more intimate occasions. opening out onto a terrace, overlooking the city.

## The Solution

With the entrance atrium combining various double and triple-height spaces over different floors, METAL Grille Cellio was the perfect choice to provide a sleek contemporary ceiling that connected and unified these spaces into one recognisable volume, with a sense of lightness and transparency.

HERADESIGN® was used throughout the building as a recognisable and repeated element that provided good acoustic performance with texture and pattern. From a wall and ceiling installation highlighting the reception area, to acoustic absorption on the walls in meeting rooms and subtle black hanging baffles in a bar space.

### Solutions

**METAL Grille Cellio C36**  
RAL 7039, 600×600mm

**HERADESIGN® Creative Line**  
Superfine, AK-01, Natural tone,  
1200×600mm  
Substructure System B - Screw mounting

**HERADESIGN® Baffle Element**  
Superfine, RAL 9005



One Elmwood provided a 'once in a lifetime' opportunity to create and deliver a gamechanging facility for the University and Students. The collaborative efforts of the University, Students' Union, Integrated Design Team and the D&B Contractors; Felix O'Hare have delivered, through the most challenging of times what we hope will meet and exceed the expectations of everyone who experiences and enjoys the new Student Centre. What will be of interest to us will be, how the users will actually use the building as opposed to how we all envisaged it being used.

**Alan Shields,**  
Director, RPP Architects Ltd

**Knauf Ceilings Holding GmbH**

Am Bahnhof 7  
97346 Iphofen, Germany  
Phone: +49 9323 31-0  
E-Mail: zentrale@knauf.com  
www.knauf.com

Commercial Register: District Court, Würzburg  
Registration No.: HRA 6031  
VAT No. pursuant to § 27a of the German VAT Act  
(Umsatzsteuergesetz): DE317846056  
Board of Directors: Lars Klodwig, Karl Wenig,  
Daniel Wolf