



CASE STUDY

ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Belfast, Northern Ireland
United Kingdom

KNAUF

Build on us.

*Inspiring design
provides modern
environment for
tomorrow's teachers*



A Campus University at The Heart of Belfast's Cosmopolitan City

St Mary's University College is a college of Queen's University, a member of the Group, which is ranked in the UK's top 10. With a £700m investment in a 20-year capital development programme, it is proud to boast some of the best campus facilities in the UK and Ireland. Since it was built at the start of the twentieth century, St Mary's University College has acquired a proud reputation in providing high-quality teacher education.

- **Owner** St Mary's University College, Belfast
- **Architect** Isherwood & Ellis Architects, Belfast
- **Contractor** MSM Contracts, Belfast
- **Year of Completion** 2023
- **Photographer** © Elyse Kennedy



Transforming Dual-Height Areas into Functional Spaces

As part of an ongoing programme of expansion, St Mary's College was keen to develop a new Staff and Administrative Building by modernising, repurposing and utilising a space which had had various different College uses over the years. The space available for redesign featured dual heights. On one side, a double-height room flanked by floor to ceiling glass windows created an airy open plan space, but one prone to high volume noise.

This was contrasted by a compact first-floor area, which through design needed to feel more light and spacious. Linking the two spaces presented design challenges particularly for the ceiling landscape and acoustic performance which was a project imperative.

Elegant Design with Customisable Colours and Shapes

Knauf Ceiling Solution's HERADESIGN® baffles and rafts were specified for the project as they offered the perfect ceiling solution, combining great aesthetic qualities and superior acoustic performance.

To unite the space, light grey baffles were used in the double-height area and on the first floor. In other areas, a mix of rafts in light grey and traffic purple provided an elegant, calm interior design palette with pops of modern colour contrast providing space definition in the open plan layout.

HERADESIGN® is a brilliantly innovative and versatile product, valued by specifiers for its high performance and aesthetic wood wool properties. It can be matched to any interior colour scheme and is available in a wide selection of shapes, face patterns, edge details and sizes. It can be fixed to walls or suspended as ceilings, baffles or rafts.

Solution

HERADESIGN® Sky Element
Superfine, AK-01, RAL 7035 & 4006,
various dimensions

HERADESIGN® Baffle Element
Superfine, RAL 7035,
600/1200/1800/2400 × 300mm



We had great support from Knauf Ceiling Solutions who helped at the initial design stage and then provided valuable advice in working out the best finishes and systems for the project. We were really happy with the finish and would definitely consider using HERADESIGN® in future projects.

Jennifer Harper
Isherwood & Ellis Architects



Collaborative Excellence in Challenging Times

This project highlights the importance of strong partnerships, technical expertise, and seamless coordination in achieving outstanding results. Despite the logistical challenges posed by the pandemic, the team successfully delivered a fast-track programme, ensuring all commitments were met.


The collaboration with Convery Ceilings and their dedicated support, played a pivotal role in the project's success, which was recognised by its shortlisting for a CIOB Ireland Construction Management Award.

The contractor's testimonial, from Michael Rogers (Manager for MSM Contracts) reflecting their experience with the project:

"We worked closely with our specialist subcontractor Convery Ceilings to deliver this project. Support Service from Knauf Ceiling Solutions was a great success factor from the initial sample selection that enabled us to trial various install methods down to the finer details such as the provision of touch up paint to blend in/conceal fixings with the order.

We also had excellent technical support from Aaron at Knauf Ceiling Solutions, to assist with the install co-ordination for second fix Mechanical and Electrical fittings.

This M&E co-ordination contributed to the project being shortlisted for a CIOB Ireland Construction Management award. The smooth procurement process with all commitments regarding lead times were met, even with the logistical difficulties caused by the pandemic. This was vitally important to meet the fast-track programme on this project."



Manufactured from robust sustainable materials, HERADESIGN® wood wool solutions offer high impact resistance, and fire safety characteristics, which is paramount for any building.

Knauf Ceilings Solutions GmbH & Co. KG

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