

Library of Birmingham

Opened on 3rd of September 2013, the Library of Birmingham offers world class facilities and resources to transform lives through learning, knowledge and culture, providing an exciting and inspiring visitor experience for all.

Designed by Dutch architects Mecanoo, the £186m building, was a key part of Birmingham's "big city" regeneration plan.

The new building is situated in the cultural heart of the city, comprising of performance spaces, rooftop terraces and a large glass-topped central book rotunda that rises through the middle of the building, echoing the traditional great round reading room of the British Museum. It shares an entrance way and performance studio with the neighbouring Repertory Theatre, whilst the Symphony Hall and the National Indoor Arena are situated nearby.

The intricate steel lattice work that covers the outside of the building represents both the city's industrial past and its heritage in jewellery making. It reflects and dissects the daylight to create ever-changing shadows on the library's walls and floors. The golden rotunda at the top of the building sits the Shakespeare memorial room, housing the original carved wood panels from the memorial room at the city's demolished Victorian Library.

Allgood supplied a full Alite package that included door furniture, signage and mechanical door hardware, while Allgood Trio supplied electronic locks and key switches. Due to the specific requirements of the design of some of the doors, Allgood had to supply bespoke products to match the specification of the project.

On 17 July 2014 the Library of Birmingham was nominated as one of the six short-listed buildings for the 2014 Stirling Prize, awarded for excellence in architecture.

