Royal Marsden

TOP: New molecular pathology facilities

MIDDLE: Shower point

BOTTOM: New research facilties

Project overview

To continue advancing their work in world leading cancer care and research, the Royal Marsden were looking to expand their Molecular Pathology facilities, with a new centre on their site in Sutton, Surrey. This would enable them to bring together clinicians, geneticists, pathologists and scientists under one roof for the first time, ultimately speeding up the research and treatment development process for cancer sufferers.

Evolutionary development

The design and build project includes four laboratory suites over two floors, as well as support facilities with state-of-the-art equipment, which had to meet exact performance specifications and fundamentally provide flexibility for future changes in clinical procedure. The 3,500 square meter reinforced concrete frame building has been built with a strong focus on sustainability, which features photovoltaic panels on the roof, air-handling units to reabsorb heat, smart lighting systems and a building management system designed to allow the Marsden to understand and control the building more effectively.

All of the work needed to be carried out while the rest of the hospital was still operational and buildings were in close proximity. Deliveries were timed to avoid disruption to the Marsden's day-to-day working, as well as ensuring its main delivery routes were constantly kept clear, despite their running past the main site area. Noise and dust control was of fundamental importance both for maintaining the cleanliness of a hospital site, but also for the local community, with a day nursery directly opposite, as well as residential properties.

A green approach

It was not just the finished design with sustainability at the forefront, but the build programme itself. Adopting environmentally friendly methods of working, offsite construction was used for some elements of the new build. Prefabricated service modules allowed for the sections of services to be built in factory conditions, and tested and lagged before being brought to site. This approach reduced the amount of waste material alongside the project's carbon footprint as a result of the decreased level of transportation to site.