

Future Business Centre, The Hive, Cambridge

Client: Allia / Interserve
Value: £6.7m
Collaborators: Bidwells, MLM, Davis Langdon Aecom

The Hive project - described as “an enterprise and education park for a generation of change” - is located on the urban fringe of Cambridge. The Hive is a collective project that nurtures business that is good for society and the environment, and is a partnership between Cambridgeshire County Council, Cambridge Regional College and social enterprise charity Allia.

The Hive works with professionals working in construction who want to update their skills to adapt to a low-carbon economy, young people looking for vocational training in sustainable construction techniques, and businesses set up to tackle social or environmental needs.

5th Studio are masterplanners for the whole project and were designers of the key £7m building on the site for Allia. The Future Business Centre supports charities learning to trade, social enterprises wanting to grow and companies developing products that result in social or environmental benefits.

5th Studio developed a strong vision for the building, guided the project through planning and developed proposals for the building to RIBA Stage E Employers Requirements, following which the project was delivered by the client / contractor Interserve's executive architect.



Above & Below The physical form and internal spatial qualities of the building were developed in a series of large scale physical models.



Right The delivered Future Business Centre building.

Below Image of the Future Business Centre from Kings Hedges Road.





Above View from the landscaped space at the heart of the 'Hive'

Below A series of images exploring the internal environments of the Future Business Centre

Upper Economical and adaptable space for start-up companies

Lower Robust spaces for both physical 'making' as well as virtual creativity

Right View of the completed atrium space which ties together the circulation and social spaces of the building

