Francis Crick Institute Case Study

Project: Francis Crick Laboratory
Client: Ruddy Joinery

Introduction

The Francis Crick Institute is named after the British scientist Francis Crick, co-discoverer of the structure of DNA, is a biomedical discovery institute dedicated to understanding the scientific mechanisms of living things. Its work is helping to understand why disease develops and to find new ways to treat, diagnose and prevent illnesses such as cancer, heart disease, stroke, infections, and neurodegenerative diseases.

By bringing together scientists from many disciplines, the Crick will help to improve people's lives and keep the UK at the forefront of innovation in medical research.

The Francis Crick Institute was founded by six of the UK's most successful scientific and academic organisations - the Medical Research Council (MRC), Cancer Research UK (CRUK), the Wellcome Trust, UCL (University College London), Imperial College London and King's College London.

The MRC's National Institute for Medical Research and CRUK's London Research Institute (at Lincoln's Inn Fields and Clare Hall) became part of the Francis Crick Institute on 1 April 2015. Researchers from these institutes are gradually starting to move into the new Crick Lab in a phased process that will take a number of months.

When it is fully occupied and operational, in early 2017, the Francis Crick Institute will employ 1500 staff, including 1250 scientists, and have an operating budget of approximately £130 million a year.

The striking new building was designed by architects HOK with PLP Architecture. The construction of the institute's new facilities at St Pancras was completed in August 2016.

The facility is divided into four "laboratory neighborhoods" connected by two atria. The atria cross at the center of the building to create a hub with break areas, informal collaboration space, a large central stair and a concierge serving the entire floor. Walkways and informal meeting areas crisscross the main atrium and connect neighborhoods.

The atria bring daylight into all of the labs and other spaces while enhancing the visibility of people throughout the building and between floors. Glass walls allow for views into labs, promoting transparency and openness. Unless specific functions require closed walls, lab neighborhoods are open to encourage interaction.

Vistamatic

32 Vistamatic Flush and Blackout Max-XL vision panels were a supply only on the Francis Crick project.

The Vistamatic Max-XL panels are specifically designed to offer a streamline appearance to any door requiring a full length panel, they are made to measure and allow unobtrusive observation through the upper area of the panel and with all of the benefits expected of a Vistamatic®, the Max-XL™ dispenses with the need to install two individual panels vertically into a door blank.

The Max-XL allows discreet observation through the upper area of the panel and is available in a variety of glass options.

Vistamatic were specified by Ruddy Joinery based on the reliability and quality of their products in the market and the fact that they had previous experience of the Vistamatic's market-leading products and excellent customer service.

"A fantastic state-of-the-art new home for the Crick has been built ... it will be the discoveries we make here that cement our place in London, in the UK and at the forefront of science worldwide."

Sir Paul Nurse - Director, Francis Crick Institute