

# News

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## Double award glory for Royal Veterinary College development

A new student accommodation development at the Royal Veterinary College in Potters Bar has scooped two prestigious architecture awards.

The £15 million Royal Veterinary College Student Village development, which was built by leading construction, design and infrastructure company, Morgan Sindall and designed by architects, Hawkins\Brown, won a Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) East Education Award. This is a RIBA East special category award for the best education building in the Eastern Region.

The scheme, which involved the design and construction of accommodation for 205 students, a 200-seater restaurant and three training rooms, also received a national RIBA Award.

Charlie Norris, construction director for Morgan Sindall said: "The quality of student accommodation has taken great strides forward in recent years, especially in terms of facilities, and it is very pleasing for the entire project team that this ambitious, forward-thinking scheme has won two such prestigious awards.

Alasdair Esson, director of estates and facilities management at the Royal Veterinary College, said: "We are delighted that this project has won two RIBA awards. The new accommodation has been designed to a high standard and has greatly helped us to improve our student experience at our Hertfordshire campus."

The project involved the construction of nine accommodation blocks of between three and four storeys, based around a central courtyard and linked by common open access stairs. Each floor of the accommodation blocks features six en-suite rooms and a communal kitchen and lounge area.

Oliver Milton, partner at Hawkins\Brown said: "We are delighted that the RVC student village has been awarded a RIBA award. Despite being delivered to challenging timescales, the project demonstrates that with close collaboration between designers and contractors, award winning design and quality can still be achieved."

In a statement about the winning building, the RIBA judges said: "Architecturally the buildings embody the concept of sharing in a variety of ways. They thus celebrate not only economy, but the spirit of education, which best derives from spontaneous meetings, interaction and gathering."

The judges praised the arrangement of the dormitory buildings, which they said created a series of shared vistas and shared green commons across the site, spaced out enough so as not to steal light from each other. The diverse cladding materials used on the project, which included brick, timber and punched aluminium, were also commended by the judges.

### ENDS

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