

News

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Technology in action at Huddersfield's Barbara Hepworth Building

Wakefield-born Barbara Hepworth was one of the foremost modernist sculptors of the 20th century, with her works located today at leading galleries across the world. It is therefore fitting that the University of Huddersfield should name the new home for its School of Art, Design and Architecture after one of Yorkshire's favourite daughters.

It is also fitting that the firm employed to deliver the £30 million Barbara Hepworth Building, Morgan Sindall Construction & Infrastructure, is using some of the most cutting edge technology available to create a building becoming of the legendary sculptor's legacy.

Designed by local architect AHR, the five-storey 7,500 square foot building will be located alongside the Huddersfield Narrow Canal at Queen Street South and incorporate studios for art, design, architecture, fashion and textiles.

The project represents the latest collaboration between Morgan Sindall Construction & Infrastructure and the university following the completion of the £28 million Oastler Building, which now houses the law school and humanities department, in 2017. In order to deliver this latest building, Morgan Sindall Construction & Infrastructure has deployed cutting edge BIM and mixed-reality technology to enable its team to better examine the project as it develops.

This involves the use of 3D design coordination processes, where architecture, structural and MEP 3D models are periodically combined to check for clashes and issues that could affect construction programme and costs.

"By using 3D BIM models to create and validate project data, we have been able to minimise the risks during the construction process and improve the quality of the information throughout the project lifecycle," explains Simon Taylor, design manager, Morgan Sindall Construction & Infrastructure.