



Case Study

ICL/TSS_RVK/STUDY/WFOA/01/1023

Project
University of Warwick Faculty of Arts

Architect
Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios

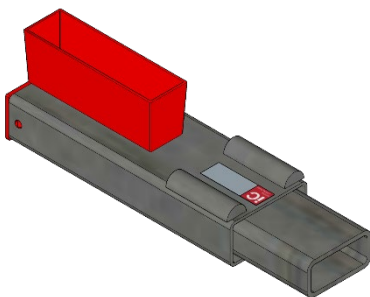
Engineer(s)
Buro Happold, Arup

Main Contractor
Bowmer + Kirkland

Concrete Frame Contractor
Whelan & Grant

Precaster
RightCast

Product(s) supplied
RVK 101 STD
Precast Concrete Stair Landing
Connector (100kN, Bolt Operated,
Popular For Screeded Landings)



REDiBOX PRF-STD
Concrete Wall Permanent Recess
Former – Standard



Project description

Shortlisted for the 2023 Stirling Prize for ‘Building of the Year’ the new Faculty of Arts building epitomises the University of Warwick’s principles of collaboration, creativity, inspiration, and innovation. The purpose-built, landmark building brings together all the Arts and Humanities departments under one roof.

Carefully designed to adapt to the evolving needs of the Faculty over the next 50 years, the £57.5m eight storey structure spans 15,000m² of floor space and boasts four clusters set around a dramatic, sculptural timber staircase within a full height atrium.



Reducing the carbon footprint and volume of materials were key considerations in the architect’s design. Andy Theobald, Partner at FCB Studios explains,

“The sustainability agenda for this project goes beyond energy efficient design. Constructed out of materials that will last, it has future flexibility built-in and is designed to be both life enhancing and responsive to change.”

Enabling future flexibility for space utilisation, and to open up the range of suitable frame construction strategies, Buro Happold designed the building around a regular 7x7 metre structural grid of columns and architecturally exposed reinforced concrete flat slabs. A low carbon cement substitute was used in the concrete frame saving an estimated 264.8 tonnes of carbon compared to use of traditional cement.

Our role

Distinct from the grand central staircase in the atrium, there are three stair cores located in three of the four clusters. In each of these, steel angles were initially considered to support the precast stair flights and landings off the core walls.

However, the architect's design called for exposed concrete walls in the staircases, without any painted or applied finishes. Clean lines, uninterrupted by RSAs, were desired.

Consequently, for visual appeal and to also generate structural, material and programme efficiencies, the project team decided on RVK telescopic connectors to provide the hidden means of support.

