

Drill Hall Library

Project



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Opportunity

The Drill Hall Library is within an iconic building which has a long established naval background and that sits alongside Chatham Dockyard in Kent. Built in 1902, as a Drill Hall for the Royal Navy, it became their mess barracks. In 1917, during WW1, a German Gotha bomber dropped bombs on the building, tragically killing more than 130 sailors.

After closing in 1984, the buildings became part of Universities at Medway, with a tri partite collaboration developed by University of Greenwich, University of Kent, Canterbury and Christchurch Universities.

In 2019, the Universities decided to upgrade the existing library facility, a large space of around 5000 square feet. Wagstaff were invited to create a completely new scheme, taking it away from an environment that was no longer suitable for modern day learning.



The Drill Shed at Chatham Royal Naval Barracks.

A total of forty-six bombs were dropped on the towns including two that smashed through the glass roof of the Drill Shed, shattering it into thousands of deadly shards, showering the hundreds of helpless seamen below, before exploding on the solid floor. Many of those who were not killed or injured in the explosion were cut to shreds by the flying glass. A total of 130 were killed and over ninety injured, the highest number of casualties in Britain caused by bombs on a single target during the war. Further casualties were suffered from bombs that fell on the dockyard and the Great Lines.

The Drill Hall in 1920 with an account of the tragic WW1 bombing



Flock pods, Tryst 2 seater booths

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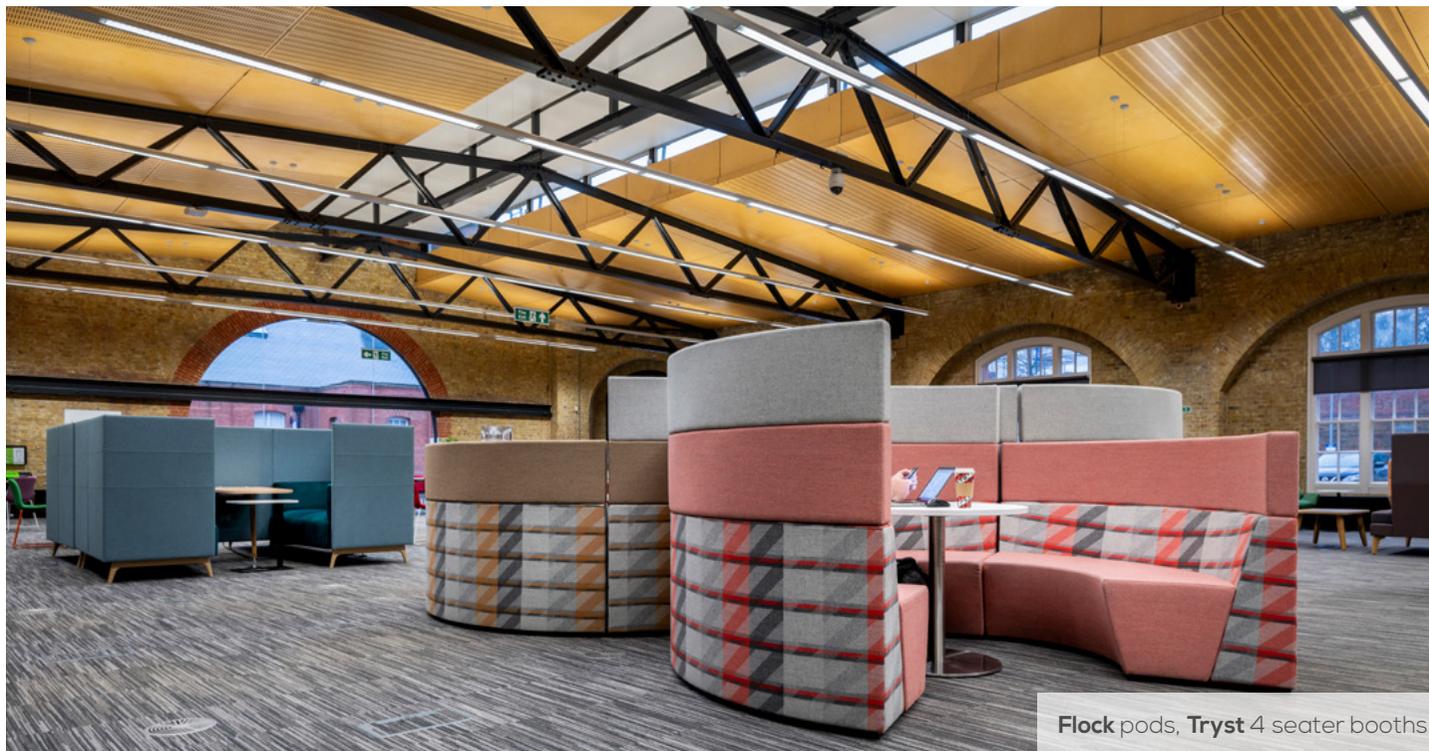
Solution

Wagstaff made full use of the stunning space, creating several activity based zones and selecting a range of flexible furniture, facilitating collaborative learning styles.

Striking semi-private working and collaboration spaces are defined using a cluster of Connection **Flock** pods, upholstered in eye-catching fabrics with tables and integrated power for charging laptops and phones.

A variety of Connection **Tryst** high back booths, both 2 seater and 4 seater, with luxurious sprung seats upholstered in velvet fabric, provide more areas to retreat to and study in comfort.

connection
space that works



Flock pods, Tryst 4 seater booths



Tryst 2 seater booths



Tryst 4 seater booths

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The result is a comfortable and attractive environment, sympathetic to the building's architecture and history. The updated library facility is now fit for the future and bound to achieve its aims in encouraging an increase in admissions.

connection
space that works



Tryst 4 seater booths



Flock pods, Tryst 4 seater booths