

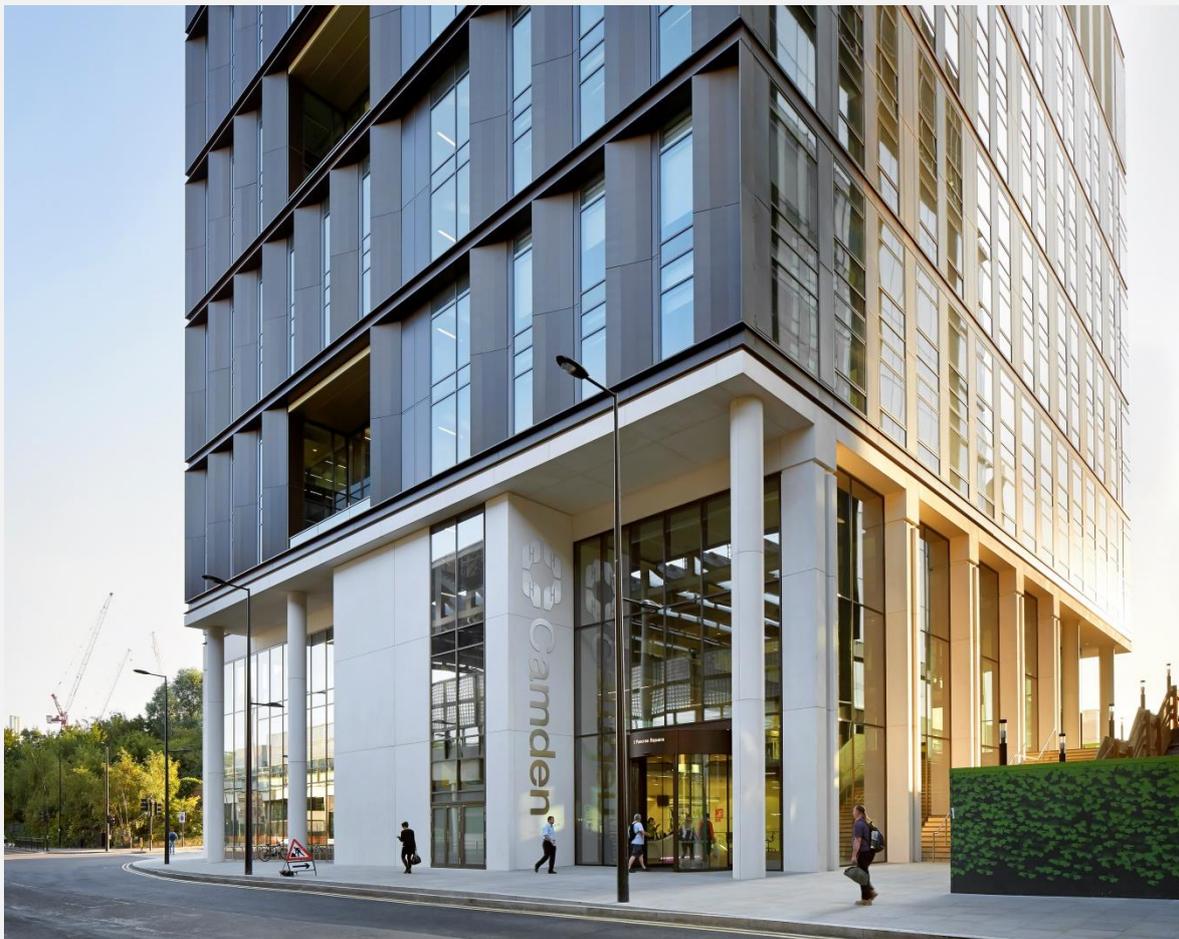
Five Pancras Square

Complete	Area	Client	Architect
2015	UK England	London Borough of Camden	Bennetts Associates

Five Pancras Square is the headquarters of the London Borough of Camden. It is also a community building and alongside the office accommodation there are two public swimming pools, a fitness centre, a library and the council's customer access centre.

The building is one of the greenest in the UK. A condition of the planning policy was that the project achieved a BREEAM Excellent rating, but with a score of 97.6 per cent the completed development exceeded this and was awarded the Outstanding accreditation instead.

In 2015 the building was named as the winner of the Prime Minister's Better Building Award.



Services provided

Sandy Brown was commissioned to provide acoustic advice on the base building and Category A and B fit-out of the new offices. Principle acoustic requirements included:

- achieving an appropriate level of speech privacy between cellular spaces and in open plan office areas
- control of noise from building services
- ensuring reverberation within the meeting rooms does not significantly affect speech intelligibility or result in excessive noise build-up in other areas.

Special acoustic features

In terms of acoustic design, there are two principle elements affecting a building's BREEAM rating. These are:

- the indoor environmental quality, i.e the acoustic performance within the building, and
- noise emissions from the building to the external environment.

For the first of these – the acoustic quality in the building – there are a number of factors that can affect performance in an open plan office. These include spacing and layout of workstations, the way in which people work or behave in the space and the location, level and character of noise that is generated by office equipment, such as phones or photocopiers. Acoustic finishes, particularly for the ceiling, are also a prime consideration as they are one of the main ways to attenuate unwanted sounds and levels of speech.



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