

Case Study

New Hall College



New College Buildings Create a New Set of Challenges for New Hall College, Cambridge

New Hall College has grown over the years to accommodate new buildings and new uses. As is common, the directional fabric throughout the buildings had essentially stayed the same and the College was notorious for getting lost in.

ANALYSING THE ISSUES

By looking at the whole range of activities, talking to staff, students, Porters, cleaners, Fellows and visitors, the wide range of problems were identified from which solutions would be developed. Main problems included -

- Visitors not finding their way to the car park or the main entrance.
- Dilapidated, outdated signs that often misdirected.
- Non sequential and illogical stair labelling and room numbering system.
- No general information system to the building, (paper signs were stuck up everywhere).

DEVELOPING A COHESIVE PLAN

A team was put together of College representatives to steer the development of proposals. Designs were tested, specified and manufacturers sought to complete the range of works that included -

- Landscaping the arterial pathways from the main car park.
- Designating and developing a single destination information point from which informed choices could be made and encouraged.
- Redesigning the entire sign system and numbering system used in the College.
- Developing maps, plans and web based media to direct visitors.

IMPLEMENTATION

The project has proved extremely successful. The College buildings and grounds have a clear identity to them and are easily navigated by the wide variety of visitors the College receives each year. The College is now known as an easy and safe place to get around in.



Hard Landscaping

Realigning and landscaping the main arterial pathways to lead visitors from the car park to a single destination information point.



Sign systems

Developing a complete sign strategy that would inform and direct at all stages of use throughout the College.



Maps and plans

A system of comprehensive colour and black & white maps were developed to give an overall impression and relationship to the grounds and destinations.