

Canon acquired the beautiful 25-acre site at Woodhatch, with the intention of building a new 11,500m² headquarters. The quiet sheltered setting afforded by the mature landscape of the original 18th century house strongly suggested that an environmentally friendly, naturally ventilated building would be possible.

The new buildings take best advantage of the existing landscape and views to the South by forming a group with the Regency Lodge, on the site of the 1970s extensions which were demolished. All demolition materials were re-used and only one tree was felled. By nestling into the contours of the South facing slope, and creating a series of courtyards which they all open onto, the buildings were given a natural harmonious feeling, like a monastery or medieval hill town. This is reinforced by the use of natural materials throughout, particularly the unifying effect of pale yellow stock bricks and yellow clay pavers. Significant use is made of water and the relationship between internal and external spaces, blurring the traditional boundary between the building and the landscape.

The main southern terrace acts as a central focus for the complex and the cloister along its edge provides protected outdoor circulation between the buildings. The main dining area is below this courtyard, evidenced by a series of glass lanterns, and it opens onto the gardens at a lower level for outdoor dining. This also acts as the link between the new buildings and the cellars of the existing house which has been restored and is now used as a training centre.

To ensure a good environmental performance the building design was monitored by **BREEAM** and awarded the highest rating of **EXCELLENT**. A high thermal mass was a critical requirement which led to the use of brick cladding and exposed sculpted concrete soffits which are cooled automatically with night-time air and absorb heat during the day. To minimise solar gain the buildings are carefully orientated and the use of brise soleil, overhanging roofs and cloisters keep sunlight out whilst letting in lots of energy saving daylight.

The working environment is entirely open plan and designed around huge light filled atria where relaxed meetings can take place, and everyone works within a few yards of natural light and scenic views. Working areas are networked to cutting edge document management centres, and hot desking facilities are available for visiting home workers and staff from other locations.



CANON UK HEADQUARTERS, WOODHATCH, REIGATE

Owner: CANON (UK) LTD
 Architect: DAVID RICHMOND + PARTNERS
 Services Engineer: ERNEST GRIFFITHS & SONS
 Structural Engineer: CURTINS CONSULTING ENGINEERS

Site Area: 25 ACRES
 Gross Floor Area: 11,068 m²
 Building Population: 500 approx.

Annual Operating Energy: Electricity - 52.7 kWh/m²
 Gas - 86.0 kWh/m²
 Annual Emissions of CO² - 55.0 kWh/m²

The Building Was Awarded an **EXCELLENT** Breeam Rating