

Article 1

Automatic wall divides stepped lecture theatre

As part of a £1.7m investment, Loughborough University recently remodelled Quorn Hall into an impressive 560-seat lecture theatre. Adding functionality to the new facility, Style was contracted to install a 57dB Dorma Hüppe Variflex ComfortDrive moveable wall system with fully automatic operation, allowing the vast space to be divided into two separate areas.

A complex project, Style was specified by Core Architects to design a system that not only accommodated the exceptionally high ceiling but that also incorporated the stepped-rise of the seating.

Creating an unparalleled acoustic barrier, substantial rubber seals expand to just the right pressure, allowing concurrent lectures to run completely undisturbed. An integrated pass door provides access between the divided rooms whilst an oak laminate finish adds to the stunning interior design.

Due to the complexity of the project, Style had to work particularly closely with Wildgoose



Construction, who was responsible for lifting 2 x 26 metre steel supports into place by crane, lowering them via chains through pockets cut into the roof.

“Dividing such a cavernous lecture theatre with a fully automated moveable wall takes careful planning and the very best on-site project management,” said Steve Williams, sales director for Style Midlands.

“We therefore developed a close working partnership with both the architect and contractor to install a product which is utterly breathtaking.”

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Article 2

Flexible teaching space for forward-thinking school

Future-proofing their facilities, Hirwaun Primary School included space flexibility as a key feature of a new £10.5m building, that opened in Autumn 2020.

Allowing teachers to quickly adapt one of the main classrooms, Style worked with contractor Morgan Sindall and architects, Boyesrees, to install a Dorma Hüppe Variflex moveable wall system.

With an impressive 55dB Rw acoustic rating, once the wall is in place, separate classes can run undisturbed on either side, making this an ideal solution for isolating pupil bubbles, as well as being intensely practical in accommodating a wide variety of ongoing daily activities.

Style’s operable wall was selected by Morgan Sindall following their tender process – the final solution giving teaching staff the freedom to separate the room into two with ease or open it up into one large teaching space.

The wall’s pearl grey melamine finish perfectly complements the classroom décor and, with social distancing measures being a priority for all educational establishments, it gives Hirwaun Primary the ability to sub-divide space to rapidly reduce class sizes. The Variflex system is suitable for any school, college or university seeking to add flexibility into their teaching areas.

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