

# Case Study: Hauser Forum, Cambridge University

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## Kawneer features on a building that is key to the future of Cambridge University

Two versions of Kawneer's AA®100 curtain walling, along with concealed window vents and series 190 and 350 doors, were installed at the £18million Hauser Forum, on Cambridge University's West Cambridge science and technology campus.

**Building:** Hauser Forum

**Location:** Cambridge University

**Architects:** WilkinsonEyre/NORR Consultants Ltd

**Main Contractor:** Willmott Dixon

**Installer:** Drayton Windows

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## Curtains up for Kawneer at Cambridge

Two versions of Kawneer's AA®100 curtain walling, along with concealed window vents and series 190 and 350 doors, were installed over five months by specialist sub-contractor Drayton Windows for main contractor Willmott Dixon at the Hauser Forum.

Named after the building's alumni sponsor, Dr Hermann Hauser, the Hauser Forum forms a new gateway to the university's West Cambridge science and technology campus on greenbelt land to the west of the city and houses several forward-thinking departments including nanotechnology and physics for medicine.

The Forum provides office and research facilities for small start-up companies developing spin-off technologies from other university scientific research programmes. It comprises three key elements – the 2,400m<sup>2</sup> Centre for Entrepreneurship incubator building, the 5,000m<sup>2</sup> Broers R&D building and a 600m<sup>2</sup> atrium café.

While Kawneer's 190 heavy-duty and 350 severe-duty commercial entrance doors (the latter for automated sliding doors) feature throughout the complex, the company's AA®100 SSG (Structurally Silicone Glazed) curtain walling with mullion-drained sections has been used on the café.

Drayton Windows' designer Scott Harwood said: "It was necessary to introduce vertical face caps to the mullions in the eight-metre cantilevered zone (11 metres including the terrace) over the feature pond. This additional capping was required to allow considerable movement in the system due to live loads imposed on the floor.

"The architect was able to make a feature of the vertical capping and introduce it to additional feature areas of the café's glazed façade. We worked in partnership with Kawneer, as the system supplier, to achieve these solutions."

In the café area, the curtain walling was required to span 7.5 metres in height without intermediate support and includes glass-to-glass corners with a maximum module of 1.2m x 1.8m width, again with no intermediate support permitted from the primary structure.

In addition, Kawneer's AA®100 zone-drained curtain walling, which features 50mm sightlines, features on the R&D building and the incubator building, the latter with concealed window vents.

The café encourages the exchange of ideas across the disciplines for academics and visitors from across the campus in a social and relaxed atmosphere and this image, of the forum as a place to meet and exchange ideas, is reinforced by a large oversailing canopy which unites the elements and defines the public plaza below.

Naturally ventilated, the complex was designed by concept architects WilkinsonEyre to achieve a BREEAM "Excellent" rating and among other features incorporates extensive use of shading to the glazed areas. The project was taken through the tender stage and progressed on site by Ingenium Archial.

Please contact our Architectural Services Team if you have a project you would like to discuss: Tel: 01928 502604 / Email: [kawneerAST@arconic.com](mailto:kawneerAST@arconic.com)

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