



Clive Wilson in the Atrium with 'property Oscar'

Atrium awarded for design and innovation

The University's Atrium development recently picked up a regional 'property Oscar'.

The new popular open space in the University's Richmond Building was given the Design and Innovation award at the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors Pro Yorkshire Awards in May.

Also on the honours role were Morrisons' new headquarters Hilmore House in Thornbury and the historic Myddleton Lodge development in Ilkley. All received their accolade in front of more than 400 property professionals from across the region who attended a gala dinner celebration at Leeds Town Hall.

Described by judges as a "jewel inserted into an urban fabric," the Atrium is used as a social gathering area for students and is

made from the same high-transparency foil used by the Eden Project in Cornwall.

Clive Wilson, the University's Director of Estates, said: "We are delighted that our exciting new Atrium development has been recognised through the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors awards.

"The main focus of the Atrium is to provide a social space for students, staff and visitors in a comfortable and informal surrounding. It also acts as a great learning space, and with Wi Fi computer networking students can now engage in group work there.

"Since its official opening in the autumn of 2006, the Atrium has proved a big hit with everyone, hosting exhibitions, conferences and showcases as well as being a place where people go for their coffee breaks."

The Atrium

This £6 million development, which is part of the University's enormous estate refurbishment, has seen a whole new look and feel for staff, students and visitors to the University.

The Atrium area is a large open-plan social space with a reception, Fair Trade catering facilities, print shop and a one-stop shop for students who, for the first time, can access important information about their studies, finances and accommodation in one place.

The exterior to the Atrium is made of a transparent foil called ETFE (ethyltetrafluoroethylene), the same highly transparent foil used by the Eden Project in Cornwall. This allows an abundance of natural light into the building and helps make this space a light, bright and cheerful place to be.

The Atrium is part of the University's bid to create a model environmentally sustainable campus and aspire to be one of the greenest universities in the world.