



CARDIFF INNOVATION CENTRAL CARDIFF, UK

The new Cardiff Innovation Central building, part of Cardiff University's new Maindy Road development, will provide office and social space for up to 800 researchers, staff and external stakeholders. As a collaborative and interactive environment, the Centre will provide new space to foster innovation and become an integral part of an engaging and connected campus.

The Smart Space team were appointed by Hawkins Brown Architects to conduct a people flow study of the new site, considering both the 'Work' and 'Play' aspects of the building. Particular focus was placed on the potential for interaction within the varied spaces, and the capacity and experience of social spaces, entrance areas and internal links.

Using Smart Space's agent-based modelling capability and innovative analysis metrics, activities and movement patterns of researchers, staff and visitors were modelled over a peak morning arrivals period and lunch time period. This

offered significant insight and provided recommendations to the design team for ways to improve the layout and operational management of the building to optimise the collaborative and vibrant working spaces.

Our analysis included flow diagram mapping, visibility and accessibility analysis and dynamic simulation to test the interaction between the different users within the proposed building. Our study helped measure the mixing of researchers from different groups and also enabled us to inform the optimum locations for social areas to encourage discussions and initiate collaborations, thus refining and validating the architectural vision.

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