



WAGSTAFF WORKPLACES

UNIVERSITY OF CARDIFF

Location:	Welsh School of Architecture, Cardiff
Architect:	BDP
Design:	Wagstaff Design Team
Space Status:	Occupied
Sector:	Education
Scope:	Furniture Solutions Installation and delivery
Project Value:	£500k



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Project Overview

Wagstaff have been appointed by Cardiff University to supply, deliver and install the new furniture for the Welsh School of Architecture Grade II Listed Bute Building under the project WIDER-BE (Well Informed Design Education and Research in the Built Environment). The project will bring the School from three sites across campus to one in the Bute Building. The total project value was £500k, completed in October 2021.

The project will enable the School to expand its studio culture, with larger studios and a new hybrid studio for working and teaching. The building will boast a new smart lecture theatre, living lab and exhibition hall, just a few of the new spaces created to allow the School to showcase its students, education, and research.

The University has a strong focus on sustainability and incorporating this into the procurement process. The brief was to repurpose over 300 of their existing furniture items into this building, as well as supplying them with new furniture which tied in with their old items. We specified sofas made out of recycled bamboo and loose breakout chairs with seats made out of recycled plastic bottles (PET Felt)

The client wanted focus working booths for some of their computer spaces, and we worked out a layout that allowed them to share panels which reduced the amount of items going through the manufacturing process. We were able to reupholster some of their existing furniture so it felt new, but again reduced waste of products that were still able to be used. We specified fabrics made out of recycled waste from the Ocean on these items and some of the new products.

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Products

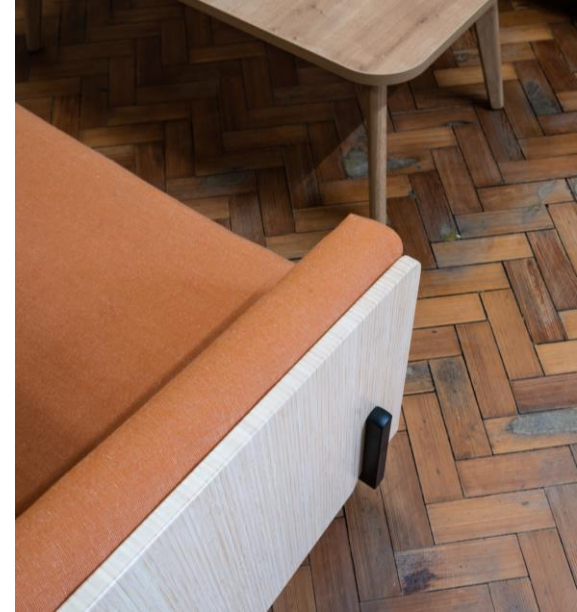
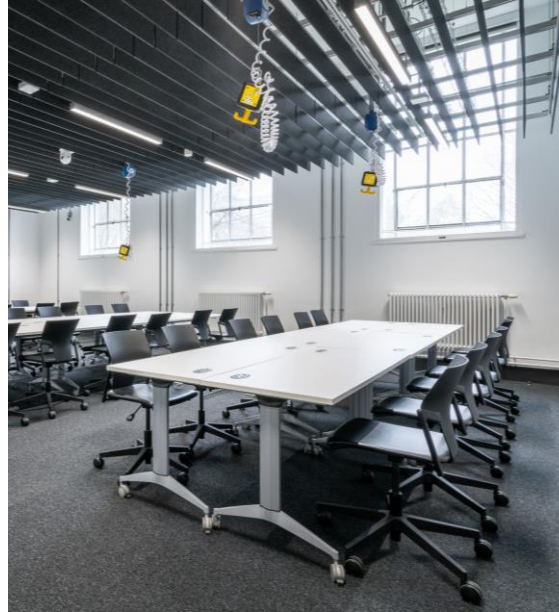
In addition we provide the following products:

Sedus Se:Lab Range – a variety of tables on castor base for all of the studios.

Pledge Ikon Chairs on castors – these were already within the Bute Building elsewhere so we ordered a quantity of new ones to tie in with the old furniture, and we also reupholstered some of their existing ones on site.

Snugglestor by Spacestor – an open booth and storage space for the tutorial studio spaces to allow the students to display their work but also catch up for a coffee!

Reece Sofa by Sixteen3 – made out of bamboo.



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Working with design/architecture partners BDP

At the early stages of the project, we worked closely with BDP to understand their vision and some of the key architecture features to the building. We discussed furniture options and layouts with them throughout the process as we began incorporating existing furniture.

The main design focus was working with the architects, existing plans, and then we were tasked with planning in all existing furniture to fit in the space. This was a challenge as the initial plans that were drawn up by the architect did not have furniture dimensions that matched any of the clients existing furniture, so we had to re-think some of the space planning to fit these into rooms. We also had to ensure we kept capacity in each space at the same level – and in some instances, we were able to successfully increase level of students per space.

We worked extremely closely with the Estates & Facilities team throughout the whole project from initial quotation to order input to project delivery. Our team provided samples on site of key items for the University to view prior to committing to an order, and went through a finishes selection process with them on both teams and on site.

Flexibility was key for the client as this was for their School of Architecture, and they wanted to have the opportunity to freely move furniture around in the space.

We looked at a variety of table options with castors to allow for this, whilst also carefully considering temporary power solutions that could be taken away long term without affecting the desks throughout the spaces

Worked with our manufacturers to create products that allowed for storage and breakout spaces as the client was key to have storage and open shelving spaces for students to display their work.

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Wagstaff Re-use & Recycle Service

As part of our core services, we were able to offer the re-use and recycle service and add to the universities CSR reports by providing them with a case study where all their furniture had been recycled.

Firstly, we recommended re-upholstering and upcycling some of the existing furniture (especially chair items that were looking worn or were damaged) to save the client from buying new – this saved on cost and also was great from a sustainability perspective. We successfully saved the client over £180,000 from tender stage in taking them through this process.

Waste to Wonder (W2W) Partnership & Local Charity

Due to our ongoing partnership with Waste to Wonder (W2W) we worked with them to recycle the clients' items that could not be reused as it was not fit for purpose. These items went to a local Welsh charity and to W2W outreach project in Gambia.

Recycled existing furniture included: tables, chairs, and lockers.



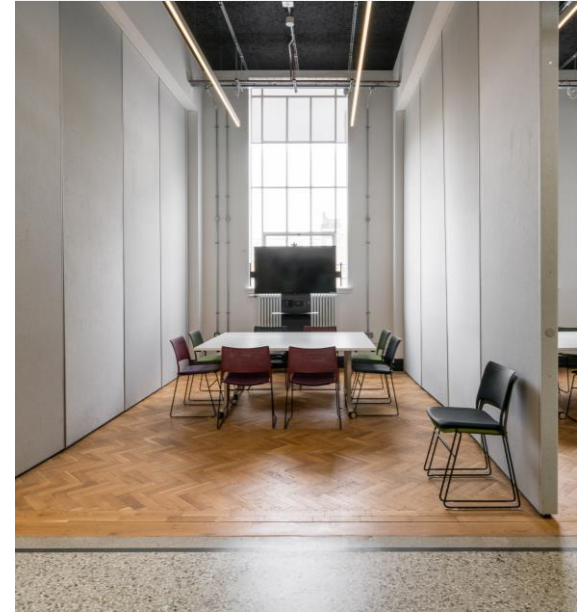
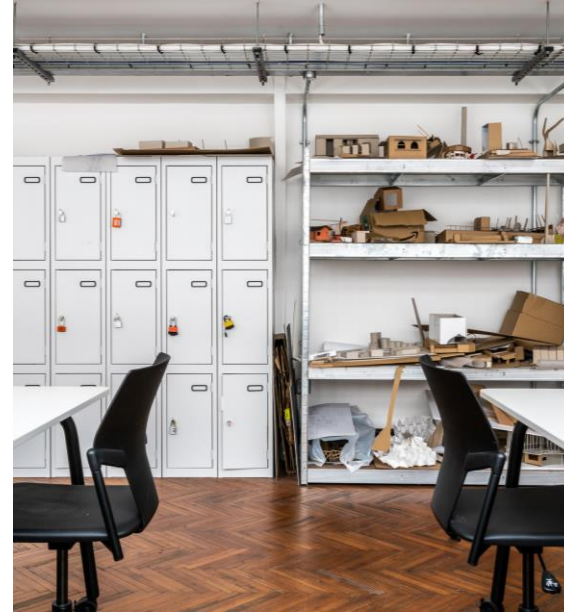
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Challenges

One of the main challenges of this project was due to the Main Contractor still undertaking works on site during the furniture installation which was not the original plan, and therefore we had to rethink our installation program to work alongside the contractor at all times.

There were many delays with furniture deliveries throughout the program, which meant we had to get additional labour teams on site to finish the furniture installation on time for the client. This was really challenging with the lack of labour available in current times, but we managed to successfully overcome this in readiness for students back on site 4th October. We had a team on site during the week and on weekends, plus our Project Manager Megan who oversaw this during the week and weekends to ensure everything was complete on time and with minimal snagging.

Overall this was an extremely complex project, with the combination of new & existing furniture, consideration of pedagogical design and space planning, amongst the challenges along the way. However we were successfully able to deliver this project in readiness for the students back on site, with minimal snagging, and Cardiff University pleased with our end result.





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Re-Use &
Recycle

VIDEO CASE STUDIES

Please refer to the following video links
for client testimonials:

[FCA](#)

[AutoTrader](#)

[University of Leeds – Nexus Building](#)

[Alix Partners](#)

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