



NEWNHAM COLLEGE in Cambridge was established in 1871 as a boarding house where young women could live while attending lectures at the university. The original Queen Anne-style building, designed by Basil Champneys and now known as Old Hall, remains in use, but a few months ago the facilities at the women's college were boosted considerably by a modern extension by Walters & Cohen Architects.

The new Dorothy Garrod building (named after the first woman to hold an Oxbridge chair) created a new entrance, a welcoming Porters' Lodge and a central cafe, along with offices, student bedrooms and a gym above. Anna Sandgren, associate lighting designer at Nulty, worked closely with both the architect and Ab Rogers Design, which created the interiors, to ensure the lighting

would be perfect. 'It's a mature design with very fine finishes and very big on detailing,' says Sandgren. 'We wanted to make sure that the lighting made it welcoming and warm.'

The highlight of the design has to be the amazing light sculpture that floats in an arc over the cafe, as if a graduating student has flung their notes in the air in delight. The result of brainstorming between Nulty, Walters & Cohen and Ab Rogers, brought to life by London-based design studio Haberdashery, the installation was inspired by the fascinating written and photographic history of Newnham College itself and the prints of Japanese artist Hokusai.

Students leaving their rooms and looking down on the light sculpture from above can see historic images and words on the floating sheets. 'The college has an archive of lots of poems and texts from former students, which have been engraved on to pieces of metal and lit,' explains Sandgren. 'We wanted something that the students would connect with, and it adds fun and playfulness into this really beautiful building and helps the students feel at home.'

The all-LED lighting varies throughout the building, with another highlight being the main corridor where bespoke feature lights with two brass discs apiece provide both ambient and down lighting. 'It creates a rhythm and circular form, adding warmth and working with the timber,' Sandgren says. 'The students spend most of their time in this building so we wanted to make sure that it was a really creative space and that the lighting changed throughout the day.'

NEWNHAM COLLEGE

Architect

Walters & Cohen
waltersandcohen.com

Interior design

Ab Rogers Design
abrogers.com

Lighting design

Nulty
nultylighting.co.uk

Lighting installation

Haberdashery
haberdashery.com

