

## UCLan Social Spaces

### Preston, United Kingdom

The University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) commissioned 'social spaces' with the aim of encouraging students to stay longer on its Preston campus.

Architecture and building consultancy practice, AHR, sought to design and create a striking space that engaged with students. Key design features include a projecting entrance canopy, glass roofs and an indoor hidden garden, as well as moveable furniture so students can reconfigure the space to suit their needs.

Proteus Facades' supplied its Rimex ColourTex Pyramid Black stainless steel cladding for the front low level aspects of both buildings because it creates a tough, impact resistant surface – the pyramid

patterned finish hides scratches, dents and other impact damage, making it ideal for a high traffic student area.

Aside from its physical robustness, the three-dimensional pyramid pattern gives the black added depths and texture, creating a lively and reflective facade.

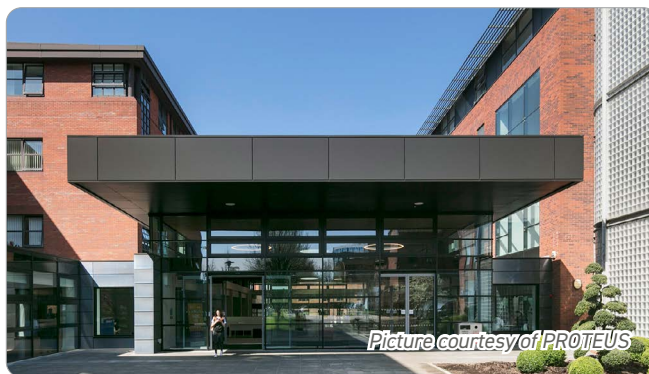
Both the ColourTex and AnoMax materials were specified on the Proteus HR honeycomb panel system. This is a sandwich cladding panel that features a linked geometric honeycomb core. This was structurally bonded to the ColourTex and AnoMax outer skins at UCLan. The result was a cladding panel with high bending stiffness and overall low density.

This allowed the designers to minimize the amount of material used, reducing weight loadings on the

structure and delivering a more cost effective outcome due to the honeycomb core allowing thinner outer skin thicknesses whilst still retaining an optically flat panel. The Proteus HR honeycomb core also reduced weight loadings on the 5m overhanging canopy that announces the point of arrival for students, avoiding the need for overly obtrusive support columns.

Main contractor at UCLan was Conlon Construction Ltd and the façade was installed by Preston-based Architectural Glazing & Facades. The development is part of UCLan's £200 million Masterplan that is being rolled out over the next five years. The new social spaces were complete in early 2018.

Environment:	urban
Use:	panel façade
Material:	316L which was black coloured and pyramid formed
Fabricator:	PROTEUS
Architects:	AHR
Photographs:	PROTEUS
More information:	<a href="http://proteusfacades.com">proteusfacades.com</a>





*Picture courtesy of PROTEUS*