SPEIRS MAJOR

Green Heart, University of Birmingham, UK

LIGHT ARCHITECTURE

8 Shepherdess Walk London, N1 7LB United Kingdom

T +44 (0)20 7067 4700

Co-lab Shibuya Cast 23–21, Shibuya 1-Chome Tokyo 150-0002 Japan

T+81 (0)3 3400 8855

info@smlightarchitecture.com press@smlightarchitecture.com

SPEIRS MAJOR



A sensitive and sustainable balance of light and darkness, the lighting for this important social and educational hub facilitates freedom of movement while enabling richly varied opportunities for interaction and outdoor learning after dark.

CLIENT
University of
Birmingham

STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS Arup

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT
Churchman
Landscape Architects

PHOTOGRAPHER

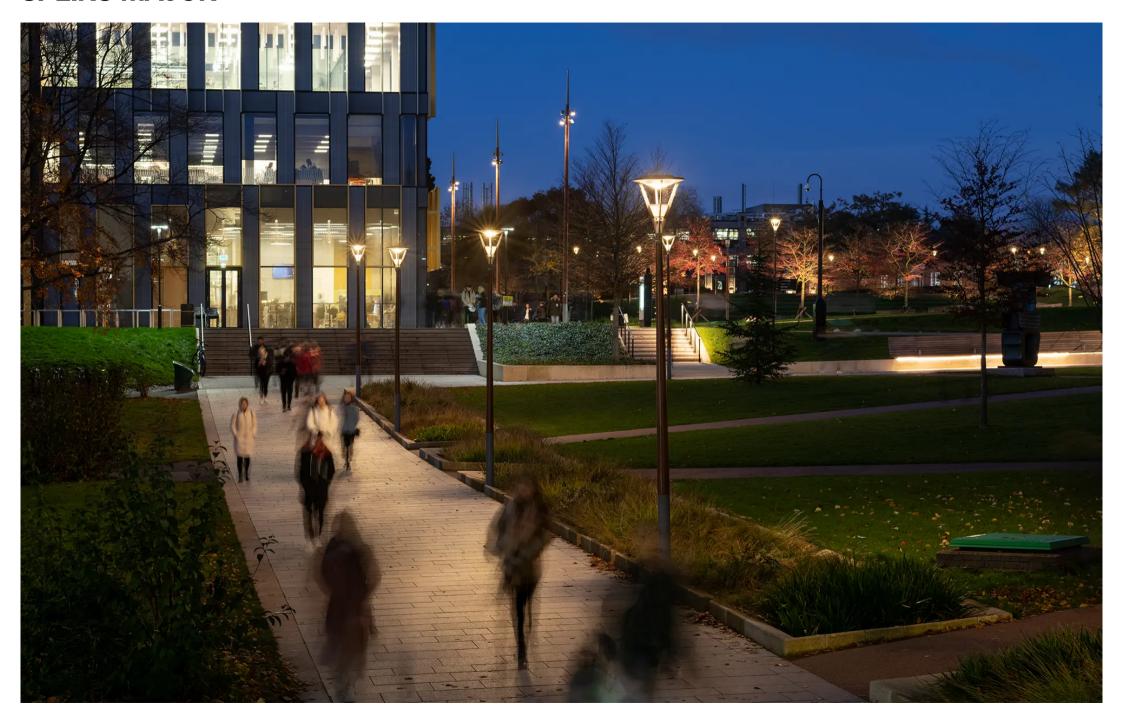
James Newton

PROJECT TEAM

Mark Major, Philip

Rose

SPEIRS MAJOR



SPEIRS MAJOR







The highest lighting intensities occur on the primary pedestrian and cycle routes, and at the many changes of level across the park. The bridge features lighting integrated into the balustrade, creating a dramatic lit effect on the bridge floor. Lighting concealed within handrails highlights the staircases and selected pathways, as well as creating the halo effect to the sloping grass banks that surround the central lawn - an additional area of informal social and study space. Located at the top of a sloped bank between the new Library Square and existing University Square, the retained and relocated Heraldic shields have been lit as a feature. using ground recessed lights.

All circulation routes, planting and areas of encounter are lit in warm white light to evoke a relaxing character akin to an outdoor living room. The only exception is the lighting for the cascades of the water feature, which are enhanced using a tonally complementary cooler white light. The lighting equipment itself is scaled according to reflect the character of the different elements of the scheme. For the main routes that are adjacent to the university buildings, taller 8m and 10m timber columns with multiple spotlights help to reduce the number of columns overall. For the internal pedestrian routes, 4m timber columns provide a more human scale and a natural aesthetic that compliments the park design. In the darker landscaped zones, the routes are revealed through low-level light only.

Lighting to selected trees and foliage emphasises the natural character of the site. Glowing canopies announce the primary pedestrian entrance gateways, while rows of illuminated trees frame the views from the amphitheatre to create a sense of enclosure. In University Square to the south of the site, key trees are uplit, creating another series of spaces for social encounter beneath them.