

John McAslan + Partners • Lancaster, United Kingdom

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Rendering of the atrium space of the new University of Lancaster Engineering Department building designed by [John McAslan + Partners](#). Image: Courtesy John McAslan + Partners

[John McAslan + Partners](#) have been appointed by Lancaster University to assist in the design and construction of a new home for the University's Engineering Department.

The competition-winning scheme will deliver 4,720 square meters (50,800 square feet) of workshop, laboratory, and office space in two concrete-framed wings set on either side of a continuous, four-story high atrium.

The building is targeting a BREEAM Outstanding rating, and will consider combining multiple renewable energy sources including solar, wind and biomass provisions as part of a visibly demonstrable sustainable design strategy.

A dramatic metal staircase, dropped into the atrium, provides circulation and breakout spaces linking the two wings together. The route also serves as an architectural promenade providing views into the diverse workshop and laboratory areas of the Engineering Department.

The proposal develops LU's current masterplan, also by John McAslan + Partners. The selective demolition of a redundant sports centre will create an enlarged square in the heart of the campus, further enhancing the wider university environs.

Source: Architecture Week People & Places Blog