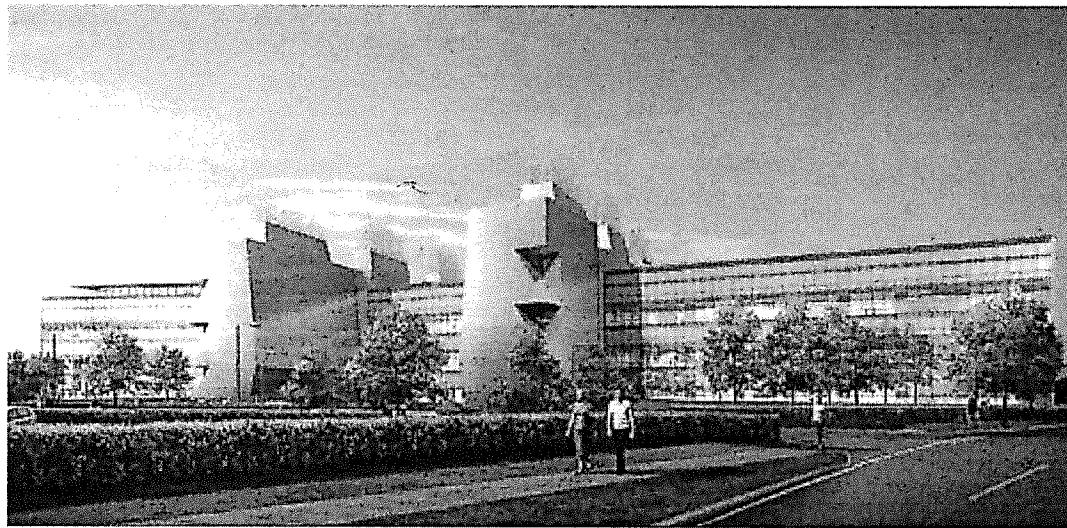


'Topping out' of MRC Laboratory in Cambridge

Karli Edmondson

Posted: Friday, September 10, 2010 10:58 am



Work on the RMJM designed new building for the Medical Research Council (MRC) Laboratory of Molecular Biology (LMB) in Cambridge has reached the first major stage of completion with its topping out on Friday 10 September. The new building, due to open in 2012, will provide first class facilities to some of the world's leading scientists and stands as the flagship building for the extension of the Cambridge Biomedical Campus.

Local MP and Secretary of State for Health, the Rt Hon Andrew Lansley CBE MP, will perform the 'topping out' ceremony and Universities and Science Minister the Rt Hon David Willetts MP will also attend the event in Cambridge to commemorate this landmark moment in medical research.

The new 30,000 m² LMB building, being built by BAM Construction Ltd with RMJM working in partnership with BAM design practice, will cost around £200 million and provide space and facilities for more than 400 researchers. The laboratory has approximately twice the size of the current building. The design of the new LMB is reminiscent of paired chromosomes, with two long laboratory wings joined by a spacious atrium, encouraging interaction and easy navigation and containing seminar rooms and a lecture theatre. Sculptural plant towers each side of the building will keep weight and vibration away from the laboratory areas and are part of the innovative layout organization with interstitial floors. The building has been designed to ensure maximum flexibility for the future and to provide space for specialist equipment and facilities as they are developed.

Dr Hugh Pelham, Director of the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology in Cambridge, said: "It is extremely gratifying to watch the stunning designs take shape and see the potential of the new LMB building realised before our eyes. Our scientists will make the discoveries of the 21st century in this world-class research centre. We look forward to seeing the next generation of pioneering discoveries from the LMB scientists, and helping to promote Cambridge" Colin Moses, Principal at RMJM, said: "The new LMB building is a clear demonstration of a great collaborative effort across the whole project team. Our conceptual thinking, which captured the imagination of the users, focused on celebrating the way the building works. We have developed a plan which promotes a sense of identity for the research groups whilst placing the shared social and support activities at natural meeting points within a dramatic, top lit atrium, encouraging a 'sense of togetherness'- which has always been a vital part of the culture of the LMB."