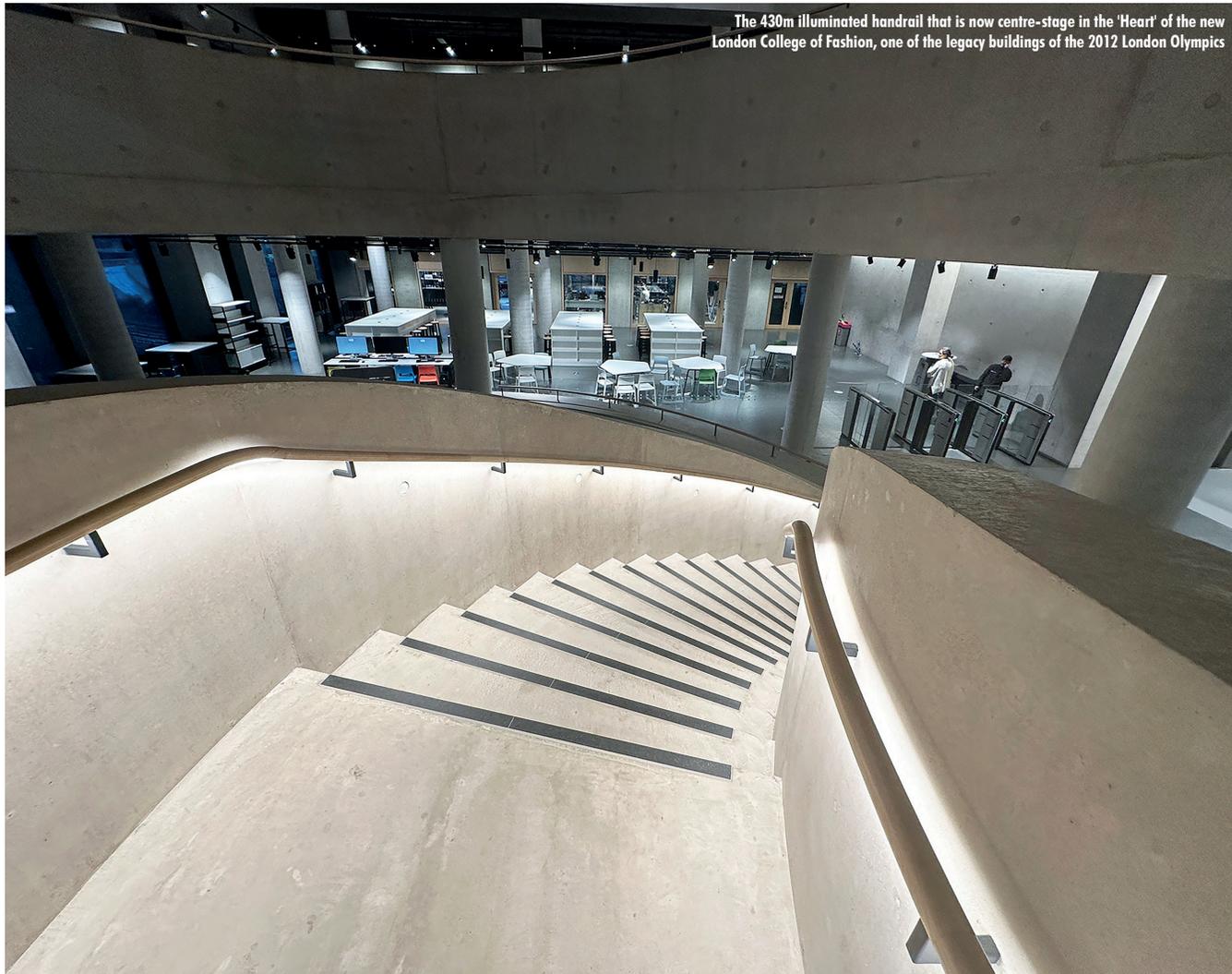


Architectural lighting



The 430m illuminated handrail that is now centre-stage in the 'Heart' of the new London College of Fashion, one of the legacy buildings of the 2012 London Olympics

This summer sees the return of the Olympics, this time to Paris, from 26 July to 11 August. It is therefore perhaps timely to be considering the 'legacy' of the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, the sporting complex in east London that was home to the 2012 Games when they came to the capital – and that amazing summer of sporting triumph for Team GB.

The new home for UAL's London College of Fashion is a key component of the post-Olympic legacy, establishing an education and culture hub within the park at Stratford Waterfront.

Architects Allies and Morrison, serving as master planner for the site, designed the building to fit seamlessly into the 'terrace' of new institutional buildings while also reflecting its purpose as a creative and inspirational fashion production facility.

Now occupied by 5,000 students and faculty, the building is one of the largest

in the world dedicated to the study and research of fashion and is a landmark development within London's 'East Bank' regeneration.

The building operates like a vertical campus bringing together a diverse range of functions and typologies across 17 floors.

The campus has achieved BREEAM 'Outstanding' certification, with engineering firm and lighting designer Buro Happold delivering engineering strategies that achieve a 39% reduction in CO2 emissions against the original brief. The design has also achieved a 19% reduction in embodied carbon over a 60-year lifecycle.

'HEART WALL'

The Allies and Morrison design envisioned a 'modern workshop', drawing inspiration from nineteenth-century mill buildings that once made up the site. Buro Happold worked as part of an integrated design team (led

of course by Allies and Morrison), working on all aspects of the build, including structure, façade and full lighting scheme.

Internally, the Buro Happold structural team devised a range of innovative solutions for the complex spaces radiating from the central atrium and circulation space, known as 'the Heart'. The 'Heart Wall' is a concrete frame consisting of a system of columns and beams that creates a boundary between the Heart and the surrounding workshop spaces. This structure provides primary stability for the building while retaining flexibility across the central core, both in terms of use of space and provision of services.

As well as being arranged around the central Heart, the structural composition of the building is then split between the lower and upper levels, with myriad workshop and practical spaces sitting above expansive, column-free areas, such as the large lecture theatre