



# ALEX HOUSE

## Education Project Case Study

University of Wales Trinity Saint David in Swansea has invested £8 million into the refurbishment, restoration and extension of the Grade II listed former Central Library building to create the new Institute for Sustainable Design. Devised by Powell Dobson Architects, the development incorporates a stunning twin wall façade featuring AluK curtain walling systems, complementing and adding a new dimension to the original design.

## The Project

**The modern, double skin façade extension provides additional 657m<sup>2</sup>, and incorporates a new reception entrance off Alexandra Road, workshops, teaching spaces as well as design studios.** The original circular reading room has been restored and made available as a public venue.

Yvonne Gibbs, architect, Powell Dobson comments: "Due to the context of the Listed Building, it was imperative that the new extension was as transparent as possible to express the original scale and features of the historic fabric behind. The University was also looking for a truly sustainable solution, to both reduce energy consumption and create an inspiring place to learn."

As the main extension to the Grade II listed building, the twin wall façade runs the full 38 metres of the



### Location

University of Wales, Swansea



### Architecture

Powell Dobson



### Contractor and Fabricator

Andrew Scott Ltd - Contractor  
SystemGlaze - Fabricator



### Products

SL60 and SL52 Curtain Walling System,  
58BW Window System and GT55 NI Door  
System



### Colour

Anthracite Grey



Alexandra Road elevation. Designed by D2e, a multi-disciplinary engineering and management consultancy, **the façade comprises AluK SL60 Curtain Walling System forming the internal wall, and structurally bonded glazed toughened laminated glass skin forming the outer wall, with an interstitial space between them.**

“This arrangement provides the transparency that the Listed Building deserves, whilst introducing a number of opportunities for passive climatic control,” says Yvonne Gibbs. “The façade is south facing and therefore through solar gain, the space between the two skins heats up naturally. This in turn acts as a thermal buffer, which keeps the building warm in winter months whilst promoting air movement and cross ventilation during warmer periods. It also facilitates the introduction of fresh air into the space, which is attenuated through a series of louvers at the base of the façade to temper noise pollution from the busy road outside.”



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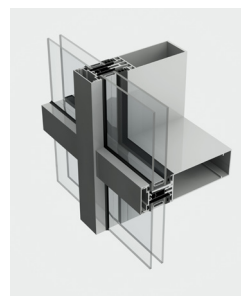
## The Product Range



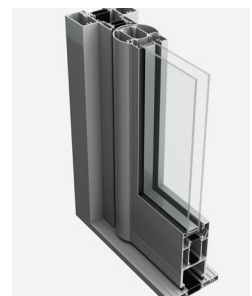
SL60 Curtain Walling System



58BW System



SL52 Curtain Walling System



GT55 NI Door System

