This is the Informatics Forum

The building has been designed to have low energy consumption.

This is a brief explanation of how it should work for you as a user so that you can make the best of the internal environment and contribute to the building's performance.

1. Heating and Ventilation

All year round
Enough fresh air should slowly emerge from the 'swirl' outlets in the floor. The idea is to supply air at temperatures close to normal internal conditions throughout the year so that it will be barely noticeable. Rooms that overlook the atrium have more air supplied to them to ensure that opening windows are not required.
The office ceilings are exposed concrete. The slabs act as a thermal store to even out the temperature. They will help to absorb the heat from people, office machines and the sun to reduce any fluctuations in internal conditions.
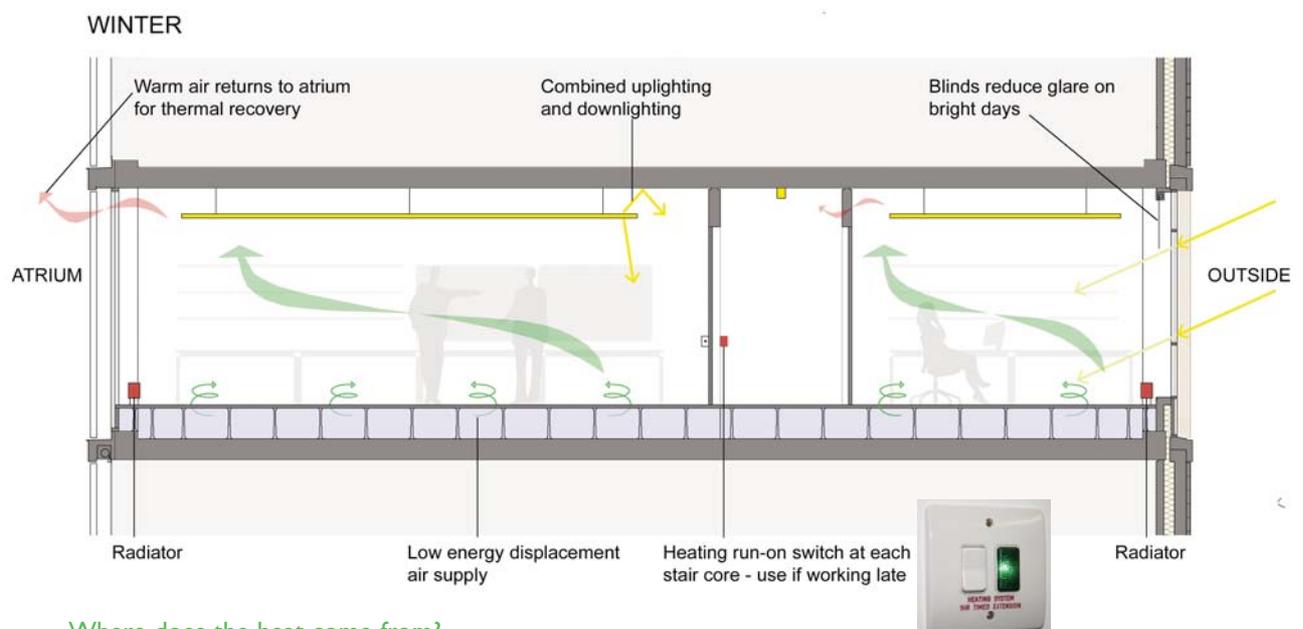
Winter months
On cold winter days the air supply is pre-warmed.
In addition, all rooms have at least one radiator with valves that you can turn up if you want some extra warmth.
In external rooms, windows can be opened for extra fresh air, but the system will struggle to stop any room getting cold if a window is left open. Please close them when unoccupied or at night.
You may need to lower blinds against low angle sun, but try to raise them when possible to allow in plenty daylight.
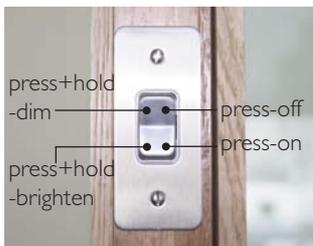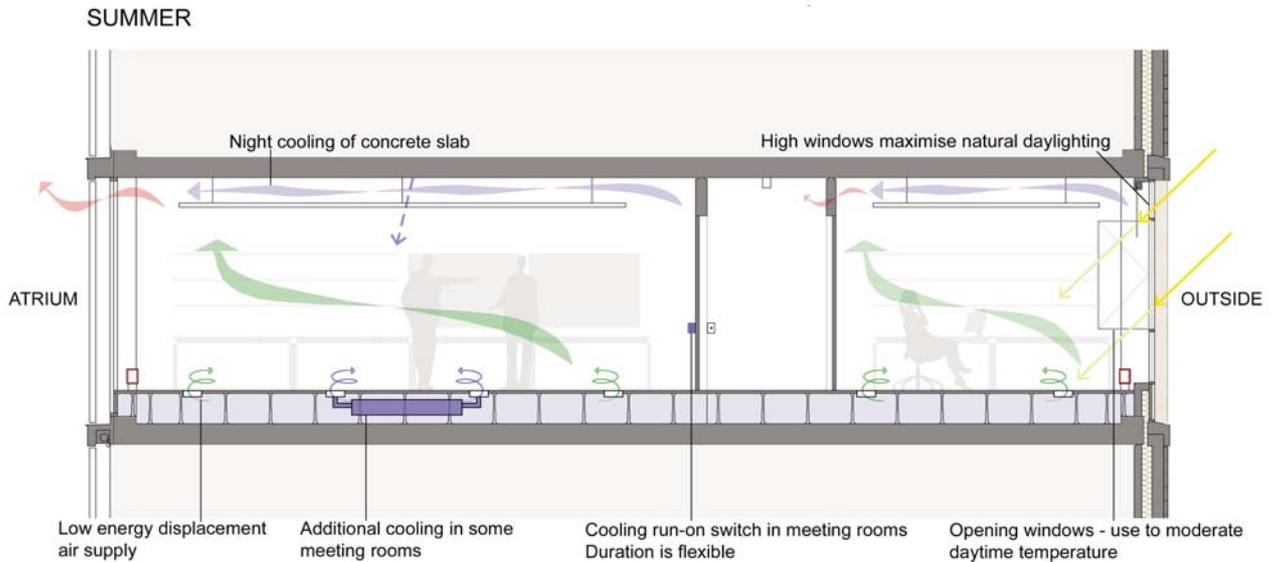
WINTER

Warm air returns to atrium for thermal recovery

Combined uplighting and downlighting

Blinds reduce glare on bright days

ATRIUM

OUTSIDE

Radiator

Low energy displacement air supply

Heating run-on switch at each stair core - use if working late

Radiator

Where does the heat come from?
The University has invested in Combined Heat and Power (CHP) systems that generate electricity as well as heat. Therefore this building has no boilers – the radiators are fed directly from the CHP engine in George Square. (In the summer the same plant provides a cheap and efficient source of chilled water that this building also plugs into). To reduce the heat input needed in the first place the air makes its way back outside via a plant room by the top of the atrium where the heat energy is recovered.

Summer months

In warm weather the ventilation runs at night to pre-cool the room and the day's air supply may be slightly cooled. Open windows if you feel the need for extra fresh air, but if left open the room could overheat. Please close them when unoccupied or at night. Use the blinds during sunshine but please don't keep them down to block out useful heat or light.

SUMMER

Night cooling of concrete slab — High windows maximise natural daylighting

ATRIUM — OUTSIDE

Low energy displacement air supply — Additional cooling in some meeting rooms — Cooling run-on switch in meeting rooms Duration is flexible — Opening windows - use to moderate daytime temperature

press+hold -dim — press-off
press+hold -brighten — press-on

2. Lighting

Around the building's perimeter the high windows will permit good daylight into rooms. Please make full use of the available natural light. When the lights do need to be on they are dimmable in each room. See photo of switch. And you may notice the lights adjust their output dependent on levels of daylight sensed. If you are absent for a while they'll turn themselves off

The lighting system in the corridors and stairs works by a zone turning itself on as a detector sees someone is approaching. After a few minutes delay light levels will reduce to a minimum.

3. Water

At the coffee points a special tap connects to an undersink unit that filters mains water for cold drinks. It also supplies near-to-boiling water for quick hot drinks. Please be aware of the risk of scalding. In the pantries a similar unit has a built-in safety catch on the hot supply and it also cools the filtered water.

When a toilet is flushed it is using rainwater that's been collected from the roof.

4. Meeting Rooms

In these, higher air supply rates cope with more people and in some rooms local cooling is available. If the radiator valves are left on minimum setting the room may become too cold for the next users.

There is also a 'scene setting' panel to give plenty lighting options and create the right ambience.

Final notes

We hope to publish efficient measured energy consumption figures of the building in due course. So all the usual good housekeeping rules apply, like not leaving chargers plugged in for example.

As in any building, some things will take time to settle down. If things bother you then please report them because monitoring is part of the process. To participate in improving your internal environment you can contact the Migration Team on migration@inf.ed.ac.uk.

And enjoy your new building...