Assuring a sustainable future

HIGHER AND FURTHER EDUCATION
Welcome to
ROBERTSON

We’re one of the largest family-owned construction, infrastructure and support services businesses in the UK, and we apply the same principles to every aspect of our business today that we did over fifty years ago when Bill Robertson set up his joinery firm in Elgin.

Over the years our sustainable growth has enabled us to invest in our business, the future of people and communities, and to deliver on major projects, housing schemes and facilities management for customers nationally.

Our scale gives us the ability to accept big challenges, and build deep, mutually beneficial partner relationships. At the same time we think locally, working with stakeholders and the supply chain to deliver services and infrastructure that will stand the test of time.

Ultimately, everything we do is about making progress safely towards a sustainable future for our people, communities and our business.

It’s the Robertson Way.
Creating outstanding HIGHER AND FURTHER EDUCATION SPACES

As one of the largest family-owned construction, infrastructure and support services business in the UK, we have a long history in the further and higher education sectors with over 150 completed education projects.

Our expertise has included new build work as well as complex, multi-phased refurbishment and reconfiguration projects.

Working closely with a long list of public and private customers, we also provide first-class student accommodation, from affordable to luxury, enhancing the overall learning experience of students.

We understand the challenges facing the education sector and these are well documented. Budgets are more restricted and there is an increasingly competitive globalised student market.

There is more emphasis on creating the right learning environment, which in turn will attract the best students to colleges and universities.

Case studies

- **Vision Tameside, Ashton-under-Lyne**
- **Pittodrie Street, Aberdeen**
- **7-8 Chambers Street, Edinburgh**
- **Newcastle University Building Sciences Lab, Newcastle**
- **Nova student accommodation, Nottingham**
- **Lister Learning and Teaching Centre, Edinburgh**
- **Caledon Court student accommodation, Aberdeen**
- **Havannah House student accommodation, Glasgow**
- **Cochrane Park Sports Pavilion, Newcastle**
- **Darwin Enabling Works, Edinburgh**
- **Samuel Tuke Apartments, York**
- **Teesside University, Middlesbrough**
- **Gulson Road student accommodation, Coventry**
Drawing on the strengths of a large and resourceful group – combined with local and specialist expertise – we can offer hotel developers, owners and operators a service that extends far beyond building project completion. We partner with our customers at the very front end of a project, providing them with a predefined pathway that offers consistency, value for money, and early clarity on programme and cost.

Robertson Construction
With a host of award-winning and high-profile projects for customers in the education sectors under its belt, Robertson Construction comprises a range of regional and specialist businesses.

Our comprehensive geographical coverage extends from Yorkshire and the East Midlands right up into the Scottish Highlands and Islands. Our projects include numerous facilities in the North East, an extensive portfolio of work on The University of Edinburgh estate and a substantial number of student accommodation developments.

We often call upon the expertise of our sister companies and specialist divisions, ranging from civil engineering, building services, roofing, rendering and joinery to facilities management. We also have a wealth of experience in modular and off site construction.

Robertson Property
Robertson Property specialises in the investment in and development of hotel opportunities. Using a combination of the Group’s own equity and third-party capital, Robertson Property initiates, develops and delivers hotels, student accommodation, private rented sector residential, serviced apartment blocks, roadside retail, and leisure-led town centre and mixed-use development opportunities across Scotland, the North of England, Yorkshire and the East Midlands.
Robertson Timber Engineering

For over 30 years, our timber engineering business has been designing, manufacturing and erecting precision-engineered timber for hotel chains, national housebuilders and construction firms right across the UK.

With structural timber being the fastest-growing construction method in the UK, the business focuses on exceeding customers’ expectations and reliably meeting build programmes. Robertson Timber Engineering’s innovative products and systems provide cost- and time-savings as well as environmental benefits to our customers and end users. We have manufactured and erected frames for high-rise buildings (with timber forming the frame for up to six stories), and are specialists in fire-proofing solutions for timber products.

Robertson Facilities Management

Robertson Facilities Management has grown from its public-sector roots to include a variety of commercial contracts in the private sector. We have developed a broad range of predominantly self-delivered FM services, which we now provide to more than 55,000 building users cared for by a team of over 1,500 talented employees.

Our services include mechanical, electrical and building fabric maintenance, grounds maintenance, energy management, security, cleaning, whole-life costing and space utilisation. These are available as individual service lines, as bundled services or as Total Facilities Management.
Robertson North West was chosen to take over the second phase of the Vision Tameside development in Ashton-under-Lyne following the liquidation of Carillion.

The project sits alongside the prestigious Ashton Town Hall and old water board offices, both of which are listed buildings. The water board façade is integrated into the Tameside Council offices as part of the development.

We created a new Advanced Skills Centre for Tameside College, a Joint Service Centre for Tameside Council and partners and a retail unit for Wilko’s.
The Skills Centre provides modern learning spaces for Tameside College students studying vocational subjects such as hair and beauty, hospitality and catering, travel and tourism and business skills.

The design of the Service Centre provides a more cost-effective and customer-friendly building that will deliver considerable cost savings and provide better access to services.

“The project is hugely important in terms of improving the lives of young people and the economy of the borough.”

Tameside Council
Pittodrie Street replaces industrial premises that were out of keeping with the surrounding residential area and now provides modern facilities for Aberdeen students. It consists of two modern accommodation blocks within walking distance of the Aberdeen University city campus and with excellent accessibility to the city centre.

Block B was handed over a week early to our new customer Watkin Jones, ahead of the 2018-19 academic year, with Block A completed in May 2019.

We have been involved in various activities with the local community, including donations for local nurseries and charities; providing learning opportunities to Robert Gordon University Students and careers guidance to St Machar Academy pupils.

For Aberdeen Science Centre’s Summer of Engineering, we held ‘Robertson Family Days’ events. The aim was to entice the next generation into the construction industry. It was a huge success with over 400 people through the door over the two days and over 27 activities that took place.

In addition, our contract for the supply of mattresses for the project gave security and support to Glencraft, a social enterprise that provides employment for visually impaired people.
Robertson Central East has created a new base for Edinburgh School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture (ESALA), by refurbishing a former police training school on Chambers Street.

The four-storey building features accessible Learning and Teaching spaces on the first two floors with a Design Studio and Crit Space above for ESALA. The basement is also home to a Trades Base for the Estates Department.

Our restoration of the Category C-listed building in the centre of Edinburgh, designed in 1887 by David Cousin and James Lessels, has provided a space that can re-engage the local community while preserving the original defining features. We created a link through to the Category B-listed Adam House, to allow students easy access between the two.
We delivered a new extension in the heart of the city centre campus — one of a number of projects we have carried out for Newcastle University.

Our project consisted of a three-storey extension covering 5,500m² that has created enhanced workshop and design space for architecture students.

Throughout the duration of the project, it was business as usual for the normal day-to-day operations of university. We maintained a very close working relationship with the university to ensure no negative impact for students or academics.

“A superbly managed project by all of the Robertson team involved, particularly those based on site. They have delivered a project on a complex and constrained site, in the heart of a University campus with no disruption to our ongoing activities.”

Jack Hunter, Project Manager, Newcastle University
We delivered this new development for Fusion Students, providing stylish student accommodation in the centre of Nottingham, with several accommodation blocks, some up to eight storeys, built around a central courtyard.

The development is part of Nottingham’s regeneration of Talbot Street, which will see the area become a “student quarter”, with three other facilities having been built there in recent years.

The listed Art Deco frontage of Talbot House was retained in the project, while most of the old building and an adjacent derelict office building was demolished with new accommodation built.

By working closely with Nottingham Civic Society, we made sure our work did not impinge on the Canning Circus conservation area and that we sympathetically retained the front section, an internal staircase and a stone wall dating back to 1852.
Robertson has created two teaching and lecture facilities for medical students at the University of Edinburgh on Roxburgh Place, along with better access and circulation space between the two buildings. The project involved a series of alterations and refurbishments to existing buildings, as well as construction of a new five-storey link building between the two existing buildings. Phase 1 comprises 18 teaching rooms and three seminar rooms, with associated break-out space. These new facilities accommodate 670 students.

The final Phase of the project completed the refurbishment of the Pfizer building and the new link structure. We removed, the Phase 1 temporary works along with temporary partitions and screens, reconfigured M&E services, and transformed the temporary entrance into a modern lecture theatre. During the project, construction students from Edinburgh College took their learning out of the classroom and onto site. This was part of an initiative that covered several projects across the city, including the Lister Learning and Teaching Centre.
Robertson is constructing new student accommodation in Coventry city centre – a block with 462 rooms to house Coventry University students.

Set over six to eight storeys, the accommodation will include facilities such as shared study areas, common room, gym, staff management suite and laundry. There will also be amenity courtyards, disabled parking spaces, cycle spaces, drop off and collection area and a separately-accessed service area outside the building.

There are a mix of studio study bedrooms with an en-suite pod and kitchenette; cluster bedrooms with en-suite pod and shared living/kitchen/dining room, and affordable cluster bedrooms with shared living/kitchen/dining room and shower/WCs.

Ten rooms have been identified to allow for easy adaptation in future to meet accessible requirements of residents when needed.
Caledon Court student accommodation
ABERDEEN

CUSTOMER: Watkin Jones

Caledon Court is another great example of a project Robertson delivered on time, while maintaining the customers budget and working with an outstanding team.

Formerly a derelict public house, it now has the capacity to house up to 200 students and is just a stone’s throw away from the Robert Gordon University campus.

The area has gone through a massive transformation. Not only does it benefit the students living in the new accommodation but the whole community, providing new business and a fresh, contemporary building design.

The customer, Watkin Jones is delighted with the results and the overall space that has been created for students to enjoy during their studies in Aberdeen.
Robertson constructed this new spacious student accommodation building in the heart of Glasgow city centre on behalf of developer Vastint Hospitality. The S-shaped building is set over six storeys and features a mix of standard, cluster and accessible rooms with quirky interior design features to attract the student market. Standard studios have integrated kitchen facilities, while cluster and accessible studios share one of the four communal kitchens on each floor.

The building encloses a private courtyard to the south together with a semi-public courtyard to the north. It was designed to achieve Gold Standard under the LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) certification scheme.

“It’s been a pleasure to work with such an experienced contractor as Robertson who have completed this scheme on time and to such good quality.”

Martin Corbett, Managing Director, Homes for Students
Robertson has provided Newcastle University with increased and enhanced sports facilities at Cochrane Park.

In the past this site was used as a training venue for the 2012 Olympic Games, however, a decline in usage led to a much-needed update being carried out.

Our involvement in this project consisted of a refurbishment of the existing 1930s changing pavilion, the construction of a new modern changing block extension, the addition of a new gym facility, three new 3G sports pitches with fencing and pitch lighting and the creation of ample car park provision.

The new gym facility was constructed with a specific ergometer training centre for the university’s indoor rowing club along with multipurpose areas catering to a variety of sporting activities.

We were able to improve the student experience through our construction of three all-weather 3G multipurpose pitches, creating a new principal competitive venue for Newcastle University’s football, rugby, lacrosse and cricket teams.

Our addition of these features to the existing sports pavilion at Cochrane Park benefits the university and can generate additional revenue through hiring the all-weather pitches to the general public during evenings.
Robertson has carried out enabling and extension works at the University of Edinburgh’s King’s Buildings campus. This will pave the way for further refurbishment around The Darwin Building, which will undergo evolution to create world-class research and teaching facilities.

We worked closely with colleagues at Robertson Civil Engineering to deliver these enabling works. That in-house partnership forms part of the reason we were successful in winning this high-profile contract.

As part of the project, we carried out demolition of an existing two-storey Darwin Library Building plus various out-buildings. In addition, we created an access haul road and diverted mechanical and electrical services, and underground utilities services.

We also built a three-storey extension to the university’s C H Waddington Building and a new two-storey mechanical and electrical plant building.

The University of Edinburgh is committed to developing low carbon buildings. Sustainability features included at the C H Waddington Building extension include low-energy lighting, intelligent ventilation systems and exceptional levels of thermal insulation to ensure efficient environmental control.
Robertson was appointed by Harrison Development to deliver a new four-storey student accommodation building on Lawrence Street in York.

We worked closely with English Heritage, in conjunction with local architects CSP, to ensure that the existing main building was retained, and key features were preserved for generations to come.

The project connects the new building to the former Tam O’ Shanter public house. The sheds and buildings to the rear were demolished but a sensitive programme of works has seen the frontage onto Lawrence Street returned to its original splendour.

A university student studying Heritage Management spent her work placement researching the history of Tuke House and produced a heritage report as part of her final year studies.

This report was then passed on to a group of history undergraduate students who were taking part in ‘children’s university’ volunteering programme. They produced a workshop for primary school children on the history of Tuke House and heritage construction, which was delivered to Year 5 pupils at St Lawrence Primary School.

The school were so enthused that we did other sessions with them, covering tetrahedron building, construction materials, and a design competition.
We provide hard and soft facilities management services for Teesside University, covering four sites: The Forge on the Darlington Campus, Central Halls in Middlesbrough, Fusion Hive in Stockton and Saltersgill Sports Ground. Our contract has recently been renewed for a further seven years.

The Forge is a training centre that forms part of the University’s Darlington Campus. Our 10 employees at the site provide grounds maintenance and soft FM services including cleaning, catering, security and caretaking and oversee the delivery of security, waste management, sanitary services, cash collection, pest control and window cleaning.

Our team at Central Halls provides security, concierge and cleaning services. They wanted to improve the student experience, and the standard of accommodation plays a very important role in this.

Fusion Hive is an exciting new building on Stockton’s Northshore, providing a hub of innovation for ambitious technology companies.
We work closely with local communities, giving them a voice and working in a transparent way that builds trust and real relationships.

We’re passionate about having a positive effect on communities. Whether it’s delivering much-needed infrastructure, investing locally in talent and skills, or working with our customers, suppliers and partners to support the local and national economy, we take pride in transforming places knowing there is a greater purpose to what we do.

We understand that quality of life in any community is closely linked to taking pride in places and buildings. That’s why we work on projects that mean a lot to people, such as schools and nurseries - creating learning opportunities along the way and making sure we do it sustainably.

Because we are a family business with strong roots in its own community, it’s important to us that we leave a positive lasting legacy everywhere we work for communities to flourish in the future.