



MEESONS

PROJECT PORTFOLIO

Ray Dolby Centre

The Ray Dolby Centre is the new home to the Cavendish Laboratory, Department of Physics at the University of Cambridge. This 6-year project came to completion and opened in May 2025.



The Ray Dolby Centre opens with remarkable entrances

Designed by renowned architects Jestico + Whiles, the Cavendish Laboratory houses the Ray Dolby Centre at the esteemed University of Cambridge. With state-of-the-art facilities, the new building for the world-famous Laboratory opened its doors to the public in 2025.

Background

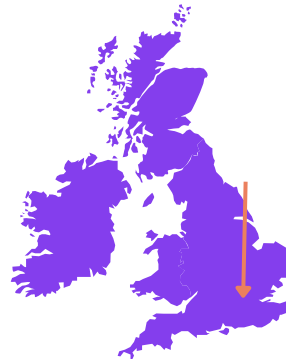
Spanning 354,000 square feet, the Ray Dolby Centre includes 173 research labs, impressive lecture theatres, and cutting-edge facilities.

This multi-million-pound project began in early 2019 and concluded six years later. It has since earned a BREEAM Excellent rating, aligning with the University of Cambridge's sustainability goals through features like ground source heat pumps and rain gardens.

The building has been welcoming staff, students, and industry partners since its opening in May 2025.

Project Facts

Client	University of Cambridge
Sector	Higher Education
Location	Cambridge
Products Installed	EasyGate Superb Speed Gates



Challenge

The driving force behind the Cavendish Laboratory's modernisation was to foster collaboration among scientists. The Ray Dolby's design perfectly facilitates collaboration. However, a solution was needed to keep a restricted separation between the public area, which is open to everyone, and the rest of the building, including the labs and offices.

The solution must not only control area access but also bolster sustainability initiatives and uphold the building's BREEAM Excellent rating. Additionally, the Ray Dolby Centre's stunning architecture blends modern interior design with a classic touch, so any entrance solution must enhance this aesthetic.

Solution

To overcome these challenges, Meesons supplied 18 EasyGate Superb Speed Gates on different levels within the building.



Strategically placed, the speed gates prevent unauthorised access at different points, meeting the building's diverse needs.

The EasyGate Superb Speed Gate is the perfect solution for many reasons. With pressure-sensing tops, climb-over attempts can create alerts, which can be common in universities when people forget their access fobs. On top of this, the 1800mm high glass wings work as a physical and visual deterrent to those considering entering without the correct access measures, enhancing the security they offer further.

Beyond enhancing security, the EasyGate Superb Speed Gates address entrance challenges with a slimline design. The ultra-slim cabinets ensure they fit into restricted spaces, including corridors, entrances to labs, and other secure yet smaller entranceways. When faced with the challenge of not enough space for an end cabinet on two levels, surface-mounted wall sensors were added so that security was not compromised.

In support of the Ray Dolby Centre's sustainability initiatives, the EasyGate Superb Speed Gates are the perfect choice because they consume little power and are energy efficient.

Additionally, the EasyGate Superb Speed Gates were chosen to complement the aesthetics of the building. With the central atrium, the speed gates are visible on all levels, so their matching presence is crucial to help blend in with the surroundings. The slim design of this speed gate also gives a minimalistic design that does not distract the eye from other visuals.

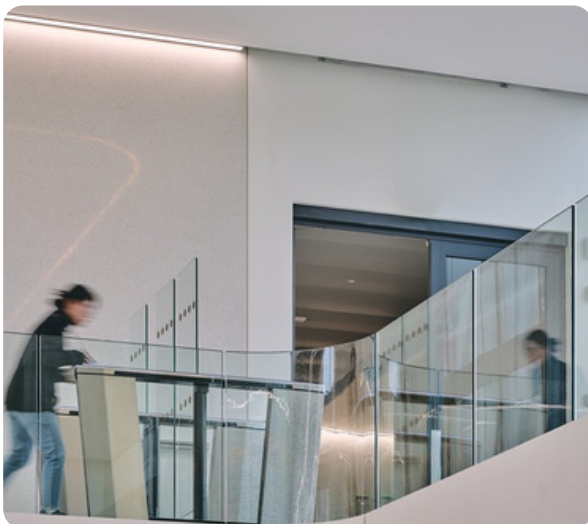
With the Superb's unique intuitive light guidance, the design appears sleek and modern while also making for a hassle-free user experience.

Outcome

The implementation of the EasyGate Superb Speed Gates at the Cavendish Laboratory's Ray Dolby Centre has proven to be an outstanding success, achieving its objectives with precision and elegance. By seamlessly integrating 18 strategically positioned speed gates, the solution not only fortified the building's security but also enhanced its operational efficiency.



This project exemplifies how thoughtful design and innovative technology can converge to create an environment where security, sustainability, and aesthetics thrive in harmony. The Ray Dolby Centre now stands as a beacon of modern architectural excellence and a testament to the power of strategic collaboration in overcoming complex challenges.





“The Meesons Easygate system has provided the Department of Physics with a sleek and adaptable solution to manage access from the public atrium into the laboratory and teaching spaces. The glass gates and partly glazed side panels maintain the qualities of the light filled atrium and do not obstruct the all-important views and sense of openness between the public and secure scientific areas across all levels.

The system offers the flexibility to allow the Department to host large outreach events, by releasing certain gates to provide controlled access to teaching spaces and courtyards, to continue the promotion of Physics to a wider audience.”

David Hunt
RDC Project Team, Cavendish Laboratory





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