

# Case Study: Manchester Cancer Research Centre

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## The new Manchester Cancer Research Centre features Kawneer glazing systems

Kawneer systems have been used on a building that promotes health for patients AND the environment. AA®100 SSG (Structurally Silicone Glazed) curtain walling with 50mm sightlines, top-hung casement windows and 451PT framing feature on the BREEAM "Very good" rated new MCRC which is designed to NHS Technical memoranda (HTMs).

**Building:** Manchester Cancer Research Centre (MCRC)

**Location:** Manchester

**Architect:** Wilson Mason

**Main Contractor:** Pochin's

**Installer:** Bennett Architectural Aluminium Solutions

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## Kawneer helps take cancer research to new heights

Designed by Wilson Mason architects, the new MCRC building brings together 150 laboratory-based scientists from The University of Manchester and the Cancer Research UK Manchester Institute and is also home to clinical trials support staff and cancer clinicians.

All this is contained within a clean and contemporary building whose elevations are sometimes juxtaposed and cantilevered, interspersed with geometric etching, black louvres and vertical and horizontal ribbons of glazing.

Formed in 2006 by The University of Manchester, Cancer Research UK and The Christie NHS Foundation Trust, the centre has since widened its reach to drive forward cancer research in other NHS trusts in Greater Manchester.

It is a unique collaboration that brings together the expertise, vision and resources of its partner organisations, all of which have formidable individual reputations in the field of cancer research.

This is now more appropriately reflected in the new purpose-built three-storey building which achieved its BREEAM status via the use of natural daylight (helped by the extensive use of Kawneer's glazing) and ventilation, high insulation ratings, rainwater harvesting and photovoltaics cells.

The £28.5 million centre across the road from The Christie Hospital can accommodate up to 250 staff including more than 150 scientists across three defined laboratory blocks with associated offices and desk top research areas.

The Kawneer systems were installed by Bennett Architectural for main contractor Pochin's who worked as a construction partner to M&W Group who specialise in high-quality research and ultra-clean environments.

Bennett director Rob Bennett said: "A combination of Kawneer's curtain walling and Pilkington Planar screen facilitate a light and airy ambience to the building interior. This landmark research facility demonstrates how geometric expanses of glazing contribute to the aesthetic appeal of the overall building design."

He added: "This prestigious project presented many logistical and technical challenges for the team but through hard work, technical skills and experience we delivered the project to the client on time and we are delighted to have contributed to such an important facility.

"The centre's vision is the development of personalised cancer treatments and the new research building will ensure that the MCRC provides outstanding opportunities and a vibrant environment for researchers, clinicians and external partners to work collaboratively towards this vision through a single-site 'bench to bedside' approach."

For videos showing the new building please go to <http://www.christie.nhs.uk/about-us/our-future/our-partnerships/mcrc/>.

Please contact our Architectural Services Team if you have a project you would like to discuss: Tel: 01928 502604 / Email: [kawneerAST@arconic.com](mailto:kawneerAST@arconic.com)

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