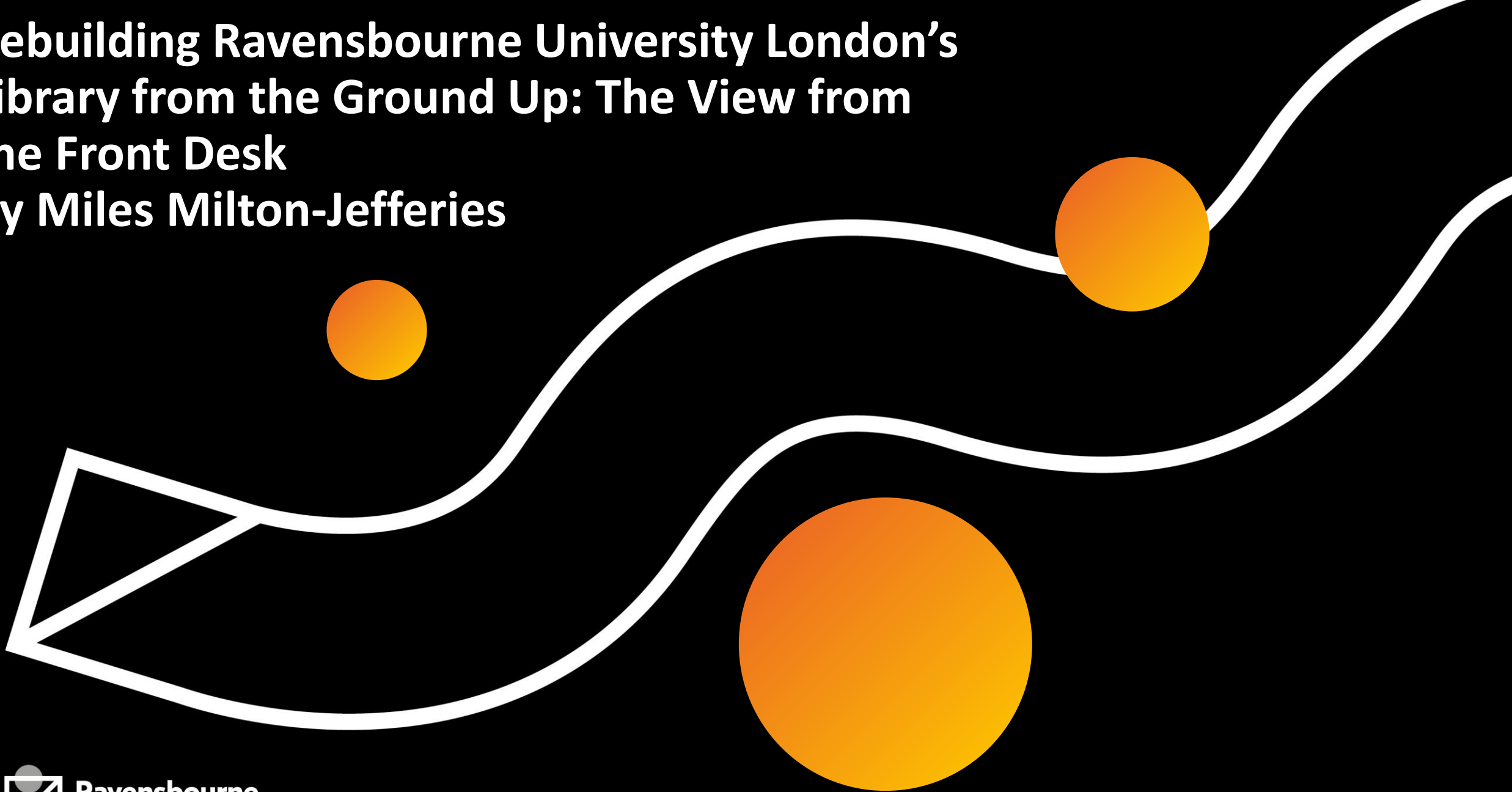


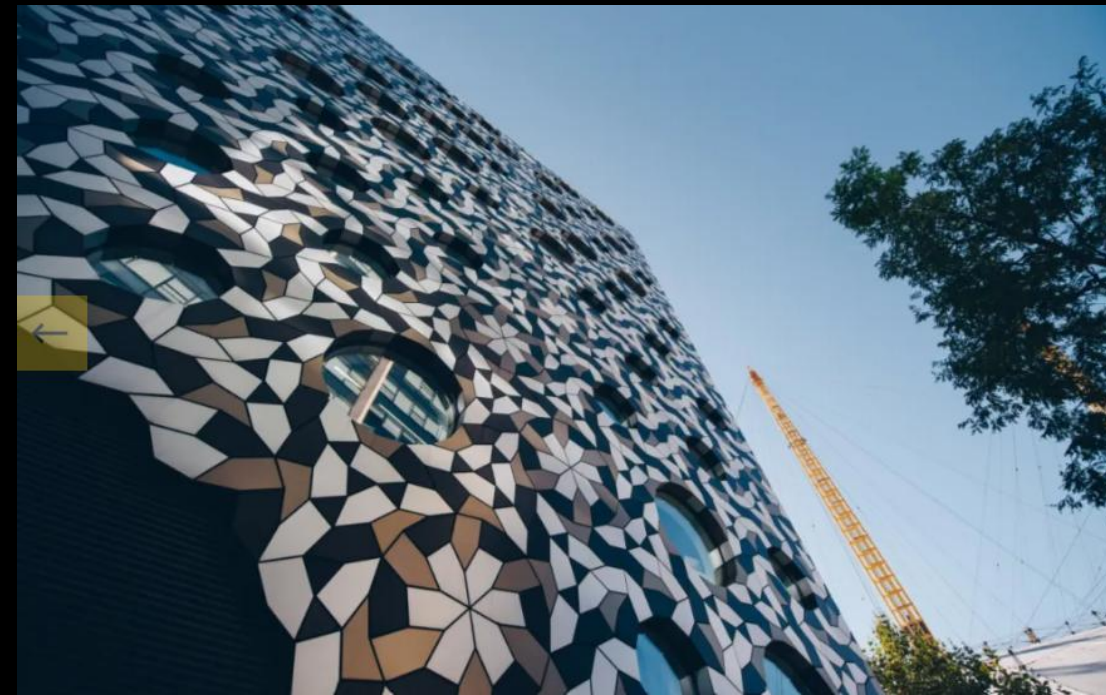
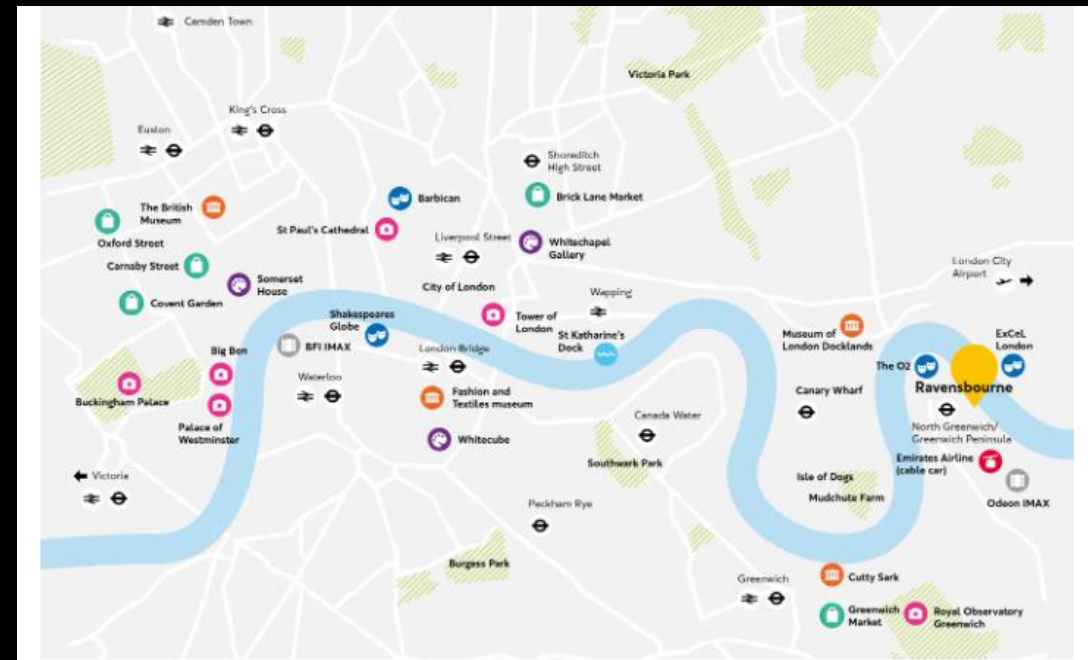
Rebuilding Ravensbourne University London's Library from the Ground Up: The View from the Front Desk

By Miles Milton-Jefferies



WHO WE ARE

- Ravensbourne is a public university in the Greenwich Peninsula, London.
- Specialises in creative, business and technology.
- Focus is social mobility in higher education.
- Started at Bromley School of Art in 1962 and moved from the Bromley Common to Chiselhurst and then the Greenwich Peninsula in 2010.
- Named after the River Ravensbourne which flows from Bromley Common to Greenwich.



WHERE WE STARTED

Materials Library in a separate building.

2 open-planned classrooms the other side of the library with significant noise travel.

A space for just the bookshelves, barely any quiet study.

No culture of quiet, no community.



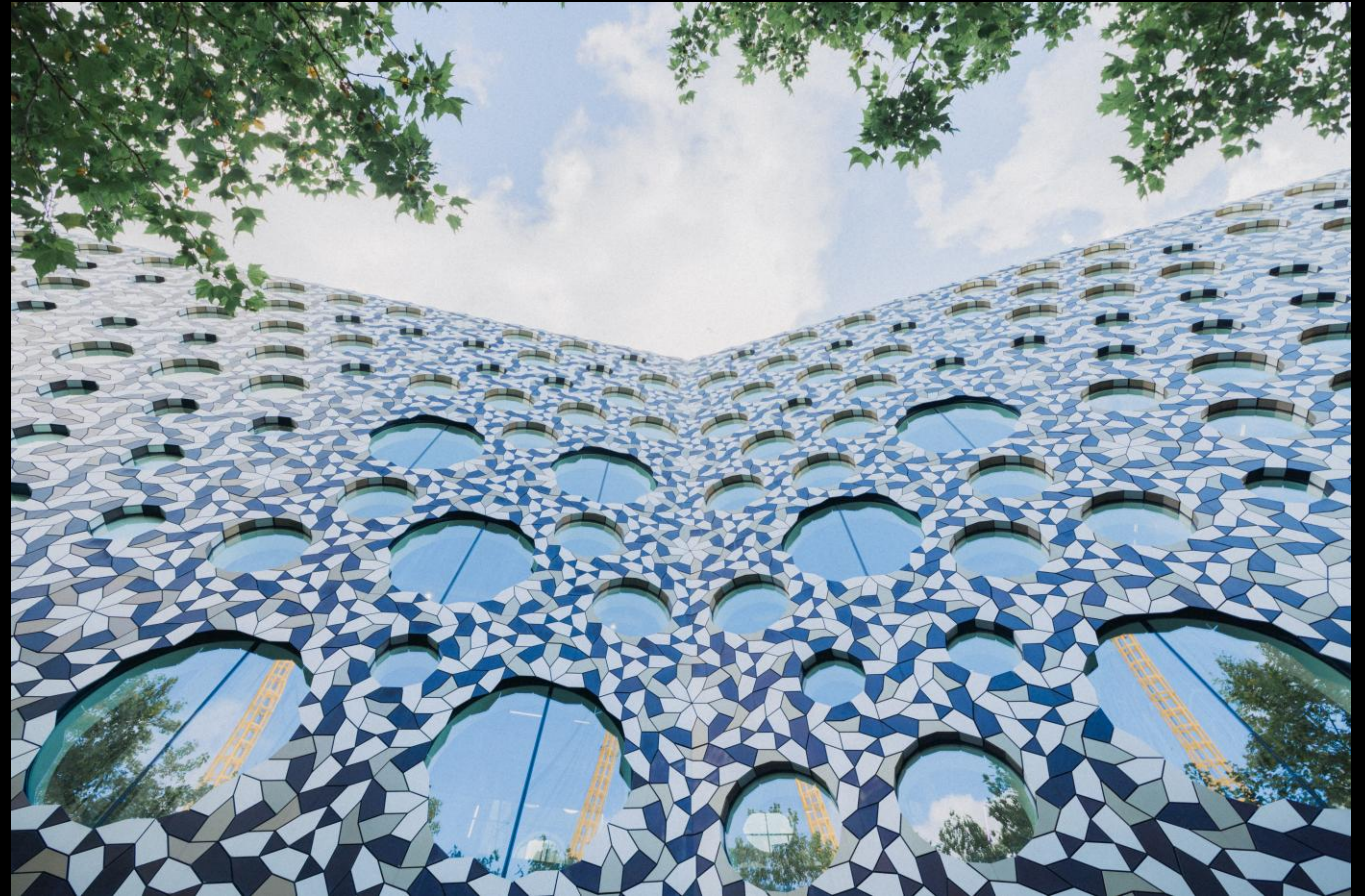
MATERIALS LIBRARY

- To support students with their research and projects, our Materials Library includes a vast encyclopaedia of samples. The library is curated by Material ConneXion, a business that introduces brands to the latest material innovations.
- Students have access to an array of materials that are both relevant to their courses and reflect current trends in design and manufacturing.



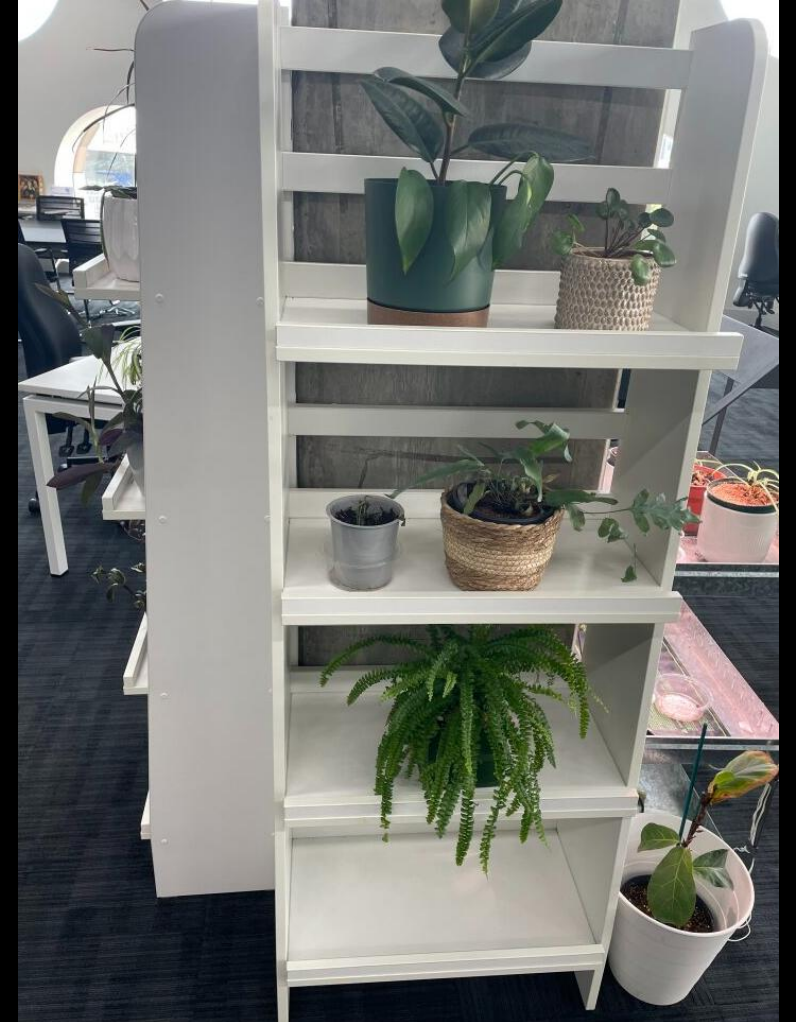
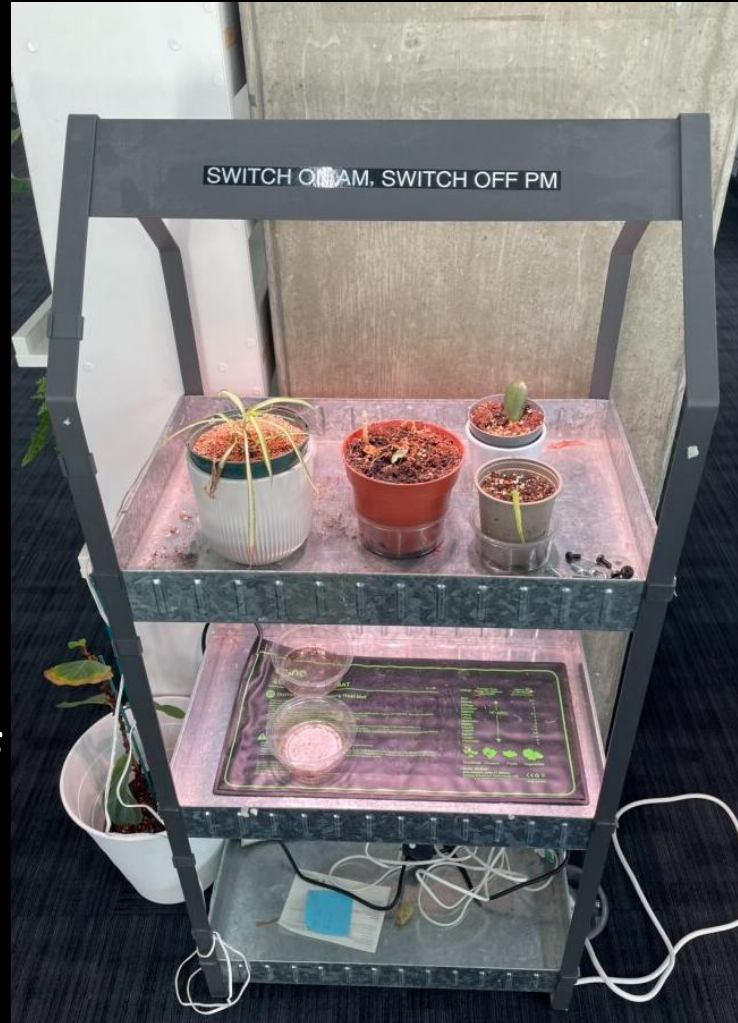
WHAT WE DID

- Whiteboard – culture of Community.
- Improved Sustainability and Wellbeing.
- Regained space – got 2 rooms.
- Materials Library – moved into the Main Building.
- Gained a community.



SUSTAINABILITY

- Scrap paper.
- Plants.
- Growth.
- Recycling.
- Communal Sustainability chat across Ravensbourne Staff



WELLBEING

- Directly improves student culture/engagement with the library.
- Puzzle boards – local donations.
- Wellbeing books.
- Study space and signage.



RAISED AWARENESS

- Library news bulletins proved successful raising awareness of courses through anniversaries etc.
- To accommodate gaps of knowledge, asked lecturers – e.g. architecture.



Alberto Villanueva, Ravensbourne University London Head of Architecture and Associate Professor:

"One hundred years on and Gaudí still feels radical. To me, this says everything. I always found Gaudí's creativity fascinating, and that his obsession with organic form was not purely intellectual; he was born from physical suffering. As a child, his rheumatic fever left him largely housebound, and so he studied the world from a distance: the curve of a shell, the branching of a tree, the skeleton of a bone. This enforced stillness became the foundation of one of the most dynamic bodies of work in architectural history.

As a Spanish-born, I am always proud to promote that Gaudí was more than an architect. When visiting Barcelona, you could feel that he was a symbol of what a culture could say to the world through its buildings. And there is something quietly remarkable about him and how, in his final years, he gave up everything, living and sleeping inside the Sagrada Família site, fasting so drastically that when a tram struck him on a Barcelona street in 1926, no one recognised him: he was dressed so plainly he was taken for a beggar. He died three days later, and thousands lined the streets for his funeral. One hundred years on, his masterpiece is finally nearing completion".

Any Questions?

Photos by various including Alys Tomlinson

