A significant milestone in my career

As a project manager for University College London (UCL) Estates and Facilities Division, Richard Braybrook has been involved with the development programme that includes the latest clinical skills facilities at UCL Eastman CPD. Here he describes his role in the recent scheme.
All the services had to be run down systems to serve the fourth floor. Air-conditioning and compression as well as extending the ventilation, and installing the vacuum system included the challenge of designing the mechanical services, which the complex design and installation Fowler Martin Associates handled for electrical installation. Ivan Martin of the Design Department, oversaw the task of designing and managing the electrical installation. Gavin Chapman, a colleague of mine from the Estates and Facilities Department, oversaw the task of designing and installing all the mechanical services, which included the challenge of designing and installing the vacuum system as well as extending the ventilation, air-conditioning and compression systems to serve the fourth floor. All the services had to be run down to the basement of the building, without causing major disruption to the CPD courses taking place on the third floor, or the private dental practice located on the ground and first floors.

Another major hurdle was finding the space for all the ventilation duct and electrical services needed, as well as running the necessary services to the specific laboratory bench positions and dental units. The solution was found through a slightly raised floor and lowered ceiling. There were some initial concerns about the finished room height being too low, but it became apparent when the partitions were installed that these worries were unfounded.

Bringing it together

Despite the limitations imposed on the project by the site, it was completed in a relatively short time, with building work finishing at the end of October 2009. The principal contractor, Russell Cawberry Ltd did a great job in controlling the contract, supported by sub contractors W Portsmouth Ltd (electrical) and EMS Ltd (mechanical). The site team worked harmoniously together and maintained a very good working relationship with the occupants of the building.

Having won the tender, A-Dec arranged, supplied and installed all the dental equipment, such as benches, phantom heads and dental units, with Dentalstyle Ltd supplying the cabinetry.

The finished result is a suite of clinical skills training facilities that boasts a Skills Laboratory with benching to host 18 graduates plus a teacher’s station and a Seminar Room seating 18 people. There are also five clinical surgeries, a sterilisation suite conforming to the latest HTM-01-05 guidelines, a radiography room equipped with a state-of-the-art 3D CT scanner, as well as other auxiliary rooms and areas.

As far as possible, the installation is environmentally friendly, with energy saving automatic lighting and ventilation systems. Wherever possible, sustainable products have been used. I am proud of the fact that not only was the project completed fairly quickly, but also that the finished product is bright, modern and fit for purpose.

On a personal note, the memorable highlight of the project was being able to invite members of the construction team to the official opening, and being presented to HRH The Princess Royal. I am grateful to Prof Eder, Dr Louca and the UCL Eastman CPD team for the support provided and, now that the project has been completed, can reflect upon the achievements with a great deal of personal satisfaction and pleasure as I consider this project to be a significant milestone in my professional career.

To minimise disruption, most of the demolition and construction work had to be conducted early in the morning as well as during evenings and weekends. However, for the project to move forward, construction during normal working hours was unavoidable. I have to say the co-operation we received from the UCL Eastman CPD staff on the fifth floor, along with the skills lab nursing staff (led by Anita Graham) on the third floor was fantastic. Everyone was extremely helpful and patient with the building work taking place.

Getting started

Gavin Chapman, a colleague of mine from the Estates and Facilities Department, oversaw the task of designing and managing the electrical installation. Ivan Martin of the Design Department, oversaw the task of designing and managing the electrical installation.