

# MARR COLLEGE, TROON

## EXTENSION CASE STUDY

### USE AND ADAPTATION OF LISTED BUILDINGS



HISTORIC  
ENVIRONMENT  
SCOTLAND

ÀRAINNEACHD  
EACHDRAIDHEIL  
ALBA

#### Marr College

#### Extending a 1930's school for use in the 21st Century.

Marr College is named after Charles Kerr Marr. Marr made his fortune in the coal industry, and left some of it to his home town – Troon in South Ayrshire.

Marr believed that everyone should be educated together. The money he left was used to set up the first school in Scotland that taught boys and girls side by side. It was free to attend. This model was ahead of its time, and when the comprehensive system was set up decades later, Marr College was an important influence.

The school has been in use since 1935. It was designed by [John Arthur](#), and it is an important example of a school in an architectural style known as Edwardian baroque. It was designed to reflect the newest most modern ideas of how schools should be laid out. It is [category B listed](#).

By 2015, the school had been in continuous use for eight decades. It needed a general overhaul to make sure it had the facilities that are now expected in modern schools. It also needed more space.



View of the interface in between the old and new built ©BDP

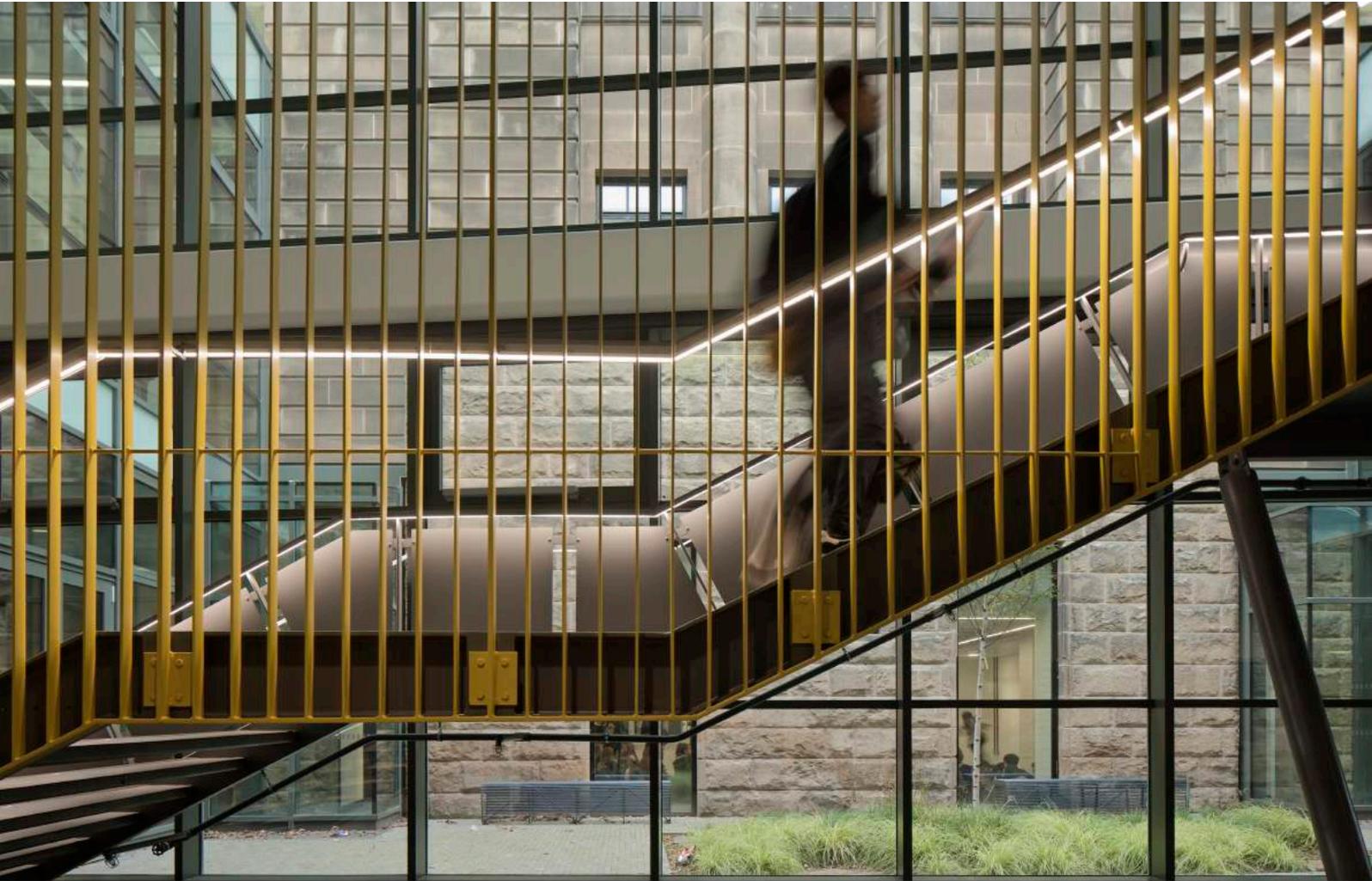
A full internal upgrade provided the modern facilities the school needed.

A whole new teaching block was planned to create more space. This meant a 1970s extension had to be demolished. [The whole project was delivered by BDP between 2015 and 2018.](#)

To accommodate modern learning, teaching and environmental facilities a new state-of-the-art wing was constructed to the rear of the original building. This houses the majority of bulky equipment, services and plant. This freed up the interior of the older building, allowing some of the fine interiors to be reinstated whilst creating functional, exciting and aesthetic spaces.

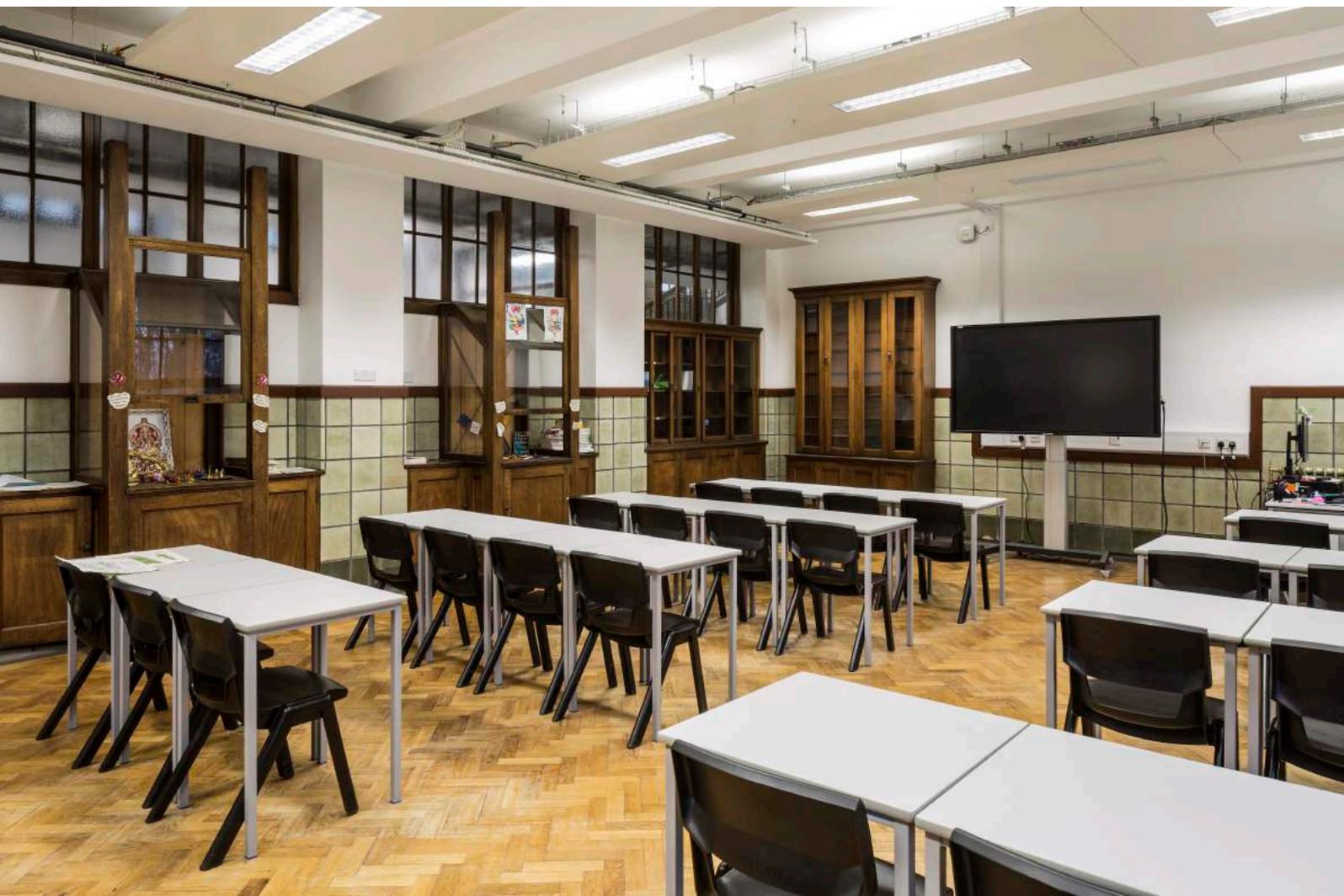


View of Marr College and its new extension to the rear of the site ©BDP



Above:  
The main staircase of the school ©BDP

Below:  
Example of a refurbished classroom ©BDP



The point where the new extension meets the old school building creates an atrium. This informal space has lots of uses – eating, socialising, reading and learning.

The only significant work to the old building was to put roofs on the internal courtyards. This has a couple of major advantages. Firstly, it creates more teaching space, taking advantage of areas that were previously unused.

Secondly, it helps to reduce the heat loss from the building, by reducing the area of external walls. This saves energy, and money.

The old 1970s teaching block was on the side of the building. Since the school was designed to be symmetrical, removing this has helped to return it to its original form.



## CHARLES KERR MARR

*He gave this college and its endowments for the advancement of education in his native town. 1855.*

Above: Charles Kerr Marr, the Founder of Marr College, celebrated in the new school ©BDP

Extending Marr College has kept it in use, which is the best way to make sure it survives in the long term. It has also improved its facilities and its energy use.

The work has protected and enhanced some of the most important elements of the building.



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