

OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE JENNIE LEE BUILDING

The Jennie Lee Building at the Open University was officially opened on Wednesday 19 July 2011. The opening was attended by 250 of the first ever OU students from 1971, as well as various ground breaking OU research scientists, one of whom invented the first ever touch screen 38 years ago. Two existing adjacent buildings to the West have been demolished since it was completed and new landscaping added, creating a previously unseen and serene setting.

During the presentations and speeches, the leadership of the university were generous in their praise for the design of the building, both inside and outside, as well as for its role in enabling world class research to be carried out and shared, physically in spaces like the Nexus atrium and laboratory, and virtually through its global communication networks based in the building.

Recent projects to emerge from the current JLB innovators include "Ispot", a social web based data analysis and identification system for the natural environment, where you can upload a phone shot of a scorpion in your bathroom and have it identified within minutes, and also an eye tracking system to see what you most look at on your screen.

Tom Alexander, SHCA's design and team leader for the project, said *"Its been a long and illuminating journey for the design team and is very satisfying to see the innovative spaces are being appreciated and tested to explore their potential, as well seeing its landmark presence on the campus looking as fresh as it was on its completion date in 2008"*

