Description
The new library and history centre on the banks of the River Severn in Worcester, will provide an integrated academic and public library, a county archive, local history centre and a local authority ‘hub’ providing front line services for local residents.

The project team developed an innovative way of utilising parametric modelling to explore design ideas, which resulted in a design which took out 250 tonnes of steel from the roof and replaced it with KLH cross-laminated timber. This saved an estimated 2 months of design work, and won the team first prize at the International Bentley Awards for ‘Innovation in Generative Design’.

The gold shingled form of ‘The Hive’ draws inspiration from both the historic kilns of the Royal Worcester works and the ridgeline of the Malvern Hills. The KLH solid laminated timber roof cones have been designed to optimise day light and natural ventilation throughout the building.

The building will be highly sustainable and is aiming to achieve BREEAM ‘Outstanding’.

Carbon Calculation
Total stored/sequestered carbon in the KLH panels for ‘The Hive’ is 374.2 tonnes

Project Details
Project Value: £50,000,000
Project Dates: 2010 - 2012
Service: Supply and Erect
Timber Volume: 1,559m³
Build Period: 17 weeks

Design Team
Architect: Fielden Clegg Bradley
Str. Engineer: Hyder Consulting
Timber Engineer: atelier one
Contractor: Galliford Try