No. 26 York Street builds on 200 years of excellence and innovation in medical training providing a unique reason for students to study with the Royal College of Surgeons. The ten story 10,000m² building negotiates the planning height constraints encountered in the historic city core by incorporating four basement levels to accommodate the client’s brief. The brief demanded a complex programme of spaces on a compact urban site, including technically advanced simulated environments for clinical and surgical training, a new library, auditorium and sports facility. The resultant spatial variety supports the diverse demands of healthcare education while encouraging social interaction.
From the outset, the client and design team aspired to ensure the new Academic Education Building at No. 26 York Street would be an exemplar of best practice in universal design and accessibility. The clients commitment to inclusivity was embedded in the project, resulting in a building that caters for diversity of culture, religion, individuality and ability. These aspirations ensured that universal design was intrinsically considered, and never tacked on. As such, the building design goes beyond simple regulatory compliance and attempts to provide a truly inclusive experience for students and staff alike.

Teaching spaces | Teaching spaces are fully accessible to wheelchair users, with appropriate knee recesses and working heights to ALL workstations and wash facilities.

Mock Operating Theatre | The Mock Operating Theatre and associated control and observation rooms are designed to be fully accessible and include seating and leaning rails for use for long periods.

Teaching Spaces | The Surgical simulation suite is a completely flexible workspace, with adjustable height work-surfaces for sit/stand arrangements.

Fitness Suite | Routes are clearly defined in fitness spaces with bold visually contrasting colours. All water-fountains/bottle fillers are fully accessible to wheelchair users.

Sports-hall Level | Visually contrasting doors & signage. Wall & floor contrast is increased by the use of carefully considered environmental graphics.

Gender Neutral Toilets

Third Floor Plan | Clinical Teaching
The plan was distilled to simple visually contrasting diagrams to form part of the way-finding and orientation strategy, ultimately displayed on blade panels visible from stairs and lifts.