Project Brief:
The Data Science Institute is a cross-faculty institute providing a focal point for data science activities within the college and for collaboration with national and international partners. With the support of the Department of Computing, the aim of this project was to create a hub that would be a rich environment for research support, data science education and collaboration with internal and external partners.

Level 2 of the William Penney Laboratory (WPL) was refurbished to create the DSI hub, housing an open plan research laboratory and visualisation studio, as well as office, meeting, seminar, breakout and support spaces.

The visualisation studio was created to house the KPMG Data Observatory, the largest of its kind in Europe, featuring an enveloping circular wall of 64 monitors powered by 32 computers facilitating 313 degrees of surround vision. The Data Observatory provides an opportunity for academics and industry to visualise data in a way that uncovers new insights, and promotes the communication of complex data sets and analysis in an immersive and multi-dimensional environment.

The façade of the building facing the Sherfield walkway was upgraded to create a 12m wide Visual Corridor made from 8 glass panels. Images and videos are rear-projected on to the façade to publicise the activities and engagement of the Data Science Institute, inform the community about the latest developments in the realm of Data Science and to help the College promote significant news and events.

For further information on the Data Science Institute refer to their web page www.imperial.ac.uk/dsi

Project Review
“This project has transformed the WPL into a bright and spacious research laboratory at the heart of the South Kensington Campus. This is key for the Data Science Institute to work across all faculties of Imperial. The new digital facade for the building has transformed a previously invisible building into an attractive communication space at the heart of the college. The new visualisation laboratory provides us with a world class environment for exploring data as we create the largest visualisation environment in Europe. Our new laboratory has proved an excellent space to welcome visiting dignitaries from MP’s to the president of China.”

Yike Guo, Director of DSI, Professor, Department of Computing

Project Facts:

**Project Manager:** Mortimer Isaacs  
**Senior Supplier:** Richard Garfield, Imperial College Estates Development & Projects  
**Project Cost:** £1.8 million  
**Stage A to Stage L Duration:** June 2014—April 2015

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