

## Royal Botanic Gardens Kew New Herbarium & Library Wing

**Completed:** May 2009

**Designed by:** Edward Cullinan Architects (ECA)

**Cladding:** Western Red Cedar

**Photos courtesy:** ECA - Tim Soar and Simon Feneley

### **Brief description:**

The new wing to the Herbarium and Library provides 5000m<sup>2</sup> of increased storage space in controlled climatic environments; a state-of-the-art pest decontamination unit with walk-in freezer rooms; north-lit study spaces for viewing and illustrating the collection and more reading and study spaces.

The concept for the building is generated by contrasting the massive enclosure of the archive with the light and airy spaces needed for the scientists working close to the collections. This is visually expressed by a three storey brick clad vault enveloped by undulating glass and timber clad research areas.

Western red cedar was specified for the cladding. The design incorporates careful detailing to ensure adequate ventilation and to facilitate rainwater run-off. Preservative treatment to the trellis and zinc caps to the cladding provide end-grain protection. The cedar will naturally silver over time and create an even more satisfying palette of materials complimenting the fiery brick of the vaults.

