

Queens Hills Primary School - Case Study



"It is wonderful to see this new school coming together in the heart of this new community. Norfolk County Council has invested a considerable amount of money in this project to ensure that children moving into this area can be educated in a state-of-the-art school right on their doorsteps.

Rosalie Monbiot - Cabinet member for Childrens Services, Norfolk County Council.

"Everyone behind the school is so enthusiastic and we are all looking forward to September when we can welcome our pupils and begin to make use of this fantastic new building."

Connie Forsyth – Chair of Governors

Project Sheet

Lead Designer
Michael Spicer at NPS

Principal Constructor
Morgan Ashurst with Newnham & Abel

Client
Norfolk County Council Childrens Services

Construction Cost
£4.2 million

Construction Programme
August 2007 – September 2008



Queens Hills Primary School is only the second brand new Primary School in Norfolk in 30 years and offers purpose-built accommodation for 315 pupils aged between five and eleven. Built for NCC Children's Services, the single-storey school spans 2000 sq m, and includes nine key stage 2 and key stage 1 classbases, as well as a nursery zone and a reception area.

Versatility and convenience are the two most obvious characteristics of the school. Both the nursery and the reception rooms can be opened up to create large open spaces, and Key Stage 2 area has also been partitioned with two folding screens. All classrooms lead straight out to a WC and outdoor learning space and pupils enjoy a vast ICT and library, ideal for fun, interactive learning.

The Design Team, endeavoured to produce a building which will enhance the educational experience of children with stimulating and visually interesting teaching spaces, both inside and outside the classroom, and in addition to include small learning environments within the circulation areas for added flexibility and also by maximising the use of natural light, colour and space.

Michael Spicer was involved with this exciting project for over three years, working closely with Childrens Services and the Shadow Governing body, and staff and the children to design and create a brand new and exciting learning environment for the children of a new village.

Everybody, without exception was very enthusiastic about contributing their part, and even with a very tight timescale, the constructor partners Morgan Ashurst were always positive about delivering on time and pulled out all the stops to achieve this.

The single storey steel structure has two wings running at ninety degrees from each other about the main gull winged sports hall. The main wings are teaching blocks with pitched roofs incorporating dormers to allow natural light to be provided along the internal corridors.

The roof construction is an aluminium standing seam system by Rigidal on insulation and Ashgrid support system on 0.7mm white walk on liner, all junctions and roof penetrations were aluminium site welded.

The Aluminium powder coated eaves overhang flashings and soffits disguise the aluminium gutter and rainwater disposal system.

The entrance canopy was manufactured from Aluminium standing seam once again, supported by tapered circular hollow section posts and shaped Glulam timber sections.

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