

Winter 2014

# GSS REVIEW

## Durham University unveils an iconic new Business School



Durham University has completed the redevelopment works at the world-renowned Business School, which underpins its continued success as one of the elite group of UK schools with triple accreditation.

Concept designed by David Allsop at GSSArchitecture, and successfully project managed by Iain Ramage of the University, the building accommodates a full range of academic operations, from undergraduate and postgraduate study through to providing corporate and management training facilities. The scheme includes an iconic, fully glazed extension which has improved the façade and created enhanced circulation flows. The curved nature of the extension facilitates informal areas to allow users to interact, and the circulation routes help to create an engaging space which promotes movement and activity rather than just being corridors.

GSSArchitecture Partner, Jonathan Hunter, said, "The redevelopment has created contemporary, state-of-the-art facilities, as well as being carefully designed to reduce the environmental impact of the building. The new feature corridor space is served by a natural ventilation system and the buildings benefit from the significant inclusion of various low and zero carbon technologies, such as ground source heat pumps and photovoltaic (PV) solar panels. A holistic approach to sustainability has been at the heart of this project, with the target for the scheme set at BREEAM Excellent."





## From the Editor

Welcome to the latest edition of GSS Review. In this issue we will show you a representative sample of our current projects, which cover the whole of England and Wales.

This issue highlights how GSS are involved in the evolution of learning, with the use of more flexible group spaces and personalised learning zones becoming more common. We have featured some examples in this issue, including Abington Vale Primary School in Northampton, Durham University's Business School and the School of Engineering and Computer Sciences Building, and Corby Primary Academy.

Our website is regularly updated with information on the practice, sectors and our projects. Also, please pay a visit to our Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and LinkedIn pages for updates and our latest news.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank our clients, who continue to entrust us with projects covering virtually every sector, and we look forward to an exciting body of work in 2014. I would also like to thank our various teams for their continuous hard work, without whom we would not be able to deliver our service, and finally our best wishes for the New Year.

**David Allsop**

## GSSARCHITECTURE

- Chartered Architects
- Quantity Surveyors
- Lead Consultant

# Plans approved for Science Discovery Centre



Proposals for a brand new Science Discovery Centre at The Royal Latin School in Buckingham have been approved. The £5 million scheme will provide an independent suite of twelve laboratories and learning spaces, with associated support and welfare facilities.

In addition to the larger laboratory spaces, informal break-out spaces will be created for independent and group based learning, which will accommodate various activities and approaches. A communal area will also be provided within the circulation space, to produce a flexible, dynamic and interactive environment.

The new building has been designed to enhance and fully integrate with the school campus, and to create new external courtyard spaces to provide a range of external learning, dining and socialising opportunities for the whole school.

GSSArchitecture Partner, Tom Lyons, said, "This scheme will create new, contemporary, state-of-the-art laboratories and learning spaces. It has been designed with a centralised multi-function space where students can eat, learn and socialise, together with break-out spaces and group rooms which will encourage a range of teaching styles, allowing students and staff to work in an exciting, flexible way in a commercial environment."



## GSS staff update

We would like to congratulate Matthew Dodd, based at our Northamptonshire office, who has successfully passed the RICS Assessment of Professional Competence (APC) to become a Chartered Quantity Surveyor.

We welcome two new members of staff: Ben Hamblin and Ben Garlick.

We would also like to congratulate Ben Hamblin, based at our Northamptonshire office, who has passed his Professional Assessment Interview to become a Chartered Member of the Chartered Institute of Architectural Technologists (CIAT).

# New £1.3 million PMLD Centre for Leicester College



A new centre for learners with profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD) has been completed at Leicester College.

The £1.3 million scheme has extended and redeveloped the former Action for Deafness building, which has enabled the relocation of the PMLD Centre from the Glenfrith Hospital site in North Leicester to Freeman's Park Campus.

The specialist design of the new building has been developed from a careful and detailed process of research and construction, to provide a facility that addresses the range of individual needs of the learners and that will integrate fully within Leicester College's campus.

Consequently, the project has been designed to suit the very specific needs of the learners, and includes a series of general and specialist

learning spaces, a performing arts classroom, art room, dining room, high specification sensory rooms and an external sensory garden, which features a series of tactile and water installations, together with coloured light and sensory planting.

GSSArchitecture Partner, Tom Lyons, said, "We are delighted to see the new PMLD Centre come to fruition. The scheme has created specialist sensory rooms and learning environments which will support the learners at Leicester College."

The scheme has also been designed to accommodate a future first floor extension for any increases in learner numbers. The project has also achieved a BREEAM Very Good status.



## New flexible learning areas for Lutterworth High School

Lutterworth High School in Leicestershire has recently completed a £1 million scheme, which has created a new flexible learning and dining zone, together with a drama and dance studio.

The new dining area has improved the lunch time experience for both students and staff,

creating an attractive space for socialising, out-of-lesson learning, and group work. It has provided a whole new learning opportunity, allowing the school to deliver a more creative and student-focused curriculum within a contemporary environment.

The scheme has also included the refurbishment of the school's library, which has delivered a modern area for personalised independent learning. The library has been designed to accommodate various informal and formal seating areas, which will support a range of IT flexible study, teaching styles and activities.

GSSArchitecture Partner, Tom Lyons, said, "Lutterworth High School now has a flexible new dining and learning area where students can eat, learn and socialise. This has provided a centralised multi-function space which will be easily adaptable to new approaches and teaching styles."

GSSArchitecture have worked with Lutterworth High School for five years, and this project is the third major stage of the whole campus masterplan.



# The York Hospital's Labour and Maternity Unit receives a major makeover



The York Hospital has recently completed improvements within the Labour and Maternity Unit. The scheme has created two dedicated birthing pool rooms and further pools within two en suite Labour, Delivery, Recovery and Postpartum Rooms (LDRP).

The York Hospital was one of more than 100 hospitals to bid for government funding to improve Maternity Units, and has significantly improved the patient experience by generating a calm and welcoming environment for new mothers.

GSSArchitecture Partner, Jonathan Hunter, said, "GSSArchitecture have worked closely with the maternity staff and specialist suppliers to develop new facilities, which will make a huge difference for the patients at The York Hospital."

## Durham University's School of Engineering and Computing Sciences Building is complete



Durham University has opened its new £2.8 million teaching facility at the School of Engineering and Computing Sciences, and the new building will be available to a range of postgraduate and undergraduate students.

The project has created specialised computing laboratories, additional offices, high-impact, open-access study spaces and cutting-edge research areas. Informal break-out spaces allow students to study between seminars, with study pods and learning areas being used for group work. The innovative remodelling of this building has provided a dynamic, collaborative learning environment which will promote

discussion between students and will encourage the transfer of new ideas.

GSSArchitecture Partner, Jonathan Hunter, said, "These new facilities have improved the learning and working environment for both staff and students. The high quality engineering and computing suites have helped to create a contemporary and professional atmosphere to reflect the School's ranking."

Professor Jon Trevelyan, Head of the School of Engineering and Computing Sciences at Durham University, said, "We are delighted with the new refurbishments in the School, which

have provided a high quality, modern space for our students and staff. The new laboratories, computer classrooms, focus room and open-access areas are important in allowing us to continue to undertake world-class research, liaise with industrial partners, and train the engineering and computer science leaders of the future."

The next phase of work is now in the planning stage, which will further enhance the teaching and learning facilities at the school, in addition to some hard and soft landscaping proposals.

# Boughton House makes plans for new wedding accommodation

GSSArchitecture have been appointed to assist Boughton House in Northamptonshire obtain Listed Building Consent for the renovation of their Grade I Listed Stable Block, which was originally designed by the 1st Duke of Montagu in the very early 18th century.

The scheme will include improvements to the existing function rooms, which will be available for weddings, conferences, meetings and lectures. The finishes will be upgraded, whilst retaining the original fabric of the 18th century building. The project will also create new toilets, improve access and extend the catering facilities.

GSS have worked with Boughton House since the 1970's, and previous work has included the careful repair of this Stable Block following subsidence and extensive dry rot.



# Redundant office is transformed into £1.3 million school in Northampton



A new £1.3 million school in Northampton has recently been completed. The scheme has transformed unused office accommodation at Stirling House into an annexe of Abington Vale Primary School in Cliftonville Road.

The project has created flexible open plan teaching facilities with informal break-out spaces and group rooms, designed for individual and group based learning. The building has created a light and spacious school that accommodates 210 pupils.

The teachers are able to divide the space up into different sized classrooms, and can also share the space and enlarge it as required. The environment can also be personalised and is easily adaptable to various different approaches or activities. The provision of multi-function spaces supports a range of flexible learning, new approaches and teaching styles.

GSS Architecture Partner, Tom Lyons, said, "We are designing a range of similar exciting and innovative schools around the country and Stirling House is an excellent example of how new life can be breathed into existing buildings. The new school has provided a whole new way of working, creating a 21st century learning environment for students, staff and the wider community."





## New community space for specialist technology academy

A £1 million scheme at Ivanhoe College in Ashby, Leicestershire, is now complete.

The project is part of a whole site masterplan and has included the refurbishment of existing areas to create a new coffee lounge and dining experience, which has also generated flexible learning opportunities for individual and group based study. The other phases of the project have focused on improving the school's energy efficiency by replacing the windows in the main teaching block with new energy efficient units.

The new facilities will also be made available for the benefit of local community groups, which is an important aspect of the specialist academy's plans for the future.

GSSArchitecture Partner, Tom Lyons, said, "This scheme has improved the dining experience at Ivanhoe College, creating communal space with state-of-the-art catering facilities which will be a key location for students to meet at lunch time. The academy is an important part of the local community and these latest developments will help to strengthen existing relationships."

## Guiding you through academies maintenance funding

### Five essential steps for your academy

1. Establish the right team for you.
2. Understand the potential of your campus and buildings.
3. Develop a 'bigger picture' masterplan for your future.
4. Identify and prioritise projects for current and future funding rounds.
5. Compile comprehensive funding and bid documents.

GSSArchitecture have been designing and transforming schools for 134 years. We deliver a unique, holistic approach to existing learning environments by assessing your campus, buildings and education strategy.

We work with you, the Education Funding Agency (EFA) and the wider academy community to develop innovative and cost effective solutions to improve your school, or to guide you through the academy status transition and help you prepare your bids for academies maintenance funding, enabling you to have projects ready for each round of funding.

To read our extended guide visit [www.gssarchitecture.com/?page\\_id=2313](http://www.gssarchitecture.com/?page_id=2313).

# New facilities at St. Andrew's Church in Shilton

St. Andrew's Church in Shilton, Warwickshire, is a medieval Grade II\* Listed building, dating back to the 14th and 15th centuries, and work has recently been completed which has created a new north porch and improved facilities for parishioners.

The new porch includes toilets and additional storage space, to complement the new servery, which already provides worshippers and visitors alike with refreshments. The new facilities will enable the Church to hold additional events, including concerts, stage plays and lectures. GSSArchitecture Partner, William Assheton, who heads up the practice's historic team, said, "We decided that the north porch should have a pink Hollington stone base to match the original stonework of the Church, with an oak frame to the structure above."



## News in Brief

- Work has begun at Barton Seagrave Primary School in Kettering. The scheme will provide seven new classrooms, one for each year group, and a new main entrance, and will remodel and extend the internal and external learning spaces.
- GSS have been appointed to provide refurbished accommodation to house the School of Geography at the University of Leeds, as well as remodelling the existing accommodation for the Faculty of Biological Sciences and Faculty of the Environment.
- A £1 million scheme at the Pemberton Leisure and Conference Centre in Rushden has recently been completed that has created a larger fitness suite, additional studio space, a new crèche, and new changing and toilet facilities.
- Holcot Village Hall in Northamptonshire has recently completed a new youth wing. The project has included the extension and refurbishment of the hall and toilet facilities and improved disabled access, to create a modern, vibrant and accessible space.
- Work has recently begun at Brooke Weston Academy in Corby to create a new fitness suite. The scheme will provide a new contemporary learning environment, with state-of-the-art gym equipment, for staff, students and the wider community.
- GSS have been appointed to provide brand new accommodation for Corby Primary Academy, which will create 14 classrooms, hall facilities, office accommodation, external play areas and car parking.

## GSSArchitecture

- Chartered Architects
- Quantity Surveyors
- Lead Consultant

## Partners

**David A Allsop** BA DipArch RIBA  
**William F Assheton** BA(Hons) BArch RIBA  
**Ian S Bray** BSc(Hons) MRICS  
**Brian L Gotch** BSc FRICS  
**Jonathan D Hunter** BA(Hons) ArchTech MCIAT MCIQB FFB  
**Thomas G Lyons** BA DipArch DipAP RIBA  
**Michael A Magri** BA(Hons) DipArch RIBA

## Practice Administrator

**Mary Lally** BA(Hons) FlntAM

## Associates

**Chris Chapman** MCIAT ACIOB  
**John R Dutton** RIBA  
**Glenn Mathew** MCIAT ACIOB  
**Paul M Vega** BSc(Hons) FCIQB CEnv

## Offices

35 Headlands  
Kettering  
Northamptonshire  
NN15 7ES

T: 01536 513165

Eden Office Park  
73 Macrae Road  
Ham Green  
Bristol BS20 0DD

T: 01275 378310

The Tower Studio  
Fourth Avenue  
Hornbeam Park  
Harrogate HG2 8QT

T: 01423 815121

[www.gssarchitecture.com](http://www.gssarchitecture.com)  
[gss@gotch.co.uk](mailto:gss@gotch.co.uk)