

Spring 2015 GSSreview

£30 million residences for Hull



GSSArchitecture's design for a new Halls of Residence at the University of Hull has been granted planning approval, just six months after developing the initial design concepts. The new £30 million student residences development, located at their Cottingham Road Campus, will provide 565 bedspaces, including standard rooms, deluxe rooms and studio flats, together with living/learning spaces and kitchen and social spaces.

Our experience in the design and successful delivery of student residences is exemplary; we have designed and overseen the construction of over 5,000 units in the past ten years and have designed a further 3,500, which have been procured using alternative methods, such as the Private Finance Initiative. Projects include student residence developments at Durham University, Oxford Brookes University, The University of Northampton and Cranfield University, as well as several boarding house developments. Our in-house Quantity Surveyors ensure that we are able to work alongside clients and/or developers in formulating business plans to ensure the most efficient payback period possible, whilst also considering the whole-life cost of the building, not solely the one-off capital cost.

Jonathan Hunter, Partner-in-charge, said "GSS are delighted to have secured planning permission for the University of Hull, despite a challenging programme. Over recent years we have



successfully designed and completed a significant number of student residences and this project illustrates that the practice has extensive experience in delivering these types of large scale residential projects. We have produced a high quality, yet cost efficient scheme for our client and are now working with the University's team to meet the programme requirements in order to complete the residences ready for occupation in 2016."

Since winning this project at the University of Hull, GSS have successfully been appointed onto the consultant framework for Aston University.



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.

Workload has significantly improved for GSS since the financial crisis in 2008, and we have successfully secured several new and exciting commissions. Our most significant project is a £30 million student residences at the University of Hull. We are also currently designing a state-of-the-art sports centre and a new boarding house for a leading public school. All three offices are going from strength to strength, and this has been achieved by the loyalty and hard work of all the staff at GSS. This year, we have taken on eight new members of staff, and we are currently looking for candidates to join our teams. Please see staff update article for further information.

Following an independent assessment, we are pleased to announce that we have been re-recognised as an Investor in People. GSS were one of the first architectural practices to achieve the status of IIP, and have been re-recognised consistently every three years since 1997.

The introduction of a new marketing team and accounting system has greatly benefitted the practice, and we have also introduced a new corporate ID.

It is also with deep regret that we have to inform you of the sad death of my father, an Architect and previous Senior Partner of GSS. Keith Allsop died on Friday, 17th October 2014 and will be sadly missed.

I would also 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 2015.

David Allsop

Onwards and Upwards for GSSArchitecture



The past year has turned out to be an exciting one for GSSArchitecture. As workload continues to increase, Architect and Senior Partner, David Allsop is pictured welcoming six of the new staff members, in our recently refurbished head office in Kettering, whilst two new staff have also joined our Harrogate office.

Emily Chapman has been appointed as the new Communications Officer for the company. Evangeline Rowles and Ryan Gorman have joined as 'Year Out' Architectural Assistants, along with Seb Smart, an Architectural Assistant, Jonathan Simcock, an Architectural Technologist, and John Barclay as the Practice Accountant. Amric Manku has also joined our Architectural Division, and Chris Loj has joined as a Trainee Quantity Surveyor. Investing in people is something GSS are very passionate about, and new members are undertaking training to make the most of the sophisticated hardware and software that has recently been adopted by the practice.



GSS are also currently seeking to recruit an Architect, Architectural Technologist, Architectural Assistant and an Assistant Quantity Surveyor at Kettering and an Architect at Bristol, due to the securing of many new commissions.

David Allsop said: "It's fantastic to once again take on highly successful people following the very difficult times experienced by our industry over the last seven years"

GSS staff update

We would like to congratulate Anna McTaggart and Paul Harkin on recently becoming Associates of the practice.

We would also like to congratulate Ben Asbury, Ben Garlick and Joby Simson on their recent marriages, and Ben Hamblin on the birth of his baby girl, Isabelle Olivia, weighing 6lbs 1oz.

Ben Garlick will be re-locating from our Kettering office to our office in Harrogate.

Sam Manser has become the Practice Graphics Manager, dealing with graphic output and corporate design.

Last year we managed to raise money for various different charities, by incorporating a 'Dress-down Friday' into the office.

'The Masterplan'



The masterplanning team within GSS have a wide range of skills and experience, which are required to cover the significant number of sectors and scale of projects covered by the practice.

Although many masterplans are mixed use, they include the commercial, industrial, education, residential, healthcare, leisure, retail and historic sectors, and can range from a small, but sensitive, historic listed site up to 1000 acres or many millions of square feet for new distribution space.

Five top tips on masterplanning

1. Be clear on your goal
2. Understand your site opportunities and constraints
3. Fully explore planning and contextual implications
4. Create strong ideas whilst retaining future flexibility
5. Ensure deliverability of all aspects of the plan

Currently the practice is delivering detailed masterplanning projects and infrastructure, such as community, leisure, education and retail buildings, on a series of major urban extensions, which total almost 20,000 new homes. In addition, current education masterplanning schemes include expansion, amalgamation and re-development of existing school sites and major remodelling of existing university and college campuses, which, in turn, can include activities as diverse as retail, accommodation and commercial.

Tom Lyons, Partner and Masterplanner at GSSArchitecture, commented "Every masterplanning project is unique and has its own opportunities and challenges. Each client has various needs and aspirations and every site is different. The range of influences on the site and design is vast and complex, and it is important to understand all of the client site issues, together with the local and planning context, before embarking on a masterplan design.

"It is rare that the larger masterplans are delivered in one go, so it is important to have a strong idea and concept that will have the flexibility to adapt over time as the processes, needs, markets and planning requirements change. A well-considered and holistic masterplan is key to good quality, value for money and robust architectural solutions, and is often the key to obtaining planning approval on larger and more complex sites."

The illustrations show a selection of commercial, residential and education masterplans.





History and Heritage at Durham

GSSArchitecture are building a strong reputation in the restoration, refurbishment and extension of listed and historic buildings. A good example of the breadth of work undertaken by GSS is the five year programme of works recently completed at Durham University. GSS have been heavily involved in this £17 million undertaking, which has seen a number of important buildings at Durham University, within the UNESCO World Heritage Site, being refurbished and restored.

GSS were first appointed by the University to undertake a programme of extensive works to the Grade I listed Durham Castle, dating from 1072, which is situated at the heart of Durham's World Heritage site, adjacent to the Cathedral. GSS were responsible for leading the design of the restoration and renovation works to the interior of the Castle, including The Great Hall, Kitchen, Servedy, etc.

Our approach to the project was to retain, reinforce and enhance the historic layout and fabric as an integral part of the refurbishment process. The project also required a sensitive full renewal of heating, power and data systems. In all cases, works were undertaken in close co-ordination with the Conservation Officer and English Heritage. There is no doubt that the work to the Castle has helped to ensure its long-term future and represents a significant investment in this well-loved building.



GSS were then appointed to undertake restoration and refurbishment works at the George Pace Library. The library was constructed in 1968 and is an extension to the Palace Green Library, which sits within the Durham Peninsular. The Pace Library has been carefully refurbished to provide enhanced environmental conditions in the existing strong rooms, as well as creating additional strong room accommodation and a new Search Room for Durham's rare books and other heritage collections.

The final phase of works took place at the Palace Green Library. The library is situated at the centre of Durham's extended World Heritage Site, between Durham Cathedral and the Castle of the Prince Bishops. GSS were engaged to design and deliver a first-class public venue, which included public exhibition space for the University's archival and museum treasures.

The Lindisfarne Gospels Exhibition hosted at Palace Green Library in 2013 was the first such visiting exhibition, attracting over 100,000 visitors. The complex of buildings forming Palace Green Library date from 1450, with the last major construction, the Pace Building, being completed in 1968.

Part of the works also included the careful restoration of the 1669 Bishop Cosin's Library. The 'Dunelm' and 'Treasures' Exhibition Galleries are the showpiece of the Library and were designed to specifically accommodate major national exhibitions, including display of the Lindisfarne and St. Cuthbert Gospels. Other facilities include a reception, retail outlet, conservation workshop, strong rooms that specifically store and exhibit archival documents in compliance with British Standard 5454, education outreach facilities and a visitors' café.

GSS has celebrated its re-recognition of the “Investors in People” standard

GSS originally gained IIP recognition in 1997, and were one of the first architectural practices in the UK to do so. Since then, the practice has been assessed every three years to ensure compliance with the standard. Now, following the latest inspections by independent assessors, all three offices have been re-recognised and awarded the coveted trophy. The detailed assessment included individual interviews with staff as well as partners.

GSS Partner William Assheton explained, “The Investors in People standard helps by linking people development and skills acquisition to the specific aims and objectives of businesses, and assists in assessing and improving performance. It

provides a framework to help businesses manage change and enhance profitability.”

“The old saying that our people are our greatest asset is still very true,” said William, “And we understand that companies recognised as Investors in People consistently outperform non-recognised competitors, in terms of productivity and profitability. We also find that clients regard our Investors in People status as being a very important indicator that we run our business in the most effective and efficient way.” GSS also take on regular work experience candidates who are considering a future in the architecture industry, and positive feedback is always received from the students.



New Housing Projects



GSSArchitecture have recently completed two new build housing developments in the South West for social and affordable rental. The first development of 10 houses is on a rural exception site in Norton Sub Hamdon, South Somerset, for Yarlington Housing Group, and the second development, comprising 62 new homes in Weymouth, has been delivered with Bouygues Construction for Synergy Housing.

We are also pleased to announce our appointments to deliver housing feasibilities for Kettering Borough Council and a series of bespoke individual housing projects for Haringey Council, with Borrás Construction (based on a design by ECD) following our successful partnership to deliver new homes for Riversmead Housing Association in St. Albans.

Café and Educational Outreach Centre

The new Courtyard Café has recently been completed at Durham University, and is situated within the Palace Green Library. The café has created a whole new and exciting ‘coffee shop’ entrance to the building, allowing visitors and students to have access to refreshments. Designed by GSSArchitecture, the scheme has also included the refurbishment and renovation of the whole Palace Green Library buildings.

Located at ground floor level, the listed building has many period qualities, such as exposed trusses, beams, cornices and skirtings. These



historical features have been retained and have been contrasted with modern insertions to create the café. The Courtyard Café is designed as a contemporary space, including a structural glazed roof and a glass feature screen and door. A new Education Outreach Facility has also been created on the ground floor, providing

educational services to people who might not otherwise have access to them.

This new phase has completed the development of work and will create a unique visitor experience.

Scandinavian Inspired Farmhouse



GSSArchitecture recently designed a residential project based around a 'Scandinavian Inspired Farmhouse', for a client in Northamptonshire. The design was for a new private dwelling that overlooks the client's agricultural lands, allowing him to be with his family but also keep an eye on his live-stock. At GSS we provide high quality visuals and accurate digital representations, in order to give the client and end users a clear idea of the concept, and aid the communication and understanding of the design as it develops.

Lord Tony Hall opens new Performing Arts Centre



Friday, 5th December 2014 marked the official opening of the Stamford Endowed Schools' new Performing Arts Centre, designed by GSSArchitecture. Lord Tony Hall, Director-General of the BBC, toured the facilities before officially declaring them open. Guests at the ceremony were entertained by theatrical and musical performances by the students in their new facilities.

Following the completion of the Sports Centre in 2012, the new project involved the conversion of the old gym into a contemporary Performing Arts Centre. This will act as a hub for creativity in the School – by housing both the Music and Drama Departments at the heart of the Stamford School site – and will strengthen their first-class facilities. The project will provide classrooms for the teaching of Drama, Music, Music Technology and a small studio for the recording of live performances.

The scheme also included the refurbishment of the main School Hall. Retractable seating has been installed to create an improved, flexible space for musical and theatrical performances, as well as for general school use.

William Assheton was the GSSArchitecture Partner-in-charge, supported by Associate and Architect Paul Harkin. William said, "The new Performing Arts Centre provides greatly enhanced, high quality facilities for performance, rehearsal and learning, to the benefit of the students. It is fantastic to see the transformation of the tired, 1960's former gym into something much more elegant. The site is close to the historic centre of Stamford and is opposite the Schools' new swimming pool building which was also designed by GSSArchitecture. This scheme is the final part of the masterplan prepared by GSS in 2002, concentrating the Schools' academic activities and moving the sporting facilities into a single area to the north."

Lord Hall said of the facilities, "What's great is, they are not just for those who act, or sing, or dance, or play music here. They are also for the many hundreds - thousands, I would imagine - who will sit in the audience." Principal of SES, Stephen Roberts, said; "These new facilities are a great addition to the Schools, and more importantly, they will be a wonderful benefit to our students, to help support and encourage the immense talent the Schools hold within the Performing Arts."

GSSArchitecture have designed a series of developments at Stamford School, including a £6 million Sports Centre, a Research and Learning Centre, a new main entrance atrium and the refurbished dining room, as well as the Ancaster Theatre at Stamford High School.

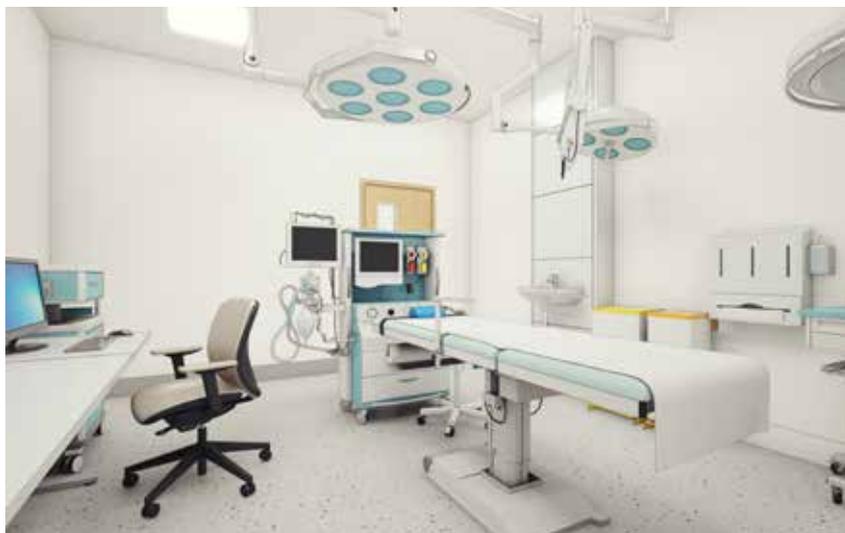
New CDM Regulations

The CDM Regulations are due to change on 6th April 2015. How will this affect you?

GSSArchitecture have held a series of in-house seminars at our regional offices in March 2015, in order to discuss and inform on the new regulations.

York Hospital

GSSArchitecture have developed a strong and continued working relationship with York Teaching Hospital over a number of years, having now completed several successful projects. As part of York Hospital's ongoing strategic review of their Gastrointestinal Endoscopy Services, the most recent of these projects is the redesign of an existing part of the 1960's York Hospital building to accommodate a dedicated decontamination suite. The new unit is due to be commissioned and brought into use shortly. The project is the latest in a series of schemes that have been successfully delivered by GSS in partnership with the Trust, all of which have required careful coordination and planning to allow the adjacent hospital departments to continue to function at all times during the construction period.



The project involved working closely with the end-users, as well as with the specialist Automatic Endoscope Reprocessing equipment suppliers, to develop a design that is both practical and compliant with NHS guidance. The 'pass-through' re-processors that were selected by the Trust form the barrier between the clean and dirty areas within the Endoscopy Department. As well as statutory compliance with the relevant Health Technical Memoranda (HTM) and Health Building Notes (HBN) documents, GSS were involved in the Hospital's Operational Policy for Endoscopy Decontamination, which was also used as the basis for the design.

The works for this particular project comprised the remodelling of part of the Hospital's records area to form a new Endoscopy Decontamination Unit to create new clean and dirty decontamination rooms with associated lobbies and support facilities, including staff changing rooms and stores. Segregation of the clean and dirty sides of the operation were key to this development, and the work involved demolition of existing partition walls and erection of new, together with replacement suspended ceilings, vinyl flooring and new hygienic doorsets with door and wall protection.

Employer's Agent Services

At GSS, we also offer an Employer's Agent service to clients. As a multi-disciplinary practice, we believe that our well-rounded skill set allows us to have more involvement than other advisors who are Quantity Surveyors only, and allows us to have a greater understanding of issues from an architectural point of view. This broad, in-depth knowledge means we can provide clients with a proactive service, therefore better meeting their requirements.



Projects where we have acted as Employer's Agent include a new housing development in Hillmorton, Rugby, at Sewell Place. The housing scheme has provided 23 new homes for Rugby Borough Council's tenants, including four one-bedroom maisonettes, 12 two-bedroom houses, and seven three-bedroom houses. 43 off-road parking spaces have been created and solar panels have been added on all homes, which can reduce the cost of energy bills. The houses replace 14 sheltered flats and 24 flats for single tenants in the previously named Pettiver Crescent, which had become outdated.

The Council also employed GSS as the Quantity Surveyors and CDM Co-ordinators.

GSS Partner, Ian Bray, said, "We are delighted to see the completion of these new homes, which has provided the community with a range of high quality properties."

Councillor Leigh Hunt said, "We are delighted with the new homes at Sewell Place. More importantly, the feedback from the tenants that have moved into them is that they are delighted too. This project is part of a number of measures the Council is taking to meet housing needs. The development also shows the Council's commitment to invest in the future at a time when many councils across the country have cut services and sold assets."

Keith J Allsop OBE ARIBA

It is with deep regret that we have to inform you of the sad death of Keith Allsop, who died on Friday, 17th October 2014, aged 89.

Keith was born in Market Harborough in 1925. After leaving Market Harborough Grammar School in 1941, Keith studied at Leicester School of Architecture for three years before serving with the Royal Engineers from 1944 to 1947. Keith was deployed to both Belgium and Germany. He then returned to the School of Architecture to complete a further two years to obtain his Diploma, and was elected an Associate of the Royal Institute of British Architects in 1951. He joined Gotch Saunders & Surridge as an Architectural Assistant in the firm with John McArthur and Robert Jeffery, and they all joined Ralph Surridge in partnership on the death of Edward Cowell in 1953. The practice, founded by past President of the RIBA, John Alfred Gotch, flourished and Keith was responsible for a wide range of buildings, especially in the healthcare, banking and other commercial sectors. He was also involved in many historical estates,

including Lamport Hall, Boughton House, and Rockingham Castle, together with many churches in Northamptonshire. Keith retired from the partnership in 1988.

Keith was a past Chairman of the Northants Branch of the Northants, Beds and Hunts Association of Architects (1965-66), and also served two terms as Honorary Secretary of the East Midlands Region RIBA, first having served in this office from 1967-70. He then became Chairman between 1983 and 1985. It gave him particular pride when David, his younger son, followed in his footsteps, serving on the RIBA Council from 2004 to 2006.

He served on the Northamptonshire County Council from 1970-74, and was Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Northamptonshire Branch of the Council for the Protection of Rural England. He was made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire in 1989, in recognition of his work in the architectural profession and the community of the county of Northamptonshire.



Keith with Lady Diana at the formal opening of Spencer House, St. Andrew's Hospital, Northampton

Keith was also a Parish Councillor for many years, and was Chairman of the Middleton Parish Council, the village in which he lived with his wife, Gay. Keith was survived by Gay, with whom he enjoyed a long and happy marriage, but who sadly has since also passed away, only a few months after Keith, on 25th January 2015. His two sons followed him into the field of design and construction: Andrew is a Civil Engineer and current Director of Ove Arup, and David is an Architect and the Senior Partner of GSS, since 2008.

News in Brief

- GSS have recently secured planning approval for a new Digital Arts and Technology Centre for The Beauchamp College. The new facility forms an important part of the College's development masterplan, and is required in order to expand and enhance their existing facilities. The new facilities include three drama suites, a state-of-the-art recording studio and Mac rooms, as well as a 360 seat performance auditorium with full support facilities.
- Tenders are currently being sought for a £1 million warehouse extension and internal refurbishment for Snap-on Tools, at their Northamptonshire office. The new warehouse will provide a new service centre, and a cafeteria for the staff members.
- GSSArchitecture have been appointed to provide a design for a fire damaged flat at Crescent Hall, which will become the roll-out template for Oxford Brookes University's forthcoming refurbishment programme across their existing portfolio at other student villages. The works involve a complete internal refurbishment and window replacement in order to provide a modern student living environment. The accommodation is due to be completed for occupation in July 2015.
- Planning has been approved for a new Innovation Centre at Puratos Ltd in Buckinghamshire. The extension will provide research and development facilities, and will include a fully functional bakery, with patisserie and chocolate sections.
- GSSArchitecture have designed a development for a new 10,000 sq. ft. warehouse and distribution facility for Knox Pharmaceuticals, including central administration facilities. Knox supply all major pharmaceuticals to the private sector (from large corporate companies to healthcare professionals) and to Governments, in over 50 countries worldwide, through tender or direct to hospitals. This new facility is required to replace their existing 4,400 sq. ft. unit to support a recent period of sustained growth and expansion.

Partners

David Allsop BA DipArch RIBA
William Assheton BA(Hons) BArch RIBA
Ian Bray BSc(Hons) MRICS
Jonathan Hunter BA(Hons) ArchTech MCIAT MCIQB FFB
Thomas Lyons BA DipArch DipAP RIBA
Michael Magri BA(Hons) DipArch RIBA

Practice Administrator
Mary Lally BA(Hons) FInstAM

Associates

Chris Chapman MCIAT ACIOB
John Dutton RIBA
Paul Harkin BA(Hons) MArch DipArch RIBA
Glenn Mathew MCIAT ACIOB
Anna McTaggart MA MArch DipArch RIBA
Paul 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
Email: gss@gotch.co.uk



- Chartered Architects
- Quantity Surveyors
- Lead Consultant