The new Science Discovery Centre has been successfully completed and was officially opened by Professor Lord Robert Winston. The £4m development has provided an independent suite of twelve laboratories and flexible learning spaces for independent and group based learning, together with associated support and welfare facilities. GSSArchitecture acted as Architects, Quantity Surveyors and Lead Consultants for the development, which is part of the “600 Campaign”, a major fundraising scheme launched by The Royal Latin in 2012 in order to fund three phases of improvements to facilities by 2023, for their 600th anniversary.

The new building has been designed to fully integrate with and enhance The Royal Latin in Buckingham, and the new external courtyard spaces provide a range of external learning, dining and socialising opportunities. Additionally, several areas have been carefully designed and located to benefit local community groups and will be used to provide a variety of activities.

Partner-in-Charge Tom Lyons said, “It has been a great pleasure to see the new Discovery Centre fully operational and being used in a flexible and dynamic way, which really builds on the excellent reputation The Royal Latin has for Science and Technology. The design is the first phase of a campus masterplan developed by the practice.”

Professor Winston said of the facilities, “The Discovery Centre is a magnificent building. It is certainly not just an ordinary science block - I’ve not seen anything else like it in the UK. The fact that it will benefit not only the students at The Royal Latin School but also those at other schools and the wider community is truly commendable.”

Headteacher David Hudson said, “I am really delighted to see the Discovery Centre now officially open. Our students have been excited by the prospect of these fantastic new facilities and it has been a great joy to see them already inspired by science lessons in the new laboratories. I am hugely grateful to so many parents, alumni and local businesses, all of whom have provided the 600 Campaign with wonderful support over the last three years. I now look forward to the Discovery Centre being a way in which we can enhance the scientific learning of students, not only at the Latin, but also at other schools and in the wider local community.”
Welcome to the latest edition of GSS Review. In this issue we will show you a cross-section of our current projects, which cover the whole of the UK.

This issue highlights how GSS are involved with research developments in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), and the use of this to improve competitiveness in science and technology, across various sectors.

We have featured some examples in this issue, including the advancements in Building Information Modelling (BIM) and the Hull Immersive Visualisation Environment (HIVE) for student accommodation at Hull University; the Enterprise Hub at the University of Sunderland; Space Studio West London; and plans for new warehouse facilities for a commercial client.

I would like to take this 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 for the future.

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.

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.

David Allsop

GSSArchitecture are continuing to increase their practice numbers, and Architect and Senior Partner, David Allsop, is pictured welcoming six of the ten new staff members in the head office in Kettering.

Francesco Speranza has joined the practice as an Architect; Mariana Pereira, Gabriele Adomaityte and Harry Thompson have joined as Architectural Assistants; along with Oliver Reynolds, an Architectural Technologist. Courtney Pallister has joined as an Administration Apprentice, and Nicole Page has been appointed as the new Communications Officer for the practice.

At the Harrogate office, Isobel Robertson has joined the practice as a ‘Year Out’ Architectural Assistant and Chelsea Holgate as a Trainee Architectural Technologist, whilst Lewis Critchley has joined the Gloucester office as a Chartered Architect.

GSS currently have vacancies for a Senior Architectural Technologist and a Quantity Surveyor at the Kettering office.

David Allsop said, "It’s fantastic to once again take on highly successful people, who will be an asset to the team and will be an important part of our continued growth."
GSSArchitecture have designed a new Enterprise Hub at the University of Sunderland. The new £11m business hub, in the heart of Sunderland City Centre, is set to create up to 650 new jobs and is expected to attract and create more than 120 businesses over five years. The hub has been supported by investment from the Government’s Growth Deal Programme, the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the Local Growth Fund (LGF).

The new building will provide bespoke, cutting edge research facilities to support the development of new business ideas and improvements in industrial processes. Small business start-up opportunities will also be made available through the provision of flexible office accommodation, which will be supported by engagement with other local businesses.

The ground floor of the hub has been designed to include a combination of social spaces and innovation laboratories, to be used for prototyping workshops and 3D printing, whilst the remainder of the building will include a mix of conference facilities, meeting rooms and flexible offices. The development is a highly complex project, comprising a large new building and also involving the sensitive refurbishment of an existing Grade II Listed building. GSSArchitecture were appointed during 2014, based on their significant expertise and specialisation in this type of building.

The hub will also house the North East’s first FabLab – an innovative project started by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in the United States - which enables people to prototype and try out new product ideas.

FabLabs are packed with an array of 3D printers, Computer Aided Design (CAD) software, scanners and Computer Numerical Control (CNC) machines, which allow entrepreneurs, small businesses, students and schools to experiment with new products, and provide the support and expertise to bring them to market.

GSS have also provided Lead Consultant services for this project.

We continue to invest in research and knowledge building to support the design requirements for innovative projects such as this, and are currently developing other concept schemes, with a focus on Pharmaceutical Innovation and Advanced Manufacturing.
Planning permission has recently been secured for a new Education Funding Agency (EFA) funded Studio School in West London, for the Aspirations Academies Trust. Space Studio will accommodate 300 students, aged 14-18, and will specialise in Space, Aerospace, Science and Maths, in order to prepare young people for careers in Aerospace and Space related industries, such as skilled technicians, operators, engineers, scientists, inventors and entrepreneurs.

Studio Schools are set to develop a new approach to learning, which includes teaching through enterprise projects and real work to offer a range of academic and vocational qualifications, including GCSE’s in English, Maths and Science, A-Levels and Level 3 BTEC courses, with industry-led project work, as well as paid work placements.

GSS Architecture, working in partnership with Farrans Construction, are acting as Architects and Lead Consultants for this development, which will be based at the Rivers Academy West London Campus, close to Heathrow Airport, which was highly influential in the design process. The Studio School will replicate a set of research buildings, including a mixture of laboratories, engineering workshops, food technology suites and gym facilities, as opposed to a traditional school layout.

The contemporary design for Space Studio West London will also incorporate open plan elements, such as central free learning and social spaces, together with a new café.
Swindon Health Centre

Acting as technical advisors, GSSArchitecture are assisting NHS Property Services to support the delivery of a new £4m Health Centre in Swindon. The project involves GSS working closely with the Health Centre tenants and developer to prepare a development brief, layout, room data sheets and to check that facility requirements are in accordance with NHS guidance. The proposal has recently received planning consent and plans are being prepared for the construction phase of the project.

The development will provide over 15 consultant and treatment rooms, offices, a dental surgery and drop-in facility in a professional environment that will meet the demanding needs of a modern Health Centre.

Northants Cricket get HD Upgrade

New permanent media facilities have been designed for Northants Cricket. These roof level features include commentary boxes, together with an Invision studio. GSS have acted as Architects, Quantity Surveyors and Principal Designer for the scheme.

The new media facilities will improve the current television broadcasting services, as well as provide modern and essential structures for live commentary at a suitable location and position. The works involved an extension of the existing roof access walkway to provide a camera gantry position for elevated filming directly down the wicket line but in a position so as not to obstruct the spectators’ view during matches.

Northants Cricket Chief Executive, Ray Payne, said: “We are delighted with the new Sky boxes here at the County Ground. Many of our members and visitors have commented positively about how they look and they already feel part of the ground. We can’t wait to use them”.

New Super Primary School for over 1,000 Students

Working with Farrans Construction, GSSArchitecture are acting as Architects and Lead Consultants to deliver a Five-Form Entry Primary School which will accommodate over 1,000 pupils, making it one of the largest Primary Schools in the country. GSS will also provide a further three Primary Schools and two Studio School with Farrans Construction, in and around the London area, with a combined construction value of £30m.

GSS are continuing to deliver a whole range of Primary School projects, including the recently completed Hayfield Cross Primary School, Rushden Primary Academy and Loatlands Primary School. GSS are also currently on site at Priors Hall Park Primary School as Employer’s Agent.
Leeds New Research Facility

A £10m project has successfully been completed for the Faculty of Bio-Science, Environmental Sciences and the School of Geography at the University of Leeds.

The scheme was undertaken as part of the University’s significant investment in their campus, and required the complex and sympathetic refurbishment of the existing 1960’s, Grade II listed buildings. The scheme involved remodelling and extending five floors, across five connected buildings, to bring together the three separate schools and academic departments.

Using a design and build procurement route, GSSArchitecture were appointed by Galliford Try to develop the concept designs and technical details, based on established working relationships with the University of Leeds.

Jonathan Hunter, Partner-in-Charge, said “This project shows how our teams can add real value to a project by carefully detailing the interior finishes and fit-out of these types of technology-rich spaces. The flexibility of the layout and range of cutting edge technology means that the students and academics can get the most out of the completed laboratories, research facilities and study areas”.

The interior redevelopment now provides academics and undergraduates with flexible and collaborative spaces, including two floors of research laboratories, a microscopy suite, close temperature controlled environments, ICT clusters, and teaching and lecture rooms, with informal meeting areas and break-out spaces.

Having a key involvement in the Heritage and Conservation sector, GSSArchitecture have many years’ experience of liaison with English Heritage (Historic England). We have carried out work on Listed and Historic Buildings, and in Conservation Areas, for a diverse range of clients, including the Estates of a number of historic houses and medieval castles; several dioceses; numerous churches; universities, colleges, schools; and several local authorities.

GSSArchitecture are fully versed in the technical requirements and specialised knowledge necessary for the repair and maintenance of these important buildings, in order to produce sympathetic and long-lasting solutions.

Partner, William Assheton, who is an Accredited Conservation Architect and on the register of Architects Accredited in Building Conservation (AABC), is currently supervising the repair of a number of churches in the area, including St. Nicholas, Great Doddington, near Wellingborough, and St. John the Evangelist, Caldecott, near Corby.

The photograph to the right shows William inspecting the repairs to the spire stonework at St. John the Evangelist Church, from which he had a wonderful view of the surrounding countryside.

William is also on the list of Approved Architects for the Dioceses of Lincoln, Peterborough, Leicester and Coventry. Within these Dioceses, GSSArchitecture’s work for parish churches has ranged from quinquennial inspections, which take place every five years to identify any problems which may have developed during this time, to more comprehensive conservation work to timbers, stonework, roof coverings, stained-glass windows and also church interiors. Other projects have included building extensions to house modern facilities, which are generally not provided within medieval buildings.

William Assheton said “Conserving our unique historical buildings is not just to ensure their long term future but also provides other opportunities to the economy, the environment and for education”.

William recently attended the “Importance of Heritage in the Economy” Seminar at Boughton House, which was organised by the Northamptonshire Enterprise Partnership. During the seminar, William presented “1000 years of English Architecture through the eyes of Gotch, Saunders and Surridge (GSSArchitecture)”. Other guest speakers included Sir Laurie Magnus, Chairman of Historic England, who addressed “Why Heritage Matters to the Economy”.

Heritage and Conservation @ GSSArchitecture
There are many benefits to be realised from a well-structured BIM process on any given construction project. These range from improved coordination and clash detection to streamlined construction processes.

At Hull University, the GSS team were delighted to be invited to work with HIVE (Hull Immersive Visualisation Environment) to investigate how the federated BIM model can be used to improve engagement and buy-in of the University’s Facilities Management teams during the design and construction process. It has quickly become clear that this could be a highly useful tool to engage with maintenance and FM teams during design development, in order to move away from simply handing a building over on completion which up until that point they have had little to no involvement in.

Our fully federated, Level 2 BIM model was used as the basis of the virtual reality, which allows an individual or user to fully immerse themselves in, and navigate around, the proposed development using a simple games controller. Because the BIM model had been developed to a very detailed standard, the process of creating the virtual reality environment proved to be very efficient, taking only a couple of weeks to be fully developed.

The technology is developing fast, and the opportunities for improving and streamlining the consultation process are truly exciting. New apps are currently in development for viewing the models on smartphones and iPads, all of which is now possible with a well-developed and fully coordinated BIM model.

There are a range of fully immersive virtual reality technologies, including Beta phone apps and 3D printed viewing ‘glasses’, that are currently being developed and used to increase the engagement and understanding of the new student residences development on Hull’s Cottingham Road Campus.
The University of Reading has appointed GSS Architecture as Architects and Lead Consultants to provide an interim solution for the new School of Architecture. The scheme includes the sensitive redevelopment of the Library at the University’s London Road Campus, and great care has been taken to retain the important features of the existing building.

The development will allow the University to establish the new faculty, which in due course will relocate to the Whitelights Campus, where the School of Architecture will be situated alongside the established discipline of Construction Management and Engineering. This will provide students with interdisciplinary learning in order to prepare undergraduates for working in industry, as Architects are increasingly operating within multi-disciplinary teams.

The scheme will provide students with access to dedicated studio spaces and cutting edge facilities, including 3D printing and Immersive Virtual Reality Environments. Additionally, a materials shop and a café area will be available to increase the flexibility of the environment for both private and collaborative study. The development started on site in August 2015, and is due to complete in Spring 2016.

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**News in Brief**

- Redevelopment works at Oxford Brookes University have recently been completed. The scheme involved the refurbishment of the existing Crescent Halls of Residence to provide stylish, modern accommodation for existing and prospective students.

- Plans are currently being worked on for a large industrial client. This includes a site reconfiguration and upgraded infrastructure, together with incorporating contemporary office facilities.

- GSS are due to start on site at Puratos Ltd in Buckingham for a new Innovation Centre. The extension will provide research and development facilities, and will include a fully functional bakery, with patisserie and chocolate sections.

- Redevelopment works for a private developer have recently started on site, which will provide new one and two bed apartments, including a new lightweight structure to form residential penthouse accommodation.

- A £1m warehouse extension and internal refurbishment at Snap-on Tools is currently on site. The new warehouse will provide a new service centre and a cafeteria for staff members, and the phased development is due for completion in December 2015.

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**Partners**

- David Allsop BA DipArch RIBA
- William Assheton BA(Hons) BArch RIBA AABC
- Ian Bray BSc(Hons) MRICS
- Jonathan Hunter BA(Hons) ArchTech MCIAT MCIOR 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) FCIOB CEnv

**Offices**

- **35 Headlands**
  - Kettering
  - Northamptonshire
  - NN15 7ES
  - T: 01536 513165

- **The Tower Studio**
  - Fourth Avenue
  - Harrogate
  - HG2 8QT
  - T: 01423 815121

- **North Warehouse**
  - Gloucester Docks
  - Gloucester
  - GL1 2EP
  - T: 01452 525019

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