

BuildingFutures
AWARDS
2011

Award Category:	Design Excellence
Project:	Roebuck Primary School, Stevenage
Client:	Hertfordshire County Council
Project Team:	Mace Ltd



The design of Roebuck Primary School was developed in collaboration with the design team and stakeholders to achieve an integrated, sustainable and holistic approach to delivering a new school building based on three key criteria: Be Lean, Be Clean, Be Green. The client also required the building to achieve a BREEAM rating of Very Good.

The building comprises two 'wings' running east to west. The western wing houses the early years accommodation and the eastern wing contains six classrooms that are oriented to the north and south, thereby making it easy to control natural lighting and solar glare

through the use of canopies extending along each elevation.

The building wings are single storey volumes with low mono pitched roofs. The green wings on the lower 'wings' form a distinctive feature of the building. Their function is to protect the roof against direct sunlight and excessive overheating in the building, as well as an ecological habitat for wildlife.

A higher central atrium running between the wings lets light into the central circulation space and regulates the natural ventilation system of the school.

The structure of the building uses responsibly sourced cross-laminated timber, awarding the project a number of sustainable qualities including a low carbon footprint.

The new school building has a distinctive and appealing form that emerges from the subtle

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counterpoint that exists between the curved plan and section. The use of curves, circles and colour helps to soften the impact of a large building and brings the scale down to make the approach to the school feel friendly, natural and welcoming.

Judges comments:

"One of the most appealing things about this building is the care taken to optimise the comfort of students and staff; positioning the building to control glare and natural light and limiting the imposition of a large building to create a relaxed environment."
