

BuildingFutures
AWARDS
2013



Award Category: Retrofit for the Future sponsored by Weber Saint-Gobain

Project: Queensway Health Centre, Hatfield

Client: Hertfordshire Community NHS Trust

Project Team: Newland Construction, Ampersand Associates Ltd.



Queensway Health Centre was built in the 1960's as a two storey brick built community clinic, and has provided NHS outpatient care to the community ever since. It delivers a multitude of ever-changing NHS clinics including podiatry, baby clinics, counselling and sexual health.

Due to years of under-investment and the diversion of an aborted compulsory purchase order, the building had become extremely cosmetically and functionally tired, with many issues of backlog maintenance, and was barely fit for purpose. Refurbishment of the building was agreed by the client in 2012.

The client and contractors worked closely to remodel the layout to design-in space efficiency to ensure more clinical facilities could be provided, and enabling the clinic to deliver more clinical care. The design and specification included the renewal of all building services including new gas boilers; Therma-Skirt low surface temperature space heating and the upgrade of the building fabric; increased longevity of cosmetic appearance by using plastic wallings, and the creation of a colourful environment with each clinic room having a colour accent. Landscape and access improvements, such as wildlife friendly planting has created a defensible and private space.

The flat roof renewal specification gave a 20 year guarantee, and this comfort allowed the provision of an array of solar PV on the main roof (c. 225 m²) and solar thermal panels on the secondary roof to provide hot water. The carbon footprint of the building is estimated to have been reduce by 65%.

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The completed scheme provides a contemporary, modern healthcare centre that is both energy and space efficient; the scheme has also significantly enhanced the facilities available to both NHS patients and staff.

Judges comments:

“New life has been breathed into what was a tired old building. An extraordinary transformation has been achieved, largely as a consequence of the unrelenting efforts of a hugely dedicated and committed client/project manager. A great example of collaborative working between the client and all key members of the delivery team.”