



Awards Category: Design Excellence sponsored by Salus

Project: Myddelton Building - science block
Potters Bar

Client: Dame Alice Owen's School

Project Team: Hawkins\Brown, Atelier, ELLIOT Wood, ENG Design, BD Landscape



Dame Alice Owen's School has been in Potters Bar for over 40 years, over which time the Governors have developed the site to make it a much friendlier place to work and study.

The scheme comprised the demolition and replacement of an existing 1970s science block, alongside a new landscaped area to provide a heart space for the school community. The new Myddelton Building is a legacy of the Schools 400th Anniversary (1613-2013) and provides 14 new laboratories equipped with the latest technology.

The design approach takes a simple rectangular form and adds areas of considered detail and interest. The building is designed to fit in with, rather than dominate the character of the school and the green wooded campus. The materials are harmonious with the surroundings and include red/brown rustic brick to blend with the treed setting and other new buildings. Brickwork patterning has been used to express blank facades and key edges of the building, these finer details give real character to the building.

The main entrance is fully glazed and projects from the corner of the building, providing views of the woodland beyond and a good level of natural light.

A key element of the building is the central circulation space that is more than just a place of transition and incorporates a break out study space, student storage, an Art Gallery and a home for the 100 year gas light that once hung over the school entrance.

Internal finishes, including high quality American Oak and bronze anodised aluminium window frames, were chosen to resonate with the external palette.

Judges comments:

“It was evident on our visit that there was great synergy between the client and architects in their vision for the building. The building works very well and is carefully crafted externally and internally with well detailed classrooms and corridor spaces. We particularly liked the top-lit double height spaces in the corridors and the decorative brickwork on the outside of the building.”
