



**Award Category:** Project of the Year sponsored by the Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership

**Project:** Batchwood Tennis Centre  
St Albans

**Client:** St Albans City & District Council

**Project Team:** AFLS+P, Deloitte, Furness Partnership, Van Zyl & De Villiers, Shire Consulting, Chris Blandford Associates, Stirling Maynard Transportation, Brindle and Green, Willmott Dixon



Batchwood Tennis Centre replaces a former golf and tennis centre that was lost as a consequence of a fire in 2011. The development comprises a new tennis and racquets centre of regional excellence, a judo hall, accessible changing facilities, gym, community rooms and café, as well as a reception area and management offices.

The facility was designed to be responsive to public demands, durable, and to run at minimum cost. Roof lights, natural ventilation, and Photovoltaic cells on the roof have been incorporated to reduce energy demands. The building achieved an Energy Performance Certificate rating of A.

The new building reflects a modern and functional architectural approach, with a distinct gently curving roof over the tennis hall, whilst respecting the local heritage and rural setting. The tennis centre incorporates elements of the previous facility with careful attention to historical features and landscaping. In particular a Victorian wall, the original gateway to Batchwood Hall Gardens, has been accommodated within the building design and provides a reference to the site's past.

Materials are chosen to maintain an overall sense of coherence within the site, the use of timber cladding is sympathetic to the parkland location.

**Judges comments:**

“Out of the ashes of a fire a new centre-of-excellence has been created which provides National Standard coaching facilities. The tennis halls in particular are very impressive. We very much liked the incorporation of an historic garden wall into the design, and the timber cladding which helps bed this large building into its rural setting.”