

# 'The Croft' Crofton School

Property Services



**Location:**

Stubbington, Fareham, Hampshire

**Client:**

Hampshire County Council

**Value:** £733,000

**Completed:** July 2011

**Specialist teams:**

Architect/Interiors/QS: HCC Property Services; Structural Engineer: Curtins Consulting; M&E: Pope Consulting; Landscape Architect: RPS Landscape; Artists: Anna Heinrich & Leon Palmer; Contractor: Norman Wrights/Farnrise Construction

'The Croft' is a New Resource Provision Centre for Crofton School, a specialist 11-16 Science College with 1080 students. It is close to Baycroft School, a community special school for 176 secondary aged students, who experience learning difficulties and autism. The new 200sqm building provides specialist facilities for pupils with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) to the eastern district of the county.

'The Croft' is conceived as a small courtyard house serving 12 No. ASD pupils. The new building is attached to an existing three storey SCOLA block and provides a new public 'face' to the school campus. A sheltered south facing courtyard provides the main access for pupils arriving and departing via a drop-off/pick-up area. The principal spaces comprise a flexible teaching area and group room that address the courtyard. The group room is a multi-functional space for group meetings, life skills training and therapy activities. A detached sensory room 'drum' to one corner of the courtyard is reached via a glazed loggia. The sensory room 'Cloud Chamber' provides a calm space for reflection.

Internally materials and finishes are calm, simple and robust. Exposed timber beams within the teaching area provide additional height/volume and relate to study booths each side of the room. Externally the courtyard materials and colours create a calm sensory space. To the west a second courtyard c/w potting shed, rainwater harvesting tank is provided for growing vegetables and plants. Bat boxes have been integrated within the building and surrounding trees.

## Key Benefits

- New public 'face' and entrance transforms tired SCOLA school campus.
- Bespoke specialist resource areas with flexible multi-use teaching spaces.
- Energy efficient building envelope with integrated passive ventilation and night-time cooling; green 'sedum' roof to reduce summer overheating, attenuate rainwater run-off and enhance biodiversity
- Unique Sensory Room 'Cloud Chamber' using camera obscura principles to project image of passing clouds on to floor.

*“ We now have a highly impressive facility which is already the subject of envy from other schools. ”*

Headteacher, Crofton School



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