

Intech Technology Centre

Featured in RIBA Sport Leisure Specialist Sector Review 2003



Location:

Morn Hill, Winchester, Hampshire

Client:

Hampshire Technology Centre

Value: £5 million

Completed: 2002

Specialist teams:

Architecture & Interior Design:

HCC Property Services

Project Management: Davis

Langdon Everest

Structural Engineering: Giffords

Contractor: Trant Construction Ltd.

Intech is a hands-on science centre for school children and families, with interactive exhibits which demonstrate the science behind the familiar technology of every day life. It is sited on downland at Morn Hill, east of Winchester.

HCC Property Services designed its large exhibition hall, workshops for the on-going construction of new exhibits, an equipment library (lending out teaching equipment to schools) and a 200 seat auditorium capable of being fitted out as a planetarium.

The new, expanded Intech needed to establish itself as a landmark attraction for families, as well as its core school patronage. The exhibition building is a perfect pyramid springing straight out of the hill, with grass embankments, concrete buttresses, aluminium roof, and apex skylight all carefully aligned.

The building is cut into the chalk hill concealing plant rooms and the equipment library. The workshops have a loading bay and direct access into the exhibition hall which is arranged on two levels under a dramatic steel lattice roof. Ventilation is provided with fans and ducts designed as exhibits in space and the lift sits in a glazed tower revealing its workings. A corridor link leads to a free-standing dome sitting on its own grass hill, housing what is now a state-of-the-art planetarium. Ten years on, Intech continues to serve the region's schools and families with an irreplaceable offer of science and delight.

“ *To advance the education, knowledge and understanding of the public, in particular the young, in scientific and technological principles and processes, so as to create and inspire both a new generation equipped with the skills for modern enterprise and a population more able to appreciate fully the significance of today's increasingly complex issues.* ”

Aims of the Hampshire Technology Centre Trust Limited

Key Benefits

- A striking educational resource with exhibits designed by the Hampshire Technology Centre Trust.
- The building is an exhibit in itself, illustrating design issues such as contrasting heavy and light weight structure, the effects of orientation and air movement in large scale internal environments.
- A unique and attractive new public facility, on a highly visible area of downland that was previously used for more unsightly facilities including a scrapheap.
- Exceptional value for money where the original vision was realised within a fixed construction budget.

