# NNATSON BATTY ARCHITECTS

2021 - 2022 FUTURE BUILT

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# Learning Environments

# Whether the students are six, sixteen or twenty-six, our approach is to create special places that nurture and inspire.

#### Introduction

#### Inside knowledge

Watson Batty Architects design outstanding education facilities that support and enhance learning in all its forms. With over 20 years experience, we have a deep insight and understanding of the distinctive qualities of the educational sector.

We empathise with the requirements and aspirations of students, teachers, administrators and managers. We understand the necessity of creating flexible, hardworking spaces. We recognise that great learning environments are about more than providing the conditions for good teaching – we think as deeply about the spaces in-between. We know that technology is a supportive pillar of excellent teaching practice – in this, seamless integration is our key driver. Whether the students are six, sixteen or twenty-six, our approach is to create special places that nurture and inspire.

Every environment is unique – we will be rigorous in ensuring your space is precisely tailored to meet your brief. That's why we begin every project by learning about you.

# **FUTURE BUILT**

Mark Sidding, Director and Head of Learning Environments

#### **Conclusive evidence**

The purpose of this document is threefold: through recent case studies and an articulation of our approach we will demonstrate the breadth of our experience, showcase the quality of our design and prove our appreciation for the standards and challenges that drive those who run today's learning establishments.

# **Our Approach**



Peter White Managing Director

#### **Putting our clients first**

Reliable, professional and knowledgeable, Watson Batty Architects are a trusted design practice because we take time to understand our clients and their specific needs. Our motivation as designers is to interpret and articulate the client's vision, turn it into outstanding architecture and add value at every opportunity.

#### Creating places for people

Whatever purpose a building may serve and within whatever sector it falls, our ethos is to place users at the heart of the design process and create the very best environments that nurture and inspire.

#### **Responding to the Climate Crisis**

Sustainability sits at the very heart of everything we do; it is an integral part of good architecture, not a concept to be bolted on at the end. With over 40% of the UK's carbon footprint attributed to the built environment, we recognise our responsibility to help reduce the causes of our climate emergency.

#### Championing change and innovation

The building industry is progressing fast, and we're moving with it. We're embracing Modern Methods of Construction, which use offsite building techniques and digital technologies to minimise site construction, reduce waste and energy, and increase project efficiency. And we utilise the latest Building Information Modelling technology, enabling us to lessen cost and risk by sharing information about design, construction and operation in a virtual form.

#### **Employing the best talent**

Our highly qualified and experienced architects and support teams are committed to providing clients with exceptional service combined with the highest levels of design and technical expertise.

#### Harnessing cross-sector knowledge

We provide a truly multi-disciplinary service for a diverse client base operating in a range of sectors. With over 45 years' experience designing and working within various environments, we have a successful track record in the design, delivery and completion of facilities that integrate a variety of uses.



# **Our Foundations**



#### We've built our valued reputation by upholding our guiding principles and core values.

Our four guiding principles ensure we never lose sight of what makes us a successful and respected practice that provides outstanding service to clients:

#### Providing measurable value

We create spaces that work. It's not enough for architecture to have a positive visual impact. We pride ourselves on offering cost-effective, feasible design solutions that are buildable, functional and well-detailed.

#### **Reliable and professional**

Our clients don't just know us, they trust us. Our broad experience and our unbending commitment to deliver are two reasons why we have client relationships that span three decades.

#### Great to work with

We work openly and with energy. We believe the design process should be collaborative and enjoyable. Listening and understanding always come first. And as a project progresses, free-flowing communication remains central to its success.

#### **Future-focused**

We never stand still. Technologies and processes in our industry are constantly evolving and improving, and we readily adapt to offer our clients the best possible service. The need to push the boundaries of our capability is central to our ethos. "The team at Watson Batty Architects have been excellent. As a client, I feel that they have fully understood and met the brief, have a grasp of our priorities, expectations and limitations. It is difficult to assess some of the points above as we are so early in the process, but I am confident that going forward Watson Batty will not disappoint."

Memorable, meaningful and motivating, our **core values** are the fundamental qualities of our business and brand that we live and breathe.

Laura Whitehead, Project Manager, Leeds City Council

# "People I know I can work with"





Architect & Associate

Philip Guest Architectural Technologist



Architect & Associate Director







Architect & Board Director

Architect & Board Director



Senior Architectural Technologist





Senior Architectural Technologist

& Associate

Matthew Ing

Architectural Technologist





David Walley

Senior Architectural Technologist



Martin Bradley

Architect



Gemma Bottomley

Architect & Interiors

David Coe

Architectural Technologist



Cath Wheater

Architectural Assistant









Accounts Manager









Architect & Regional Director, Midlands Studio

Architectural Technologist





Architect & Interiors

Senior Architectural Technologist & Associate





Business Support Assistant

Architect



Kamila Kudlata

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Robert Sorren





Assistant









Daniel Lowe

Architect



Architectural Technologist



Lauren Copsey Creative Marketing & **Communications Manager** 



# **Sector Analysis**



Mark Sidding Sector Lead

With over 30 years experience designing and working with learning environments, our knowledge in this sector is second to none. We understand how to get the most out of the design process and appreciate the complexities of managing the procurement process. Reliable, Professional, Knowledgable, Watson Batty Architects are a trusted design practice in the education sector.

When it comes to learning and research environments, very little changes in our approach to create places which nurture and inspire; whether the users are six, sixteen or twenty-six.

Working together with client teams our motivation as designers is to interpret and articulate the vision, and turn it in to architecture; all while adding value at every opportunity.

The work showcased in this document is an introduction to our learning environments portfolio and covers selected recent projects. The projects are arranged in four key areas:

**Primary and Nursery** – carefully crafted spaces designed for nurturing. Our primary schools and nursery spaces are designed for our youngest clients, responding to their perspective of the world.

**Secondary Schools** – new build, conversion and extensions, our secondary schools take many forms. Designed as vibrant and functional buildings with spaces to inspire and welcome. **Universities and Colleges** – student-centred learning environments that promote interaction and address a range of needs from general teaching 'hubs' through to specialist faculty buildings.

**Science and Research** – projects that capitalise on our experience of working across academic, commercial and industrial sectors. These buildings are innovative, high-tech and complex but never eclipse the fundamental drive to create effective and enjoyable environments.

We also explore other benefits and technological advances which we implement as a practice in our projects enabling us to design smartly, efficiently but most of all to design better buildings for our clients. Here we will explore:

**Sustainable Design** - Using technological and design lead approaches to increase the energy efficiency and minimise impact on global resources.



Completed Over **3.0 million** sq.ft of Learning Accommodation











Supported and Worked Alongside **15** Major University Clients



**25%** of Company Turnover from Learning Sector





# **Key Team Members**





Senior Architect







Andrew Hinchliffe Senior Architectural Technologist

Architect & Education Team Leader



**Richard Crowson** Project Architect & Sports Lead

Lauren Copsey

Business Development & Administrative Support



Lisa Nutton

Architect & Interiors



Project Architect & Sports Lead

#### Watson Batty Architects is a partnership of talented architects, masterplanners, interior designers, technicians and skilled support team. We have specialists across numerous sectors and hold expertise in building conservation, project management, and sustainable design.

"Our aim is to provide the very best for our clients and the wider community by providing a level of service which exceeds expectation. We strive to deliver with professionalism and reliability but also believe that our honesty and humour ensures our clients prefer to work with Watson Batty Architects."

The successes of the practice are without question due to the efforts of our talented staff and partners. The range of expertise and experience held by our architects, technologists, interior and urban designers allows us to provide the very best client advice and service. Our team-work approach provides the very best environment for sharing ideas, methods and knowledge allowing us to quickly explore out of the norm ideas and proposals to provide our clients with the very best tailored solutions. It is this team work approach and ability to draw on a vast breadth of knowledge which places us in the position to take on complex, multi-faced projects. Our joined up approach from the concept to the final mood evoking interior design proposals and site delivery ensures the right solution is delivered every time.

Our practice ethos is to be future focused and this starts with our staff. The latest software and tools are only as good as the people using them and for this reason we ensure our staff receive regular training and updates to ensure we stay at the cutting edge of our industry.



Daniel Lowe Architect



Cath Wheater Architectural Assistant

Mark Sidding, Director

# **Nursery and Primary**

#### We balance the need for safety and security with the need to create an open and accessible environment.

The design of a modern-day primary school must embrace a range of issues and needs, including pedagogy, technology, budget, acoustic, demographics and community goals. Above all, we recognise that the primary school maybe the first place a child encounters independent of their family. We understand the importance of creating a welcoming and safe environment that's not far removed from the residential setting. To this end, there are some fundamental considerations that will support the transition from home to school.

Managing size and scale are crucial to a child's perception of space. A simple demonstration of this truth is the organising of a large building into smaller components. But there are less obvious details to consider as well, such as the height of window sills, views, natural light and a connection to outdoors are other essential factors that can impact on a child's well-being, as are the role of colour and the need for a variety of spaces. Top priority is always safety and security. Our experience, tells us how to carefully balance the need for protection with the need to create an open and accessible environment for the pupils and their parents.

Primary schools also set the basis for further learning at secondary schools. When they reach this point, students are going through physical, intellectual, emotional and social changes, and the best designs support them as they transition from the self-contained world of early years and reception to the open environment of secondary education.

"The resulting design incorporated all these ideas and added a layer beyond what I had considered. The overall finished product as the 'WOW' factor and that has been acknowledged by all. I could not be happier."





"From the initial design response to the final construction information, Watson Batty were responsive and able to find innovative solutions to all the challenges of the project."

Andy McHale, Senior Design Manager, ISG Plc

#### Wynyard Primary School

Wynyard Primary School is a 450 place school delivered for the Diocese of Durham and funded by the ESFA. The school forms part of a larger development extending the existing Wynyard estate creating new housing in the area. Working alongside ISG under a design and build contract, we developed the concept design for the ESFA producing a scheme that was ready to be delivered on site.

As part of the design development Watson Batty Architects liaised with the local planning authority and submitted an application which was subsequently approved.

The design of the school is slightly unusual with the main entrance and approach to the building being on the top floor. The building was designed this way to work with the topography of the site and to minimise the visual impact the building will have on the surrounding residential units.

Designed to be built from a mixture of conventional brick and modern materials such as a profiled metal roof, the design makes the most of the efficiencies of modern construction while sitting well next to traditionally design residential structures.

Construction began the last quarter of 2017 with the building programme successfully handed over January 2019.



#### Lower Farm Academy Primary School

Watson Batty Architects are working alongside Contractor Tilbury Douglas Construction to deliver a new two form entry primary school. This follows design development and technical design during RIBA stages 2 to 4, working alongside the design team and client.

The school is being delivered by the ESFA (Education and Skills Funding Agency) alongside a large-scale residential development and will support the growing pupil population in the area. Accommodating 420 pupils, the entry school will be operated by the REAch2 Academy Trust and will include a 26-place nursery.

Designated as a dedicated school site within a larger housing development, the design closely follows the baseline design standards employed by the ESFA. We applied lessons learned from our other school projects to create a super-efficient floor plan, creating a surplus of non-net floor space which we were able to use to reallocate and enhance areas of the school such as the entrance lobby. This provided additional usable space for the school while staying within the strict gross internal floor area target.

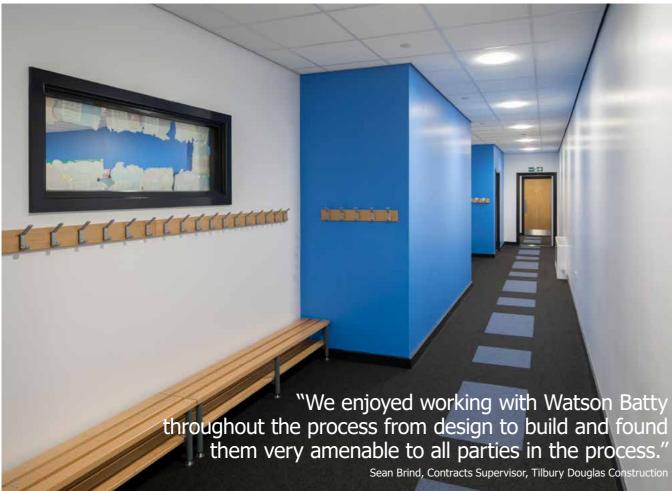
Using BIM practices on the project allowed us to create 3D information early in the project. This was very beneficial when reviewing the design development with the school and the client. Early in the project we were able to show the client 3D views of the internal and external spaces which assisted in the communication of the design intent and allowed the client to easily understand the proposals. It also allowed us to create detailed perspective views which the school were able to share with the prospective new community and future pupils of the school.

The site context and local authority planning requirements dictated a brick-built building. Early in the process it was noted as a project risk that traditional brickwork would not work with the project programme and the subcontractor supply chain was unreliable. In order to reduce the risk, we looked to use a brick slip system. Our initial investigations removed the risks of a traditional load baring system but proved too costly for the project budget. We therefore spent time looking at a variety of options including looking at removing expensive corner brick slips from window surrounds to bring the construction method within budget.















#### Hollybush Primary School

Hollybush Primary School underwent an expansion from a two form entry to a three form entry to enable the school to cater for the areas increasing pupil population. In order to expand the school's intake, a new two storey standalone annex building was constructed which gives the school six additional classrooms, a multi-purpose hall and group teaching facilities.

Positioned to the north-west of the existing primary school, the building has been located and designed to fit in a tight site between the existing building and a number of existing mature trees. The building allows direct access to the school grounds from the classrooms on each floor. This has been achieved due to the challenging topography resulting in a building which is partially subterranean. To visually link with the existing school, the building is predominantly constructed from buff brick with a grey brick highlighting the entrance/hall block. Associated landscape works together with an extended car park providing an additional 77 spaces also formed part of the works.

BIM was utilised on the project which was particularly useful when coordinating information between the structural engineer and sub-contractors, such as the steel fabricators and the SFS suppliers. Using BIM as the primary source of co-ordination resulted in increased efficiency and effectively designed out clashes/eliminated the need for any other secondary steelwork, whilst ensuring that the finer technical architectural details were adhered to. Although not a requirement to meet BIM Level 2 on this scheme, the industry standard principles were used wherever possible implementing the naming conventions stipulated in BS1192/PAS 1192-2 for drawings and models shared amongst the design team.



"Having an approach that is open and engaging gives a great platform to develop schemes that are exciting, affordable and deliver real value for money. The working processes are well considered and adding this to their personal approach makes for an enjoyable working relationship."

Paul McCletchie, Pre-Construction Director, Galliford Try

#### Leeds 10 Primary Schools PFI

As part of Leeds City Council's Private Finance Initiative (PFI) investment programme, Watson Batty Architects concurrently delivered ten new 1 and 2-form entry primary schools.

The forward-looking programme replaces older schools and consolidates mainstream primary, early years and nursery pupils into ten new single and two storey buildings. Every school incorporates nursery 'wraparound' provision and one school includes Special Education Needs & Disability (SEND) specialisms.

In our capacity as Lead Designers, we were responsible for advising the construction team on materials and sustainability throughout the Design and Construct phase. These practices complied with the Leeds City Council's guidelines on whole-life maintenance. The process was specifically tailored to ascertain design, quality, viability, sustainability and whole-life costings, including cost-in-use and facilities maintenance issues.

By implementing innovative design strategies, we created modern, robust buildings that are flexible enough to accommodate a range of uses and respond to the growing need for ICT provision. We also exploited the natural features of each site to maximise resources and built in a range of low-energy features, including a Greywater management system.

Crucial to the success of the scheme was a comprehensive consultation process with the school community. Working closely with the construction team, we achieved one of the fastest recorded Private Finance Initiative (PFI) schemes to date.





#### Hunslet Moor Primary School

Working alongside ISG construction as project walls to shorten the programme and allow the architects, Watson Batty Architects acted as works to progress on time. lead designer providing proactive and flexible construction design support for the works at With works being undertaken in and next to a 'live' Hunslet Moor Primary School, Leeds. The scheme, school site, access to the existing building and working space restrictions were major factors for designed for Leeds City Council, features a two storey extension with six classrooms, a staffroom, the construction team. Timings of work were critical a hall extension and ancillary accommodation. The to the programme; logistical planning of the internal refurbishment works were key with strategic works existing school was also refurbished receiving an extensively remodelled interior, extended kitchen being undertaken in school holidays. facility, and landscape works.

Having inherited an initial design (by NPS) we were able to review the proposals to allow for a more cost and space efficient build solution to be found. Long lead in time products were designed out or were switched for alternative solutions. We were school to expand by a further form entry due to the able to utilise solutions such as precast retaining supply of a six classroom block extension.



"Programme, construction logistics and delivering in a live school environment were all obstacles which we needed to tackle. We needed an architect we knew we could rely on and so we turned to Watson Batty. They did not let us down and delivered on all areas to make a successful project."

Andy McHale, Senior Design Manager, ISG Plc

The completed modern facility has created high spec learning spaces for the pupils and teachers with high levels of natural light, an energy efficient envelope and learning breakout spaces for smaller group learning. The resulting build allows the

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# Secondary Schools

### Good design is demonstrably capable of achieving better outcomes at a lower cost.

For secondary schools, design has a fundamental influence on the achievements and wellbeing of both pupils and teachers. When done well, it is demonstrably capable of achieving better outcomes at a lower cost.

We know that today's secondary education facilities must provide highly adaptive spaces which allow for a multitude of teaching styles and evolving technologies. High-performing schools are called on to prepare students with the perspectives and skills they need to succeed beyond compulsory education and into their future careers.

In many instances, schools not only cater for their students and teachers but also for their communities. Buildings often becoming a focal point for local people, promoting not just education but also well-being and social cohesion. Integrated community use must be a fundamental part of the design. "Watson Batty Architects guided us in helping our vision of an allthrough academy become a reality. Our new academy building provides us with the type of learning environment we needed to deliver our curriculum vision. Despite all unforeseen barriers that arose throughout the project, creative solutions that came within budget were developed. We couldn't be happier in our new school."

Image: Temple Learning Academy, Leeds, Temple Newsome Learning

Matthew Browne, Co Principal, Temple Learning Academy







#### Temple Learning Academy

Temple Learning Academy is a new free school located on the site of the former East Leeds Leisure Centre. Stage 1 of the development provided temporary accommodation within the existing building to allow the school to open in September 2015.

The new Academy at full capacity caters for 1020 pupils aged 4 -16 years operating under a 4 year group phase through school model. To meet the demands of the client brief the proposals encompass a part refurbishment and part demolition of the existing leisure centre together with a major new build teaching block and associated landscape works.

The design solution retains the majority of the existing sports centre; the swimming pool is removed to make way for a new 3 storey general teaching block. The ground floor accommodates Phase 1 and 2 pupils from Reception through to Year 4, with direct access to external learning and play space. The remaining floors provide general learning, science and IT spaces.

The Academy has become a central focus within the community, consequently the main communal spaces; dining, assembly, sports and learning resources are at the heart of the development.

We were appointed by ISG to support the bid and development of the new free school academy. The project was procured through the regional EFA Contractor's Framework.



"The experience of working with Watson Batty has been excellent. I think all members of the ISG team find working with them a good experience and their forward thinking proactive attitude has been appreciated!"



Andy McHale, Senior Design Manager, ISG Plc on Temple Learning Academy



mple Learning Academy, Leeds, Temple Newsome Learning Partnership

#### **Dixons McMillan Academy**

be operated by the Dixons Academy Trust. Located on Trinity Road in Bradford the free school occupies the former Bradford College site. The proposals converted the existing college building into a the building. The existing building has undergone Secondary School for 720 pupils aged 11 to 18.

Design proposals included the partial demolition of the existing building as well as the conversion of a new build extension and a new build free standing Alongside the new heart space and entrance foyer sports hall with changing facilities.

Responding to the client's brief the proposals create a school environment which is centred around

Dixons McMillan Academy is the 4th Free School to a large multi-use 'heart' space. Watson Batty Architects created a central covered heart space by enclosing the existing semi-courtyard entrance area by providing a new glass frontage and entrance to a major refurbishment to create suitable teaching spaces and facilities as well as allowing the academy to function efficiently and securely.

> there is a new sports hall facility with integrated changing provisions and storage. Together with landscape and highways proposals the scheme was successfully completed in November 2016.

# ananana and IGH EXPECTATIONS NO EXCUSES DMA SCHOLARS AT WORK









"It's my pleasure to say that our expectations have been met or exceeded to date. Watson Batty Architects delivered an exceptional design within agreed timelines and budget."







#### Trinity Academy Leeds

A new 3-storey, 1200 place secondary school for students aged 11 - 16 along with a stand alone 4 court sports hall. It is anticipated that the secondary school will be brought into operation prior to construction work completing to allow the school to start the academic year in September 2021. To achieve this, the proposals are designed to facilitate a 2 phased handover, ensuring the safe delivery and security of the secondary school.

Leeds City Council (LCC) are proposing to build the secondary school to part fill a shortfall of 13.75 forms of entry across the Central, Inner East, Inner North and Temple areas of the city with the intention to pass the school onto a free school provider to operate and manage.

The central vision for the development of this site is to provide a high-quality secondary school, along with associated sports and landscape facilities, which will benefit and serve future generations of children from the local area as well as providing valuable community resources.

To sit well within the context of the surrounding residential buildings, whilst having enough height and scale to create the sense of a civic presence on the site, the proposals for the 3 storey building have a flat roof design. This civic presence is built upon in the landscape design proposals with the main pedestrian walkway to the school from Torre Road taking a straight, linear path to the centre of the main school building where the main entrance is located. This approach to the building is enhanced by the gradual climb in elevation as you approach the building (while maintaining gradients suitable for wheelchair users).

The proposed secondary school design has been set around the DfE's area requirements which include external area requirements. The layout of the secondary school has been designed both to work with the internal spatial sequencing requirements and constraints while also responding to the unique constraints and opportunities of the site.

A key driver for LCC in the design of the school was to maximise the use of the new facilities by the local community. In line with this consideration, a separate and standalone sports hall building is proposed which will contain changing facilities and an activity studio as well as community storage. The provision of a standalone sports block allows manageable and secure zoning for community use without compromising the safeguarding of the main school building.

"Their positive, flexible and proactive approach together with their ability to create successful and professional working relationships has undoubtedly added to the success of the project." Ged Simmonds, Project Director, Laing O'Rourke









#### The Dearne Advanced Learning Centre

Located on the urban fringe of Goldthorpe, The Dearne Advanced Learning Centre (ALC) is a state-of-theart, 1,200-place school for 11-16-year-olds. It's part of Barnsley's Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme, a £1billion investment into the local authority's entire secondary school estate.

As well as the main academic areas, the new ALC building incorporates a suite of administration and learning support spaces, specialist curriculum areas and external leisure and sports facilities.

Working in close collaboration with the school and local authority on the bid submission, design development and production information, Watson Batty Architects were deeply involved in this model school project, right up to the final delivery.

Our design solution allows for the delivery of a modern personalised learning curriculum within a flexible environment. The internal layout provides social learning spaces that flex and adapt to different learning styles. A large, central 'heart' space is the key to the building's design and function. It provides versatile performance and audience areas and allows views and access to all parts of the building through a light and open, multi-functional space.

Through the use of biomass boilers, wind turbines and by maximising the use of natural light and ventilation, the scheme achieved the BREEAM rating 'Very Good'.



"They have successfully translated the vision and the ethos of the Trust carefully and sensitively integrating a range of specialised learning spaces into the school."

Euler Academy

Visitors

# **Fully Inclusive Learning**

We appreciate our designs must support a vast range of age, need and ability, tailoring spaces to adapt to specific social, emotional, mental, health requirements. Every student matters is the heart of our approach to any learning environment. We appreciate that greater attention to detail, a more attentive 'listening ear', and a wider understanding of guidance and regulation is required within SEND facilities.

Every learning environment should not only be fit for purpose but inspire and uplift everyone who uses the space. Our aim is to ensure that students with additional needs have the best opportunity to access a lifetime of learning at every level of ability. Our designs are developed from both personal experience of living with children with additional needs, and our successful delivery of several SEMH and AP schemes.



Image: Euler Academy Primary School, Hull, Department of Education/Venn Academy Trust

"Their Designers listened, considered and where appropriate challenged to fully understand, develop and answer the project brief, providing an exciting and modern learning environment reflecting the aspirations, needs and requirements of the students and their learning community."





#### Euler Academy Primary School

100.610

Located in Hull, Euler Academy is a new build 56 place hybrid special school for pupils with a range of complex SEMH needs and moderate learning difficulties; young students who are struggling in mainstream education or not having access to education at all.

To establish a baseline for individual learning and behaviour plans, classrooms have been designed to accommodate no more than seven pupils and two or three staff members, with additional group rooms for one to one support for behavioural and pastoral care. Design proposals have also been aligned with the curriculum's requirement for the teaching of social etiquette skills through lunchtime, with this space designed large enough for both staff and pupils to sit and eat together.

The project is being procured by the Department for Education (DfE) via the ESFA Construction Framework on behalf of the Venn Academy Trust.



#### The Vine SEN

A new 60 place, high-quality SEN facility along with associated outside exercise space and landscaped educational spaces to cater for students with Complex Needs that require more ongoing support or medical care whilst in education. Replacing the existing c1950's primary school building, which has had little adaptation to cater for the needs of the students, the new site will benefit and serve future generations of students from the local area, as well as providing valuable community resources.

Initial concept designs followed the principals of the DfE Gen 7 SEN school design to ensure the building meets curriculum requirements to provide sufficient internal and external accommodation for suitable teaching, learning and support space for 60 students, aged 16 - 25, with complex and additional needs.

The proposals comprise of a 2-storey building with a flat roof design with a single storey element to the hydrotherapy suite to achieve the balance of siting well next to the 2-storey pitched roof existing residential buildings of Torre Drive and the adjacent primary school. The intention is not to create an imposing civic presence, but to create a modern approachable and functional building that significantly enhances the urban setting of the existing site.

The simple 'L' shaped footprint provides articulation to the plan, which is placed central to the site. This allows a balance of external space to the east and west of the building whilst providing privacy for the students from the adjacent public open spaces.

The site masterplan has evolved to ensure the most efficient and effective use of the site in order to achieve a well-functioning SEN college. A series of engagement meetings have also tailored enhance provision to support the complex needs of the students.

"Balancing a keen understanding of the pupils needs and the academy's operations with a tight budget and working within the confines of an existing building was a huge challenge. Watson Batty were able to strike the right balance between the commercial constraints and functional requirements of the end user - an excellent partner to work with!"



#### Stephen Longfellow Academy

Stephen Longfellow Academy is a 300 place through-school for pupils aged 5-16 and the first Alternative Provision (AP) School operated by the GORSE Academies Trust. The academy and facility provide education and support services for vulnerable and challenging pupils from across the Leeds city region and neighbouring authorities. The project completed in September 2018 converted a former office building into an operation AP facility and includes a new build sports hall and landscape works.

Safety and Security were key concerns when designing the new facility. Access control was fitted throughout the building including external areas which contained pupils within the site. Extensive remodelling of the building provided small class base teaching areas, new toilet facilities, dining facilities and a new reception area.

When designing the layout, the building was segregated into 4 self-contained zones, containing different age pupils groups. This ensured the pupils were safeguarded within the facility and that pupil movements were managed. High levels of supervision were required through-out the school meaning a large number of doors were replaced and fitted with glazed side screens.

The project also included the reworking of the existing car park to form a secure mini-bus pick-up and drop-off areas as well as secure and segregated external play areas. The construction of a new build 4 court sports hall on-site provided an important activity space for the school and pupils to use. The sports hall and secure fencing were also designed to allow out of hours community use.

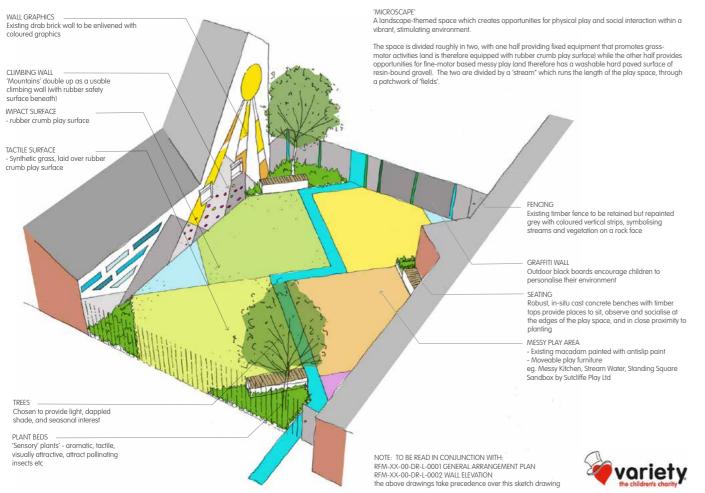








Andy McHale, Senior Design Manager, ISG Plc



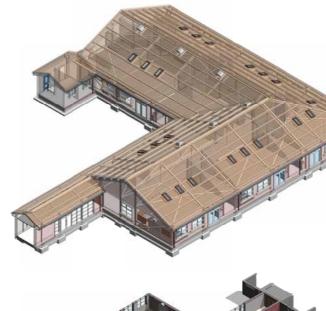
Images this page: Green Meadows Special Educational Needs School, Guiseley

 Contractional Needs School (SEND)

 Variety's Big Build Project 2019 has called upon the resource, time, pased part refurbishment and provision of specialist equipment at Green Neadows School SILC (Specialist Inclusive Learning Centre) in Guiseley.

The works comprise the internal refurbishment of a variety of group, inclusion and sensory rooms as well as the early year classroom and ancillary areas with a new all-inclusive outdoor space. At the secondary school a redundant kitchen, stores and washroom facilities are being transformed into a food technology classroom whilst various store and plant spaces are being reconfigured to create a servery facility to enhance the dining experience.









#### Kings Mill SEN School

The scheme includes a new special education needs teaching block with 7 specialist spaces. The development supports a range of physical, emotional and educational needs from reception to Key Stage 4.

Kings Mill SEN school in Driffield provides learning and teaching for students with severe or profound learning difficulties, as well as autism, epilepsy, physical disabilities, sensory impairment and challenging behaviour. The specialist provision caters for students aged 2 years to 19 years old.

The design solution for the second phase of the new school will include 7 specialist teaching spaces together with staff and ancillary accommodation. The scheme also includes an extensive external play provision.

We worked closely with the school, Local Authority and contractor to ensure the internal spaces are designed around the specific needs of the school community. The scheme is being delivered on a tight site whilst the school is still live and operational.





# **Universities and Colleges**

million

Image: Pen-y-ghent Building - Craven College, Skipton

The need to create inspiring places to gather, collaborate and learn is more important than ever.

There are increasing factors supporting the move away from the traditional long-standing model for higher education. To us, this trend points to an exciting evolution in the role of architecture.

The advent of the internet, growing access to data networks and the availability of affordable mobile computing devices are allowing more people to take advantage of a post-secondary education. And it means that students can choose to study at an institution based anywhere in the world while never leaving their home. With this paradigm shift comes uncertainty about the future of the physical classroom.

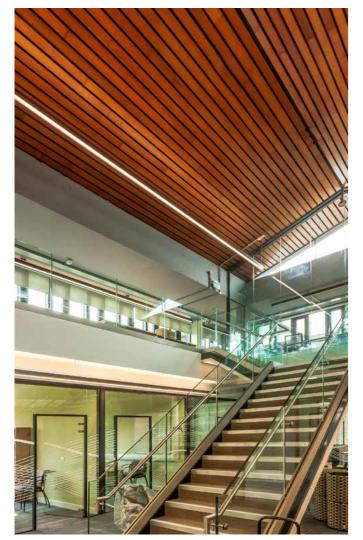
Nonetheless, research suggests that physical interaction in real time remains an irreplaceable component in the learning process. The experience gained during interactions with peers and instructors is integral to the effective training of students and cannot be replaced or imitated. Design must now work harder to champion the function of the physical space – the need to create inspiring places to gather, collaborate and learn in is more important than ever.

Pen-y-ghent

A ala alter

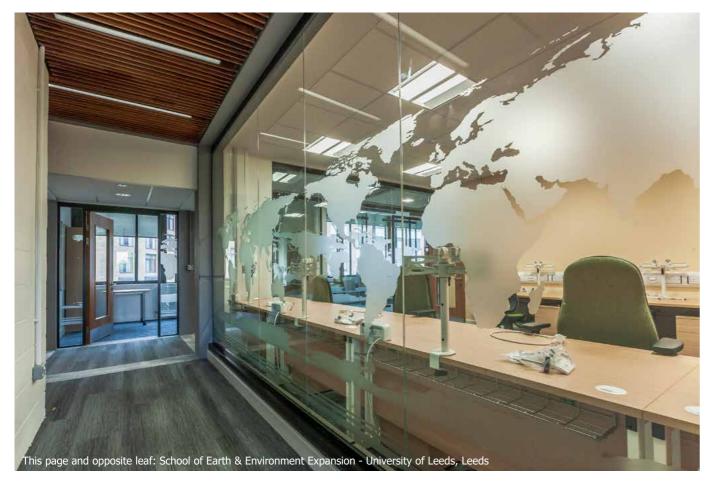
"The company provided superb support with an amazing response time from day one, demonstrating an uncanny ability to get things right first time and immediately embracing the College's ethos and values."

Wes Johnson, Acting Principal, Craven College









"It's been a pleasure working with both yourself and the wider management team, I honestly can't recall a project in my 38+ years in the industry that has been executed so well and in a such true spirit of collaboration."

Darren Green, Senior Project Manager, Henry Boot Construction Ltd

#### School of Earth & Environment Expansion - University of Leeds

Following a successful bidding process, Watson Batty Architects were appointed by Henry Boot Construction Ltd as architects for the alteration and extension works at the School of Earth & Environment, University of Leeds. Starting on site at the end of 2017, internal alterations at level 7, 10 and 11 of the Staff Centre made way for the expansion which established increased office and study space in the form of new postgraduate research and academic offices along with a PhD and admin support office. A new visitor space and meeting room encourages cross-campus and international collaborative working.

Originally forming part of the Chamberlin Powell & Bon 1960's University Masterplan, the Staff Centre is included on the 'List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest' at Grade II and is a prime example of their architectural style and era. As a result, we worked in partnership with Henry Boot Construction to meet the project goals whilst ensuring the preservation of the listed elements of the building was a key priority throughout.

Completed in July 2018, with an on-schedule 35 week build, new accommodation was created in the former under croft car park at ground level whilst a new mezzanine installed on the third floor created an additional level for office space within the Grade II listed block.



#### The Wolfson Centre for Applied Health Research

We were commissioned by Sewell Group to support work on the new Wolfson Centre for Applied Health Research at Bradford Royal Infirmary (BRI). The new centre brings together researchers from the University of Leeds, University of Bradford with clinicians from Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

By combining the expertise of health researchers with clinicians who have daily contact with patients, the Centre will ensure that its findings are put rapidly into practice – resulting in better health and social care for those who need it most, right here in Yorkshire. The Wolfson Centre will host a centre for child health including the ground-breaking Born in Bradford and Born in Bradford's Better Start cohorts. It will also host the Centre for Ageing, one of the UK's most successful research groups in applied, health research for older people, and the National Institute for Health Research's National Patient Safety Centre.

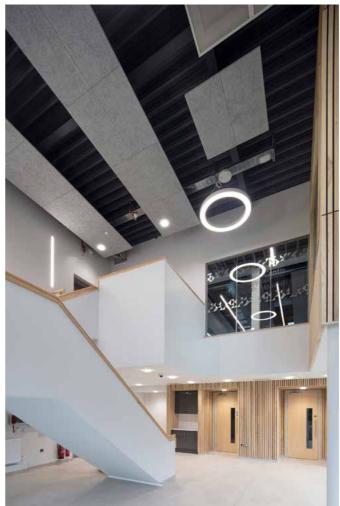
Our design and technical team brought significant track record and experience in working with contractor clients in converting detailed design concepts into tender and construction information. We ensured compliance with statutory guidance and successfully translated vision into built reality.

WBA, in assisting the successful contractor Sewell Group, supported the completion of design development along with the production and coordination of construction information, all whilst retaining a presence on site for the duration of the build phase. The team appointed worked closely with Sewell to support project delivery in a virtual collaborative environment, enabling the practice to continue their strong understanding of delivering projects at BIM Level 2, whilst working alongside a new contractor client. Although there is no requirement for a BREEAM assessment, insulation and air tightness requirements are aligned with PassivHaus standards.

This page and opposite leaf: The Wolfson Centre for Applied Health Research, Bradford, The University of Leeds & The University of Bradford

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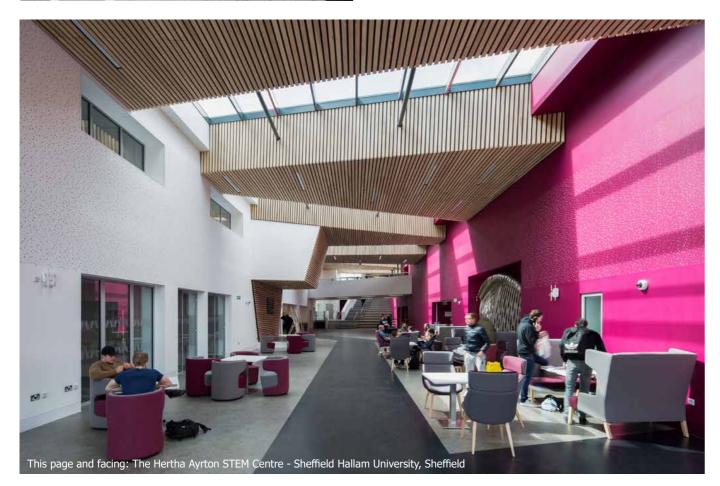












"What a great scheme this is; the atrium looks stunning and it has been exceptionally well received. A very good performance from Watson Batty on what has been a technically challenging project, well done for a great piece of design!" Daniel Ladbury, Director of Estates, Sheffield Hallam University



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#### The Hertha Ayrton STEM Centre - Sheffield Hallam University

Completed in August 2016 and located in Sheffield Hallam University's city campus, the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths) building supports the increased number of students studying in the department. The project works also include additional facilities for new chemical engineering provisions as an interdisciplinary collaboration between the Department of Engineering & Maths and Chemistry and Bio-Sciences.

Following the initial design development and planning approval, undertaken by Watson Batty Architects, the team were novated to the Contractors, Houlton Construction, who constructed the project.

The associated contract works include extensive refurbishment of the existing Sheaf and Eric Menforth buildings as well as constructing a new atrium extension linking the two buildings. The total extent of the works provides 11,500 square meters of floor space dedicated to STEM teaching.

Circulation within the atrium from feature stairs creates four distinctive zones including: exhibition area, café, student help desk and a breakout area. The atrium has a feature entrance from Sheaf Street. The Sheaf Building has been extensively refurbished creating modern teaching spaces with large scale classrooms and break out spaces.

The STEM facility creates a publicly accessible environment as a resource for nurturing enterprising work ready students in science and engineering, as a direct response to employer need and local and national economic policy drivers.

# Modern Methods of Construction

# The world of construction is changing quickly in response to new materials, building techniques, digital design and the need to provide immediate, high quality solutions to meet shortfalls in a number of key sectors. Including education, residential and care.

There are alternative and proven alternatives to 'traditional' forms of construction available to clients. Notwithstanding the ongoing need to carefully evaluate all available options and procurement routes during the early stages of a project, 'offsite' fabrication is rapidly becoming the default choice for a number of public and private sector organisations. It's not a completely new approach but is now founded on a very well informed, agile, innovative and highly skilled operation linked to exciting advances in digital design and collaborative project team environments like Building Information Modelling (BIM).

Essentially it's about pre-manufacturing, using modern methods of production to minimise on site construction. It also has the capacity to not only meet but exceed the requirements to deliver sustainable projects to respond to the climate crisis. In particular, through efficient use of resource, materials and transportation, high-end productivity, reduced waste and energy use, provide robust contemporary solutions that can help deliver circular economy and whole life carbon targets.

At Watson Batty Architects we're proud of being recognised as an innovative design practice but also as architects who know how to deliver technical, compliant, sustainable and safe to build and use projects. We're embracing the opportunities and partnerships that 'offsite,' modern methods of construction (MMC) can provide. Recently we've delivered new airside schemes which incorporate tensile construction and offsite accommodation and we're currently helping deliver a new £18m academy school on the DfE MMC Framework.

#### Image: Internal view of 'offsite construction' sports hall at York St John University



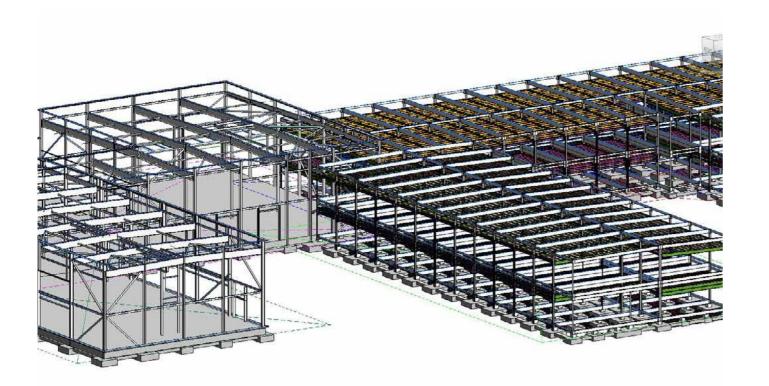


Image: 3D Revit view of a current project with Elliott Group - Part 'traditional' hybrid build and largely offsite two storey new build school



# A Sustainable Future

#### The climate change emergency is the biggest challenge facing our planet.

Over 40% of the UK's carbon footprint is attributed to the built The practice is experienced in environmental design and has environment, with approximately half of this linked directly successfully completed a number of projects in recent years that have achieved BREEAM certification, including 'Excellent' to the operational and embodied energy within buildings. At Watson Batty Architects, we recognise our key position and and 'Outstanding' ratings. It has also completed a Passivhaus certified development for the University of Bradford and we responsibility in helping to reduce further contributions to the causes of climate change. As a practice, we are being proactive are currently developing a net zero carbon design for a new through our actions within the ongoing design of buildings, primary school in Nottingham for the DfE. to mitigate its impact and have signed up to the RIBA 2030 Climate Challenge. This directly addresses the operational In addition to our other services, we can offer a sustainability energy use, embodied carbon, water consumption, land-use, co-ordination role to your project. Leading the design and biodiversity and health and wellbeing of new projects over the project team as an enabler, coordinator, and ambassador to next 5- and 10-year periods. not only meet but exceed current and future building legislation and climate challenge targets aligned with the RIBA Plan of We recognise the benefits to projects by engaging in this Work and Sustainable Outcomes Guide.

We recognise the benefits to projects by engaging in this process and are actively reviewing the impact our designs and specifications have on these benchmarks, in order to better help our clients both, define and deliver their own sustainable outcomes going forward. Sustainable design requires a holistic approach, and we follow the key design principles of a fabric-first and robust solution, but also one tailored to each project to maximise the reductions in embodied carbon, minimise operational energy, water consumption and ongoing maintenance and therefore our clients' future costs.

This ethos resonates in our own office premises in Leeds. Designed by ourselves, the building was awarded the Green Apple Award in 2007 for its energy efficient and sustainable design approach. It includes geothermal heating and cooling systems, a rainwater recovery system, significantly reducing freshwater consumption, natural ventilation and makes extensive use of natural light.



"It has been applauded by all who use the space and is a good testament to engaging with users and delivering a final product which has exceeded their expectations. We have found their approach to design to be inspirational and thoughtful." Clive Wilson, Director of Estates & Facilities, University of Bradford

# Science and Research

# advancements.

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Capitalising on our experience of working across academic, commercial and industrial sectors, these buildings are innovative, high tech and complex but never eclipse the fundamental drive to create effective and enjoyable environments.

From the provision of training space for students of all ages, equipping them with the skills to inspire the next generation of scientists, to highly specialised laboratories dedicated to nutrition, genomics, cell biology and psychology we have a detailed knowledge of the space requirements and building specifications required to deliver these bespoke environments.

#### Facilities that provide the environment for technological and scientific



# **Informal Learning**

# As much learning goes on outside the classroom as it does within, and the spaces in between matter.

The experience of a place is defined as much by the incidental spaces as the classrooms, lecture halls and other spaces with a formal use. It can be argued that as much learning goes on outside the classroom as it does within, and the spaces in between matter. Commonly, such areas are overlooked in the design process and end up being underutilised.

In our eyes, the most successful spaces are those that are carved out to be used creatively – they inspire learning, provoke ideas, promote the sharing of information and teach young people how to socialise.





And it works because they're shared, vibrant and pleasant places to be.

But most of all they shape the relationship the user has with the building. With this idea in mind, the entrance is perhaps the most critical incidental space of all. It's the first thing a visitor or a student sees as they enter a building and is vital in creating the right perception. Consequently, these spaces must be welcoming, spacious and inspiring. For educational establishments, in particular, they offer the chance to articulate their vision and offering.

# **Outdoor Learning**

#### External places that promote interaction can improve social development and the sharing of ideas and knowledge.

Outdoor learning has many known benefits, including improved welfare, health, motivation and performance. Whether it's in a dense urban environment or a rural setting, we believe that providing access to practical external spaces should be a Nature trails and habitat areas are chief design objective. We strive to create external environments that are accessible, functional, inspiring, safe, and most of all fun to use.

When we say outdoor learning, we're also talking about play and socialising. Any external place that promotes issues. interaction can improve social development and the sharing of ideas

and knowledge. Of course, outdoor learning is subject to unpredictable weather and temperatures, so the best spaces are those that can cater for spontaneous use.

also a great source of inspiration and fun for primary school children. But the inclusion of these types of spaces can be beneficial to all learning establishments by encouraging biodiversity and improving air quality - they can even help with flooding



"We have seen within their design proposals a balanced approach of flair and creativity, functionality and practicality, and importantly, with an awareness of budget constraints, an ability to design cost effective solutions."



Image above: The Catalyst Building - University of York, York Image opposite: York Killinghall C of E PS, Harrogate, Building Design & Management/Jacobs

# **Sports and Fitness**

#### Our long experience in the sport and leisure sector is invaluable.

Sports, recreation and fitness are fundamental to the student experience. There are many recognised benefits for the health and wellbeing of students and staff alike.

sector is invaluable when it comes to designing facilities for learning establishments. We have a detailed understanding of sports governance, guidelines, design and technical standards. We've also built close relationships with national governing bodies and are thoroughly acquainted with Sport England requirements.

Ensuring facilities are accessible and visible to encourage regular and continued use is paramount. Many establishments are now locating their facilities in the heart of the campus. The social interaction aspect of sport Our long experience in the sport and leisure is also important, driving the design of better spaces for spectators and social gathering. Often, this interaction involves a wider local audience with many facilities promoting integration with the community.









# Social and Recreation

#### Recreational spaces of any kind answer the basic human need to interact on a social level.

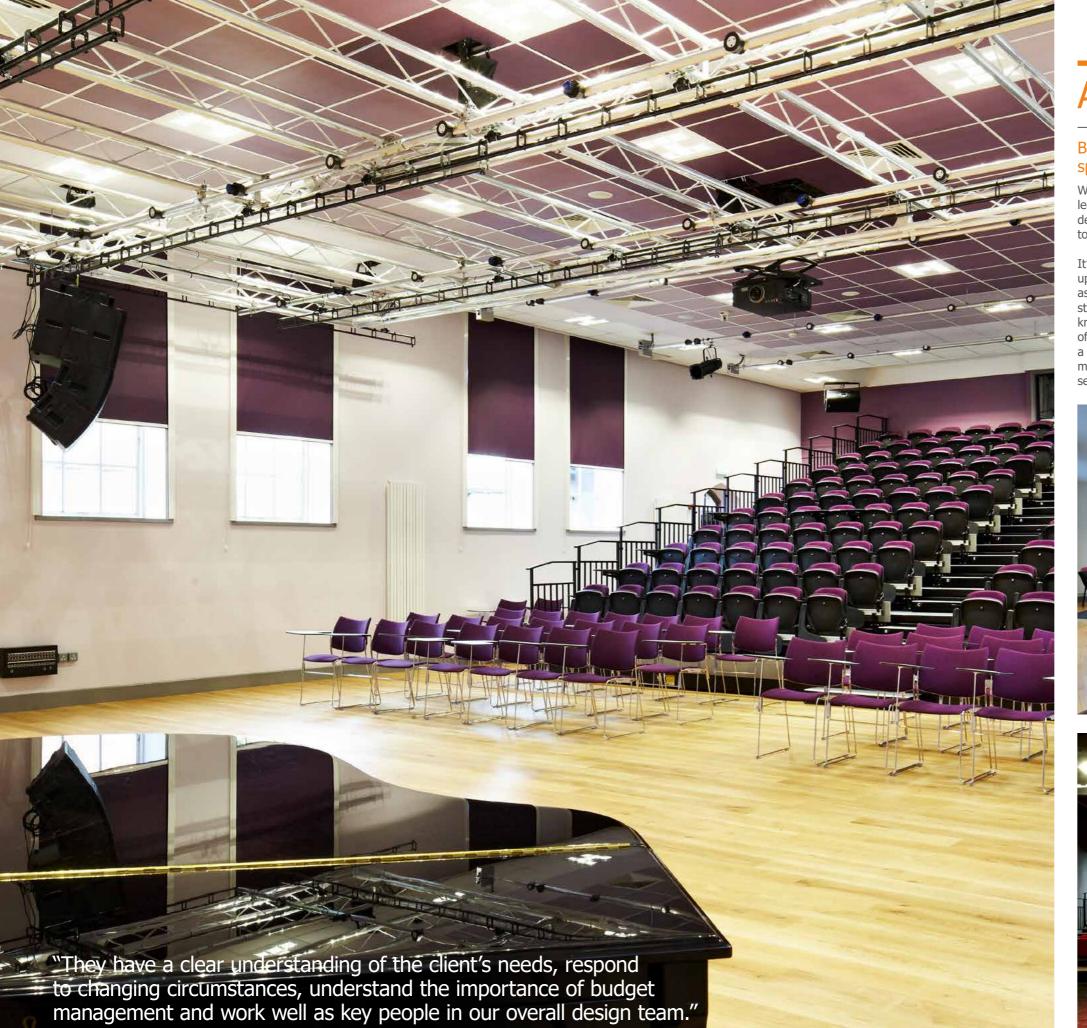
In the complex workings of a modern learning institution, classrooms are only half the story. Dining halls, cafes, play spaces, meet and greet areas, students' human need to interact on a social level. in the masterplanning of any learning environment. And then there are facilities for non-academic support services to consider. Whatever the purpose, all such spaces enhance the experience for student and staff alike.

We've designed a wide range of recreational spaces, both dedicated and incidental, for all kinds of social activities that happen inside and outside union bars and shops all answer the basic of educational buildings. A key design consideration is the specification of Small spaces matter too - places to just appropriate furniture. Adaptability of sit, enjoy a coffee and chat all have a place use is another issue in the forefront of our minds - can the value of space be maximised by allowing it to serve more than one purpose? The answer is almost always yes.









D C Humphreys, Headmaster, Woodhouse Grove School

Above: Tempe Hall, York St John University. Facing: Woodhouse Grove Theatre - Woodhouse Grove School, Bradford

# Audience and Lecture

# Buildings can seamlessly swap between the roles of performance space, sports hall, events venue and conference room.

We're experienced in creating purposeled, engaging venues of all sizes, from dedicated performance and drama spaces to facilities for large spectator events.

It's a sector that demands that we keep up to speed with the various technical aspects like acoustics and performance standards. We also have a deep knowledge of the complex integration of services and technologies, as well as a thorough understanding of the specific materials and finishes associated with the sector. At all times, close collaboration with the relevant specialist suppliers is vital. We naturally work alongside theatre designers, seating designers, and experts in AV, IT and PA systems.

Delivering a flexible space that can be easily adapted for multiple uses is often a prerequisite. We've created buildings that can seamlessly swap between the roles of performance space, sports hall, events venue and conference room.





exciting but viable solutions. In business environments, we can articulate a corporate identity to ensure brand consistency, as well as reinforcing brand values by triggering the right emotional responses. Where budget is an issue, we can create affordable solutions with a wow factor through research and innovative thinking. In places of work, public use and learning, collaboration with Facilities Maintenance departments is invaluable in understanding the needs of end-users. Contemporary spaces demand constant monitoring of creative trends, especially when it comes to choosing environmentally friendly materials, the use of which we advocate wherever possible.

# **Interior Design**

#### The discipline of architectural practice feeds into our interior design artistry, inspiring schemes that marry functionality with aesthetics and complement the built structure.

Augmenting our architectural practice, our interior design service spans preparation of initial concepts to installation and covers furniture, finishes, materials, lighting and graphics. Our experience is wide-ranging, from enhancing period features in Listed properties to devising robust, functional spaces for industrial new-builds. Each project is tailored to its unique requirements, and we work closely with clients to explore exciting but viable solutions.





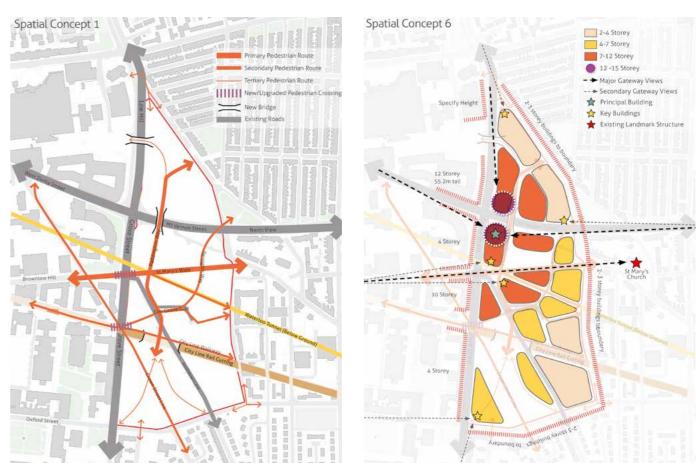
# Strategic Masterplanning

# From university estates to industrial distribution parks we evaluate proposals at a strategic level.

Our masterplanning experience varies widely in scale as well as geographical and social contexts. From strategic frameworks to large scale detailed planning applications, a clear, considered masterplan can transform places leading to their physical, social and economic revival.

Our proposals are built on the principles of good urban design and the way places influence wellbeing, work and lifestyle. Technical understanding is key when dealing with interconnected systems such as transport, energy, waste and information. When done right a successful masterplan can deliver measurable value to all parties.







# **Project Management**

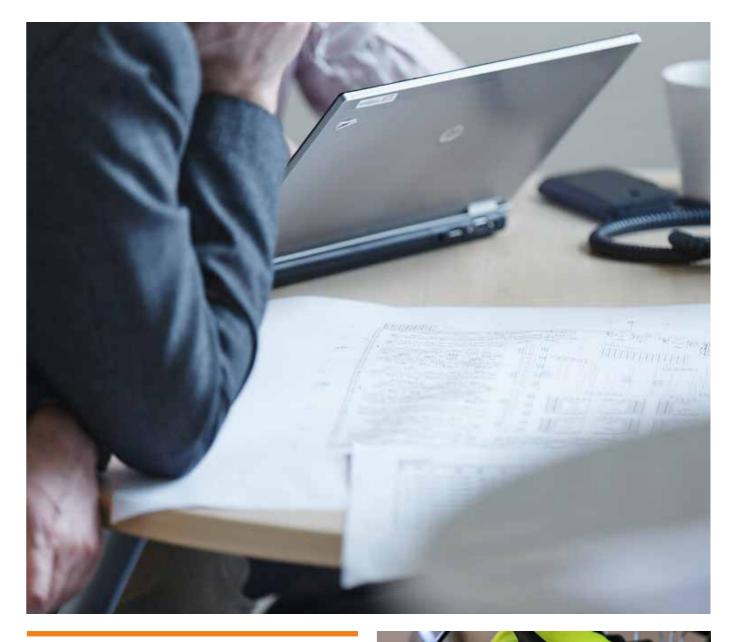
#### "We continuously strive to challenge and improve the way our projects are delivered"

Watson Batty Architects are corporate members of the Association for Project Management with a number of our staff individual members of the Association for Project Management.

We continuously strive to challenge and improve the way our projects are delivered, not only in terms of quality of design, but also in the efficiencies of delivery, and Project Management is at the core of this.

Project management is the discipline of initiating, planning, executing, controlling, and closing the work of a team to achieve specific goals and meet specific success criteria. We accept that the only way to demonstrate performance to meet the success criteria is to measure it and compare it, and project Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) are the main driver of this.

Our Project Management service involves the cycle of planning, implementing, control and monitoring. This process has been effectively used throughout the practice on previous Frameworks.



# **Principal Designers**

#### "We make health, safety and wellbeing a top priority as part of our core service to clients"

Watson Batty Architects has developed the necessary capabilities and resources to fulfil the role and responsibilities when carrying out the duties of Principal Designer under CDM 2015. Our systems have been updated to reflect the changes in the regulations.

All our staff who will be involved on the projects will have the required training, experience and knowledge to undertake the role of Principal Designer.

We make health, safety and wellbeing a top priority as part of our core service to clients; throughout the design process, within the office environment and when visiting construction sites.

We have made significant financial and time investment in all our staff and committed to appointing a dedicated in-house Health Safety and Wellbeing Advisor.

PORTFIELD ROAD

# NATSON BATTY Architects



## BIM

Building Information Modelling increases the efficiency of the design process and reduces the cost and quality risks associated with the building process.

To provide the very best service possible for our clients, we are constantly exploring new ways of working and reviewing the latest developments in technology.

Having identified the advantages of BIM back in 2011, we've embraced this evolving technology wholeheartedly. We have been Task Team certified by Stroma since 2018 and this was renewed in December 2020, allowing us to provide our clients with the assurance that we are aligned to working to a PAS 1192-2/ISO 19650 standard.

BIM enables us to generate elaborate virtual models that can be shared between all parties. The models contain digital objects that carry comprehensive information about the design, construction and operation of assets.

To begin with, it improves communication, benefiting both the practice and those we work with collaboratively. It also brings with it the inherent advantages of increasing the efficiency of the design process and reducing the cost and quality risks associated with the building process. And, by allowing visualisation and assessment of concepts and developments, it enhances creativity.

"Graitec has supported Watson Batty for many years. We've always been available to react to their growing software needs and continue to give advice on the latest software developments in the industry." Claire Merrick, Account Manager, Graitec



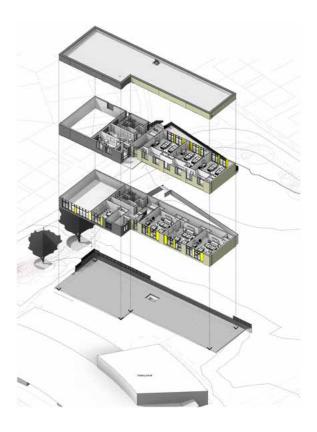


Image: Hollybush Primary School, Leeds

# **Quality Assurance**

# One of the first Architectural practices in the region to have a fully certified Quality system in the 1990s.

Quality is at the heart of everything we do as a practice and our system has been externally certified by BM TRADA for nearly 20 years. We are Quality Assured to BS EN ISO 9001:2015, obtaining our initial accreditation on 8th March 1994. Additionally, we are accredited to ISO 45001:2018 (Occupational Health and Safety Management) and to ISO 14001:2015 (Environmental Management).

The implementation of all projects and the delivery of Watson Batty's Architectural and Principal Designer services are all in accordance with our current Integrated Management System (IMS) which incorporates the above accreditations.

Our IMS procedures ensure that there is an agreed framework in place for project delivery from inception to completion to facilitate the consistent delivery of projects across the practice, ensuring that all our projects are delivered in the same

professional manner, regardless of size, scale or complexity. Experience has demonstrated that our IMS procedures are appropriate for all projects.

We were one of the first Architectural practices in the region to have a fully certified Quality system in the 1990s and then a fully integrated management system early in the 2000s, quickly realising the benefits that it brought to consistent project delivery and ultimately customer satisfaction.

Watson Batty Architects Ltd are certified to be Cyber Secure by the ECSC and hold the Cyber Essentials Certificate. This certification reinforces the fact that we are a secure practice, not only for our staff, but clients and potential clients, preventing us from potential cyber attacks from outside the organisation.





# Contacts

#### Key Sector Contacts



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#### We strive to ensure our part in CSR is brought to the attention of our staff at all times.

As a practice, we recognise the importance of approaching Corporate Social Responsibility in a coordinated and committed manner to make a positive impact to our clients, the community, our partners and the environment.

Through our culture, our work in the community and both our environmental and ethical policies, we strive to ensure our part in CSR is brought to the attention of our staff at all times. We encourage the utmost efforts both as individuals and as a company to operate in an ethical manner, both currently and as a future focus of the practice.

The nature of our work makes our impact on the environment at the forefront of how we operate, and we subscribe to the concept of environmentally aware design, supporting the activities of the entire development team in meeting this objective. Through our design approach we are committed to reducing the impact of our own activities on the environment and raising the awareness of this to our staff, external clients, subcontractors and suppliers. Furthermore, it is in our best interest to achieve client satisfaction and retention through a commitment to policies of good practice and service, and adhere to Statutory and Regulatory requirements in doing so.

Being future focused, we value diversity in the workplace and believe in caring for our employees and work experience students, encouraging continual learning and development opportunities across the business. As a firm, and as individual staff members, we understand the significant impact we can have on the community and are therefore dedicated to being a responsible contributing member of society both through financial and active support.



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# Locations



**FUTURE BUILT** 

