

A green circular logo with a white, stylized shape resembling a bite taken out of it, containing the word "robothams" in white lowercase letters.

robothams

Education Profile





sixth form centre

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Clients

Abingdon & Witney College

Aston University

Birmingham City University

Bliss Charity School

Bromsgrove School

Bromsgrove Preparatory School

Campion School

City College Coventry

Coventry City Council

Coventry University

East Birmingham Network

Kings High School for Girls

Midland Academies Trust

Myton School

North Warwickshire and Hinckley College

Paddox School Rugby

Rendcomb College

Sidney Stringer Academy

Southam College

Studley Junior School

University of Warwick

University of Wolverhampton

Warwick School

Warwickshire College

Warwickshire County Council

Why Robothams?

Robothams Architects have worked for an array of educators over the last 20 years with commissions that have delivered engaging spaces for the youngest children through to research facilities for Universities. A high percentage of our projects come from existing, long term relationships with our clients which develop from a clear understanding of their needs and the prevailing trends in learning.

Our approach begins with engagement at all levels of the client organisation to understand teachers, learners and management expectations. Using visualisation technology and the latest 'walk-through' models we can describe design ideas in detail, incorporating feedback and developing options which will provoke and engage users. We then apply our commercial and technical experience to deliver an affordable, successful design that will exceed expectations.

Providing this service is a team of experienced architects and technologists who have specialised in the education sector. All our commissions are managed by a Partner who will be directly involved from inception through to completion, providing an exceptionally professional and informed service.



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Client : City College Coventry
Value : £39 million (combined)



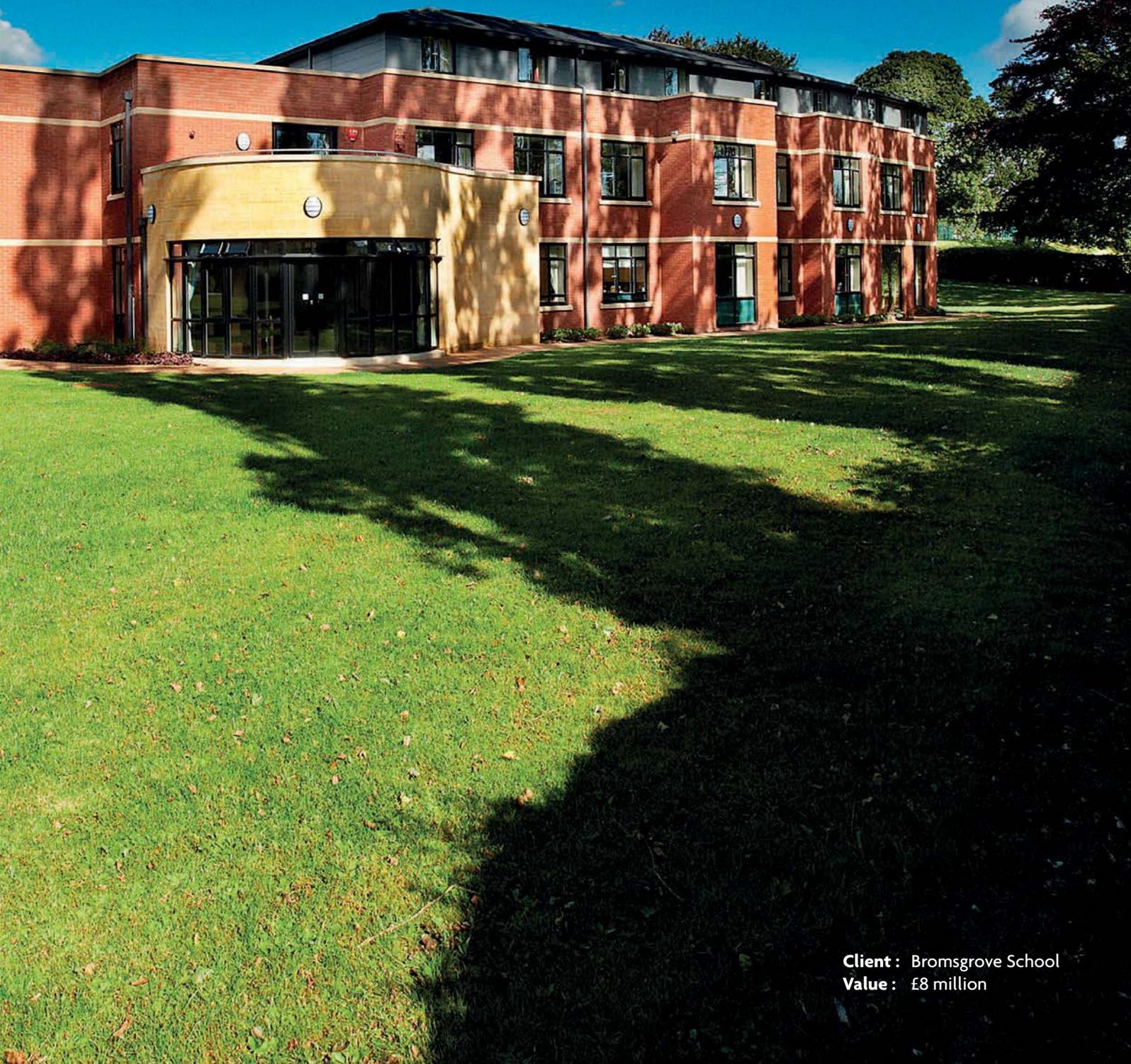
City College Coventry



The requirements of the College's brief was to provide the full range of vocational and academic teaching accommodation whilst merging three previously separate sites together to form a new campus close to the city centre. Consultation with both the City Council's master-planners and the College decided that the new facility should face onto a new public square at the heart of the Swanswell regeneration area. This exciting and pioneering project forms an integral part of one of the largest urban regeneration projects in Coventry since the post-war redevelopment of the city.

The College was committed to the philosophy of a partnering procurement route and following pricing and competitive interview opted for an NEC form of contract. The Contractor was appointed early in the design process and contributed to the development of the final scheme. Having reviewed various options the most economical structural system for the type of spaces within the building was a steel frame with composite concrete floors. This frame was then clad in load bearing masonry and lightweight cladding.





Client : Bromsgrove School
Value : £8 million



Boarding Houses, Bromsgrove School

A home from home for domestic and international boarding pupils fitting sympathetically into a traditional school campus.

The site contains houses for both boarding and day pupils. Our brief was to extend and refurbish the existing boarding houses and provide additional accommodation. The client's aspiration was to give the boarding houses a new image as part of the school's ongoing vision of replacing older, tired buildings with state-of-the-art facilities. Our design matches these aspirations whilst also recognising the need for a traditional architectural treatment which fits sympathetically into the context of the existing campus.

The overall development not only created 245 ensuite bedrooms but provided living accommodation including, kitchens, IT facilities and laundry.

A traditional JCT form of contract was employed with a phased approach allowing the existing buildings to be occupied and remain operational throughout, thus minimising the disruption to the school.

The new build elements used loadbearing masonry structure. All bedrooms in the new build and refurbished areas included self-contained pod bathrooms to reduce fit-out times and to significantly shorten the overall construction phase. As important in the design was the landscaped areas between buildings encouraging pupils to use the external spaces and creating a 'garden' setting.

Housman VI Form boarding house included the refurbishment of an important Listed Building as the centrepiece of the development.



Client : Birmingham City University
Value : £7 million



Doug Ellis Sports Centre, BCU

We worked closely with the University to develop a brief for the new facility. The spatial requirements created a centre which provides a sports hall, fitness suite, dance and aerobics studios and an all-weather pitch with associated changing facilities. It is designed to serve their sites across the city, and also provides the wider community with access to high quality sport venues.

Our response to the brief was to design a contemporary scheme, with sharp edged simplicity and a vibrant façade treatment to the blank sports hall. A combination of natural materials including brickwork and cedar cladding are juxtaposed against crisp curtain walling and polycarbonate cladding. The siting of the building makes it visible from the main academic campus as well as the wider context.

The University procured the building and associated landscape works using a Design and Construct contract with a well-developed set of Employer's Requirements.





Client : Warwick Schools Foundation
Value : £4.7 million

Kings High School Projects



Sympathetic refurbishment and enlargement of existing building to create a state-of-the-art Creative Arts Centre and new build VI Form Centre.

The new two storey Creative Arts building houses a studio theatre, drama studio and art rooms combined with the refurbishment of the existing music faculty. The building includes performance and rehearsal spaces, peripatetic rooms, recording studio and art rooms. It is located in a conservation area and has been designed using a sympathetic palette of materials including brickwork, timber windows and plain clay tiles.

The complex programme required a phased development allowing the school to occupy certain parts of the building at all times.

The construction incorporates steel framework to integrate the new structure with the existing Victorian building. The design employed sustainable technologies including solar power and rain water harvesting.

The VI Form Centre was designed in the heart of the conservation area, blending the traditional with the contemporary, incorporating a glazed entrance atrium linking all elements of the facility including teaching, recreation and IT.

Our architectural response was to provide a contemporary glazed entrance atrium as a hub from which all other facilities emanate. The modern aesthetic of the new entrance provides a juxtaposition to the style of the teaching blocks either side which sympathetically marry with the local vernacular.





Client : Warwickshire College Project
Value : £9 million



Leamington Campus, Warwickshire College

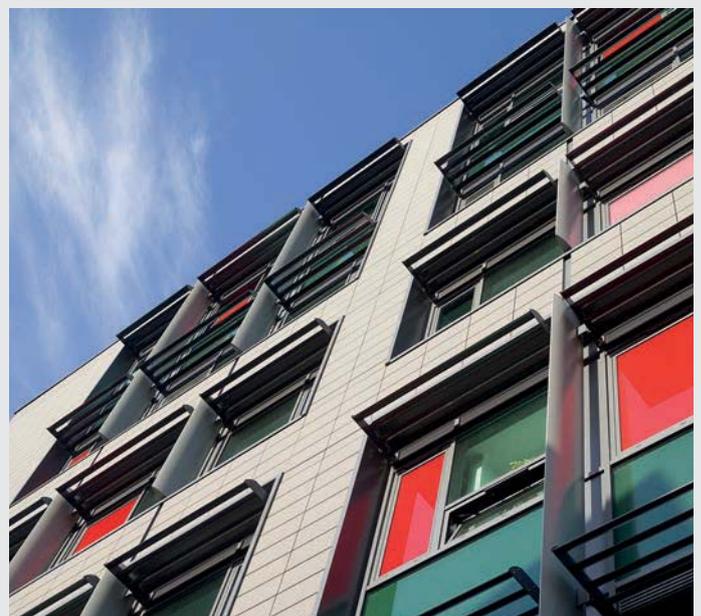
The rejuvenation of a tired 1960's teaching block to form an open plan learning building with new contemporary entrance and foyer.

The practice has a long standing relationship with Warwickshire College and have worked at their campuses in Leamington Spa, Pershore, Moreton Morrell and Henley in Arden. The refurbished building and associated new entrance foyer will be the showpiece, projecting an image of an innovative, accessible organisation providing high quality learning opportunities.

The new entrance foyer creates a reconfigured pedestrian link to adjoining buildings. Visitors arrive into a double height space affording views into adjacent areas. These areas provide waiting spaces, meeting rooms and enterprise zones. The foyer contains new vertical circulation that links revised teaching and support spaces on the upper floors.

The building is over-clad with a new façade creating a flagship image. New deep set replacement windows, including vertical aerofoils and solar shading greatly improves the buildings environmental performance and levels of comfort.

The new entrance foyer's dynamic glazed façade surrounding the revolving entrance doors further emphasises the entrance into the hub and creates a dynamic visual appearance. Patent glazing zones provide a naturally lit environment.





Client : Coventry University
Value : £4.5 million (combined)



Jaguar Building, Coventry University



This project has seen the redevelopment of the Coventry University Jaguar building to update the facilities from their original 1970's layout to provide a modern and vibrant post-graduate teaching facility for the BES faculty. Spread over two phases the project has encompassed the complete refit of all areas of the building to provide new teaching spaces dedicated to the faculty's drive to move from didactic based learning to focus on group working with the layout providing a mix of both formal and informal learning spaces in a range of group sizes.

A key driver has also been providing direct links between teaching and research with a number of research groups based at the heart of the facilities.



Key elements of the scheme include the provision of an improved entrance and the infilling of the existing courtyard to the east of the building to create a new top lit atrium space. The atrium provides not only large areas for informal working but also the height required to drive the natural ventilation strategy for the whole of the block. The project has retained the existing concrete frame throughout with the addition of new steel framed elements as required.



Client : Warwickshire County Council
Value : £26 million

North Leamington School

Creation of an open campus style school delivering improved academic achievement. The individual buildings include the Hub, Teaching Faculties and Sports Centre

The design brief was for the development of a new secondary school to replace the existing outdated 1500-pupil facility. The core requirements included the provision of teaching spaces tailored to the needs of different faculties, sports facilities and a community theatre. The 'Hub' building provides adult teaching and post 16 facilities near to the main entrance and car park.

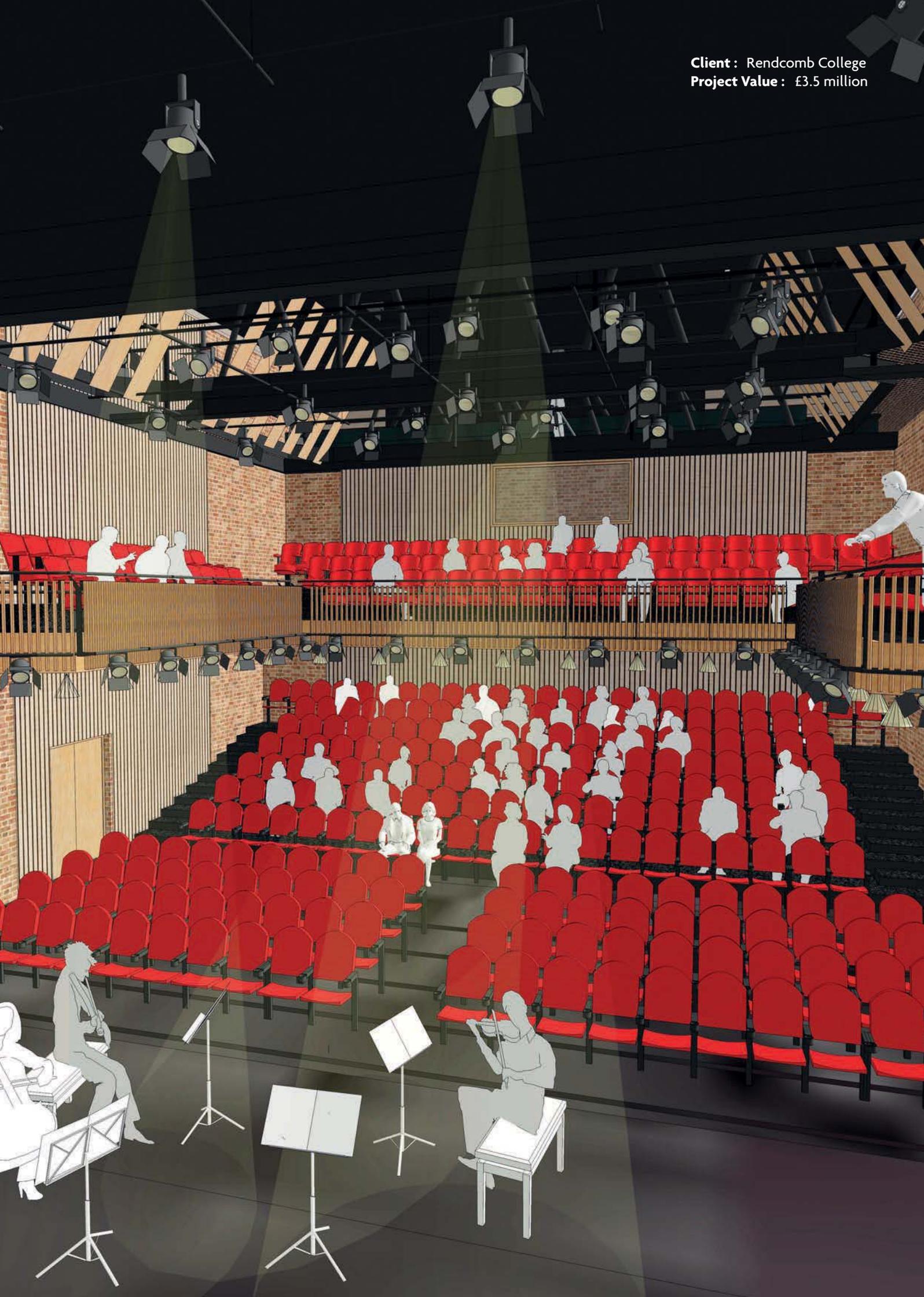
Due to the scale and context of this proposal it was felt appropriate to adopt an open campus type of development, with the buildings clustered around a central courtyard. Sustainability, energy efficiency and life cycle costs were fundamental motivations in our design approach.

Framed concrete structures were employed with the associated benefits of cooling using its thermal mass. The specification of recyclable materials and those derived from sustainable sources were a key consideration. The project also used SUDS, sedum roofs and low carbon biomass power to help achieve their BREEAM Excellent status.

The building was awarded the SCALA '2010 National Building of the Year'.



Client: Rendcomb College
Project Value: £3.5 million



Performing Arts Centre, Rendcomb College



Rendcomb College is an independent school, serving boarding and day students based in a small Gloucestershire village 3 miles outside Cirencester. The village is located in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and contains 33 listed buildings. The school campus is integrated into the village and includes a listed mansion and Old Rectory.

Rendcomb College has excellent teaching facilities and boarding accommodation but its current Performing Arts provision is limited. It was decided by the Governors that for a school with a strong tradition of dramatic and musical performance, these facilities were not adequate so a design competition was held, Robothams with Charcoalblue were appointed.

The Performing Arts Centre has been positioned to respect the listed buildings and its landscaped setting. It has been designed to be discrete and contemporary, using sustainable materials and technologies to limit its impact on its surroundings. The building has been setback within the site to allow it to breathe within the existing environment. The building is set below the existing ground line with a sedum roof to complement the existing landscape. Care has been taken to make the height of the proposed building subservient to the massing of the surrounding buildings.

The proposals are for a sympathetic Performing Arts Centre which provides a sustainable solution to Rendcomb College's educational need, while respecting the unique heritage and rich surroundings upon which its history is based.



Client : Faithful + Gould
Value: £18 million



Sherbourne Residences, University of Warwick

A phased multi-million pound new build student residences project in a green field location on the periphery of the University of Warwick campus. Phase 1 was completed for the academic intake in 2012, Phase 2 is due for completion for summer 2016.

Appointed as part of a team led by Faithful and Gould, and drawing on a track record of delivering student residences on the campus, the project's objective was to design a scheme of over 500 student bedrooms which achieved a set of rigorous environmental targets and conformed with the University's masterplan

The existing campus is a mix of contemporary residential and academic buildings within a high quality, established landscape. The site is located on the perimeter of the campus adjacent to greenbelt. It is therefore necessary that the design fits with both man-made and natural contexts.

Extensive pre-application engagement with the local planning authority and the University's building committee developed a scheme which created a series of unique courtyard spaces.

The façades are softened and articulated with colour panels and curved roof sections provide a more intimate organic external form, which work with a detailed landscaping scheme.

The design was developed to RIBA Workstage E after which the contract was let using a Design and Build procurement route, Robothams remained working for the University as client's architect and compliance monitor.



Client : Coventry City Council | Kier Regional

Value : £4.4 million





Sidney Stringer Academy

Working within a team led by Sheppard Robson Architects the practice completed the design for a post 14 centre called the Enterprise and Innovation Centre. This satellite building to the main academy provides a link to the adjacent FE College with realistic vocational environments such as offices, design studios and catering facilities. Located across two sites the new academy accommodates 1050 11-16 year old students and 300 post 16 students.

The Sidney Stringer Academy project was fast tracked through the Academies Framework. Robothams formed part of a team led by Kier Education, who were awarded the Academy contract following an intense 12 week ITT bidding process. The construction phase of the project was undertaken on an NEC form of partnering contract. The design of the 3 storey concrete framed building aims to simplify the facade down to a group of elegant, yet robust components, buff brickwork with composite aluminium and timber window system, with the facade construction central to the buildings enhanced thermal performance.

The school have since commissioned a further phase of work as an extension to the original building to provide further teaching and conference rooms radiating from the atrium.

The building was awarded an RIBA Award in Spring 2013.



Bliss Charity School



Client : Lendlease / Northamptonshire County Council
Value : £500,000

The School, established in 1681, is a Grade II Listed building within the Nether Heyford Conservation Area. The development provides 200m² of new teaching accommodation and 140m² of refurbished accommodation within a tight budget. The scheme is respectful of the neighbouring School House in terms of its scale and employs local materials and details including coursed ashlar ironstone, window and cill dressings. Joinery is simple oak set into the stone with black verge boards, fascias and soffits. A slate roof differentiates the extension from the thicker plain clay tiles of the Listed Building.

Robothams led and employed the design team as a single point of contact for the clients Lend Lease. Early consultation assisted in establishing criteria for transport, conservation and sustainability which mitigated later design issues. The project was traditionally procured and tendered to Northamptonshire County Council framework contractors.

Due to operational constraints and the tight 'live' site the project was phased. An enabling contract diverted services in preparation for the first phase. This was followed by the construction of the new build accommodation permitting the school to decant during internal modification and renovation works from the Grade II Listed School Building. The School remained operational throughout the contract.

Midland Studio School, Hinckley

Client : Midland Academies Trust
Value : £1.0 million

The practice was appointed in 2011 to design a new Studio School by the Midland Academies Trust at its Spa Lane campus. The Trust's principle sponsor, North Warwickshire & Hinckley College, had commissioned Robothams on a number of projects over the previous 7 years creating a close working relationship.

This project involved the reuse of a 1930's technical college building to provide a range of teaching accommodation including a laboratory and ancillary spaces such as a refectory and student social space. The existing building was a load bearing, masonry structure with concrete floors and a timber roof structure. All mechanical and electrical services were replaced as part of the project which included the addition of a platform lift between ground and lower ground floor levels. Our commission also encompassed the co-ordination of the fit out and design of bespoke furniture.

Following a procurement review a single stage tender traditional form of JCT contract was selected with tenders invited from a number of regional contractors. Specialist items such as the laboratory fit out were developed by design sub-contractors in parallel with the works progressing on site. Despite challenges around asbestos removal and long order products, the school was completed for the start of the academic year, and occupied by pupils and staff.



Client : Bromsgrove School
Value : £6 million



Sports & Hospitality, Bromsgrove School



We were commissioned to deliver a dramatic facelift to Bromsgrove School's Sports Centre including a new state-of-the-art sports arena, refurbished swimming pool, fitness suite and changing facilities to complement school's internationally renowned sporting reputation.

Our brief was to incorporate new facilities around an established sports complex. The development included a new 42m x 34m Sports Arena catering for the requirements of cricket, hockey, netball and basketball with bleacher seating for national events. A new two-storey extension replaced the existing sports complex and included a new reception, Fitness Suite, café and covered link. In addition, the school required a Hospitality Suite overlooking the sports pitches, a refurbished swimming pool and extended changing rooms.

A traditional JCT form of contract was employed with a phased construction programme to allow the existing sports facilities to be occupied and remain operational. This approach minimised disruption to the school.

The Sports Arena is a lightweight, steel framed construction to maximise the clear-span distance and achieve the spatial standards for indoor sports courts. A curved sedum roof and sunken form reduces the impact of the facility on adjacent neighbours, whilst the building is clad in a combination of brickwork, stone and rainscreen cladding to unify the appearance of the facility. Internally the hospitality areas and fitness suite are defined by a laminated timber roof structure which creates open, flexible spaces with views to sports fields surrounding the building.





Client : Aston University
Value : £700,000



Teaching Spaces, Aston University

Robothams were appointed in 2013 to prepare an options appraisal for two key spaces within the University's main building. The first was an existing ground floor lecture theatre which needed refurbishment and the addition of seating capacity. Our design created a new configuration with a central aisle and 197 seats, with all finishes and lighting renewed to create a vibrant new teaching space.

In consultation with academic staff, the second space on the sixth floor of the building, would be subdivided to form collaborative, group teaching spaces and a 'Harvard' style lecture theatre. This space would provide an opportunity for closer engagement with teaching staff as seating was arranged in a horseshoe on three sides of a central 'runway'. We worked closely with the services engineers to provide a high level of IT integration throughout the space, including USB charging points designed into furniture.

All the spaces were refurbished in the summer of 2014 using a traditional form of JCT contract with occupation possible from the start of the new academic year. During the construction phase high levels of engagement between consultants and contractors insured the scheme remained on programme and achieved the client's expectations.



Client : Abingdon and Witney College
Project Value : £31 million (combined)



The practice was appointed initially to prepare a feasibility report and master plan to resolve a range of issues at the College's Witney campus caused by an aborted capital project. We designed a master plan that created a family of buildings with both new build and refurbished facilities linked by a landscaped spine. The scheme created teaching space for a range of curriculum areas including, science, media, hair and beauty, art and design and business. In addition a new public entrance from Welch Way was forged, better connecting the College to the town.

Subsequent phases have delivered LDD facilities, general teaching and IT rich classrooms and will complete the redevelopment of the campus in early 2016.

In parallel the practice have also begun work at the Abingdon campus, creating a master plan and sustainable estate strategy to steer its redevelopment. Key drivers identified by the College's senior management team were the creation of spaces for learning which would reflect vocational environments, development of a more legible campus and providing a group of buildings which would have lower energy use and reduced maintenance costs.

Subsequent projects at Abingdon have sought to improve the landscaping, visual appearance, LDD provision and engineering workshops.

Abingdon & Witney College





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