Austin·Smith:Lord

YSGOL HARRI TUDUR, PEMBROKE

LOCATION: PEMBROKE
CLIENT: PEMBROKESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
COMPLETION: 2018
VALUE: £39M
SIZE: 17,400M²
SERVICE: ARCHITECTURE, INTERIORS, LANDSCAPE
SECTOR: EDUCATION
CONTRACTOR: BOUYGUES
LANDSCAPE: AUSTIN-SMITH:LORD
STRUCTURES: JUBB CONSULTING
SERVICES: MCCANN & PARTNERS
COST CONSULTANT: GLEEDS
AWARDS: BREEAM EXCELLENT

Austin-Smith:Lord was appointed as Executive Architects for the largest school project undertaken by Pembrokeshire County Council to date. The first phase of an overall £43m investment consisted of a new build 1,460 place 11-18 secondary school.

The building includes an integrated SEN centre designed to accommodate 30 pupils with Autism Spectrum Condition. The centre includes a sensory space, therapy rooms, interview/conference rooms, group and individual teaching spaces. Many of the teaching spaces have their own dedicated external space, allowing the site's rich ecology to be used as a valuable learning resource.

The project was delivered collaboratively to BIM Level 2, and acheived BREEAM Excellent.

The practice collaborated closely with contractor client, Bouygues and their design team to secure the project through a competitive tender process that required a complete audit of a Stage 3 scheme design by others and the introduction of innovative approaches to delivering the project to the highest quality at best value for the council.

The project presented a number of major challenges in that the new school is located on an existing school site that had to remain fully operational and safe throughout construction. Austin-Smith:Lord worked closely with the contractor to develop a phasing strategy that would minimise disruption to the existing school operations, whilst also minimising potential increases in construction costs due to complexities of build and logistics.

The site is also steeply sloping making a split level building inevitable over such a large footprint. The practice worked closely with the contractor and structural engineer to develop a construction strategy and structural solution that would be cost effective and safe.

During the Stage 3 design review, the team were able to identify value engineering opportunities to the benefit of the end user client without compromising funtionality or quality.

These opportunities included:

- Optimisation of floor to floor heights through the rationalisation of horizontal construction and service zoning.
- Rationalisation of natural ventilation and daylighting.
- Removal of high level masonry construction resulting in dramatic reduction in steel tonnage and simplification of weathertightness and construction detailing.
- Review of internal and external finishes including substitution for higher quality, more durable materials with lower capital and whole life costs.