



Work Sector
Client
Location
Cost
Date

Education
Virgo Fidelis Senior School
Upper Norwood
4 million
Completion November 2008

Located off Central Hill, London SE19 the original Pugin convent school was first built in the 1840's. Over the years increasing student numbers and new technology have put great demands on the existing school, and since 1960 new buildings have been added to the vast 11 hectare school site.

The latest addition is a four storey, 22,000 sq ft school extension to existing senior school. The new school extension, which wraps around the existing brick gym building has been designed much around the functional needs of modern teaching methods. Much of the design reflects ideals from the DfES design bulletin 98.



Project Title

LEWIS AND
HICKEY



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The upper three floors house ICT, maths business, media and seminar rooms all fully equipped with flat screen computers and interactive teaching boards. The ground floor house most of the staff offices and smaller class rooms for individual tuition for student support and special needs. As well as the more vocational subjects of hospitality, catering kitchen hair dressing and beautician rooms all of which open on to the school grounds. This allows the school scoop to offer evening class and optimising the use of the new internet café in the hospitality area.

These upper classrooms are positioned off a central unobstructed, column-free atrium space which forms a central slot and spine to the building, naturally lit from above. The atrium balconies function as corridors and are the main circulation routes within the building, all with views back to the main school.



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There are a number of sustainable features incorporated within the design of the school. Passive ventilation of the class rooms with heat exchangers, biomass heating and photovoltaic panels to convert sunlight into electricity. The building's orientation is maximised for heat gains in winter and the use of overhangs and brise soleil to minimise the heat gains in summer.

Completed in November 2008 the building is now occupied by pupils from key stage 2 right up to sixth form.

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