

One of three secondary schools included in the first phase of the London Borough of Waltham Forest's Building Schools for the Future programme, Kelmscott School is an existing school which has been extended and remodelled. The brief focused on transforming the 1970s middle school buildings to provide a full range of spaces appropriate for a 900-place secondary. The project won Best Design for a Remodelled School at the 2008 Partnerships for Schools' "Excellence in BSF Awards".

A key part of our design proposals was the creation of a new, highly visible entrance at the main road edge of the site. A new internal 'street' runs from the entrance through the whole school, linking the various buildings. The street provides a clear, easily legible new circulation axis and, in response to the school's request to move away from the traditional school dining room to something more adult, provides a number of contrasting dining areas. New dining spaces look out over mature landscape and a new external amphitheatre which takes advantage of the south facing location to provide further sunny informal seating as well as a performance area.

Circulation within the existing buildings is very

narrow. Our design takes advantage of the fact that every classroom has an external door and links these using a new covered walkway around the perimeter of the building, lessening the load on internal corridors. The canopied walkway extends from the new build around the existing building, visually linking the two and improving the appearance of the existing 1970s building.

We worked closely with staff to produce a design that achieved maximum value in the existing buildings through minimal alterations, thus maximising the budget available for the new build extension. The existing small assembly space was transformed into a new, vibrant top-lit Learning Resource space with glazed partitions giving views from the new street. An adjacent courtyard was roofed over to continue the street into the existing buildings and provide additional informal spaces, maximising the opportunities for different styles of teaching.

The new build wing provides a new multipurpose hall primarily for performance art, taking advantage of a change in level to provide a raised stage linked to a drama studio that can also be used as a back stage area.



01 Main entrance  
02 View from dining to entrance  
03 External landscape and canopy



Total Area : 8148 sqm GIA  
 Procurement Type : BSF Design & Build  
 Local Authority : London Borough of Waltham Forest

02



The change in levels is also used to give visual impact to the new entrance.

To achieve the best possible value from the new build areas the design uses the affordable area to the maximum, for example combining dining and circulation space within the 'street', provides generosity of space for both activities as well as a space that can be used for breakout or small group teaching. The 'street' is designed as a linking feature, leading into the school past key spaces assisting users in orienting themselves within the building.

The project has completely transformed the identity of the school within the local community. The school now has a visible presence. The internet café space at the main entrance has the potential to be a facility that parents could be invited into the school to use, whilst the full height glazing gives a welcoming and contemporary appearance whilst acting as a shop window to display the schools work.

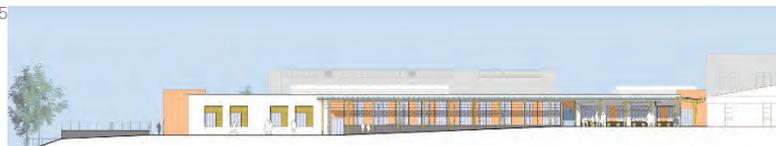
04



03



05



- 01 Interior of dining space
- 02 Site plan
- 03 Circulation and breakout space
- 04 External circulation canopy
- 05 Elevation