

Sir Robert Woodard Academy, West Sussex
Completion Date 2012
Contract Value £28m
Client West Sussex County Council & The
Woodard Trust

Procured through the National Academies Framework with Balfour Beatty as main contractor, Sir Robert Woodard Academy is the first of four academies to be completed as part of the West Sussex Academies programme. Sponsored by the Woodard Trust, the Academy caters for all faiths, with the wedge-shaped atrium space designed to 'shine out' to advertise its presence and act as beacon for its values.

Located in Sompting, and formerly known as Boundstone Community College, the existing building had a capacity for 1400 pupils aged 11-19. Since achieving Academy status, it has been awarded specialisms in both Performing Arts and Mathematics.

The layout and concept for the new Academy respond to the Sponsor's vision and ethos with the structure and pastoral arrangements being based on the creation of six small schools know as the "Chapters." These Chapters are organised as a flexible group of spaces arranged around a 'mini-atrium' and the 'wedged shaped/shard' space, enclosing the social areas and the elements that express the Academy's two main specialisms of Maths and Performing Arts.

The circulation system is easily legible and managed; the two principal spines allow views into the central space and the Chapters and glimpses of the landscape. There is a strong connection between the dining area and the shared outside social space and between each Chapter and its Chapter garden.

The new facilities also include a six-court Sports Hall and Fitness Suite and 'Mini Barbican'. Located over three storeys and at the main public entrance, the 'Mini-Barbican' contains the Visual and Performing Arts Centre and has been designed for extended community use.

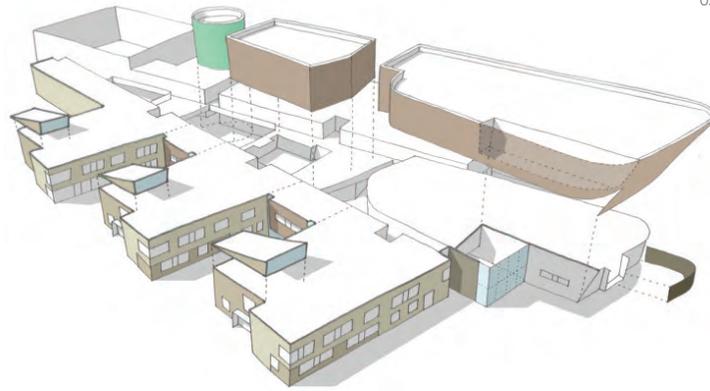
The mass of the building is mainly two storeys to respect the proximity and scale of neighbouring properties that are primarily single storey. Use of suitable materials was also a prime consideration to maintain a sense of domesticity.



01 Main entrance and 'shard'
02 Two-storey exterior
03 Dining interior



01



02

Total Area : 13100sqm
Local Authority : West Sussex County Council
Planning Approved : Month YYYY

The entrance to the academy was set back from Boundstone Lane to provide breathing space and a community accessible entrance plaza and is clearly visible when approaching from the north.

The building's dramatic form can be seen from the A27 and was designed to send a powerful message about the school's mission in the community. For much of the year, extended community use takes place on dark evenings, and by creating elements that penetrate and 'shine out' from the shard roof, the design not only advertises its presence but subtly acts as beacon for its values.



03



04



05



06

- 01 Quiet area for reflection over dining space below
- 02 Axo - Sir Robert Woodard Academy
- 03 Mini Barbican located directly over the main entrance
- 04 Parklex facade
- 05 Each Chapter with its own courtyard garden
- 06 Break out area for 6th form students