

Bowden House, East Sussex  
Completion Date 2012  
Contract Value £9m  
Client London Borough of Tower Hamlets /  
Warings Contractors

As part of the Tower Hamlets Building Schools for the Future programme, ArchitecturePLB was appointed as architects for the new Bowden House School in East Sussex. Bowden House is a residential school accommodating 40 boys with emotional and behavioural difficulties.

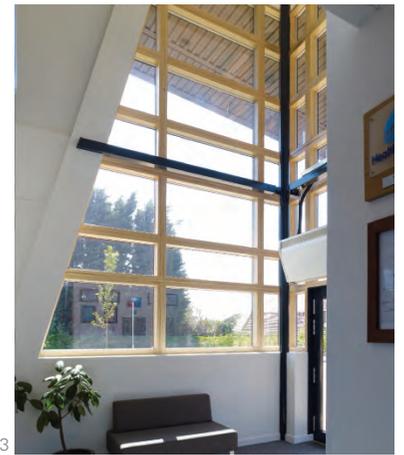
Located in a primarily residential area on the northern edge of Seaford, close to the South Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Park, the existing site was very open and did not adequately provide for the school's needs. After reviewing the possibilities, the proposals deemed the best use of the site would be to replace the existing building with a new teaching block, sports hall, residential block and external store.

It was an important part of the brief that the school and residential accommodation should be physically separate, so that the students will be able to separate their school and home lives. The importance of external space for the pupils' use was also emphasised from the outset, including the need for zoned spaces to allow smaller, supervised groups to undertake activities without necessarily attracting the attention of the rest of the school.

By locating the residential block within the centre of the plan, the proposals also responded to the school's wish to minimise the impact on neighbouring residential dwellings.

The scheme was designed to achieve a BREEAM 'Excellent' rating. Specific design solutions include air source heat pumps linked to underfloor heating, natural ventilation, rainwater harvesting and the use of green roofs as part of an integrated Sustainable Urban Drainage System.

Construction started on site in February 2011 and completed in Spring 2012.



01 Exterior of Bowden House  
02 Residential accommodation  
03 Interior of main entrance