



Press Release 26 November 2010

ARDMORE GETS TOP MARKS FOR JCoSS

The all-new *Jewish Community Secondary School (JCoSS)* in Barnet, North London, opened its doors at the beginning of the new academic year as planned, after a construction programme of just 78 weeks. Contractor Ardmore Construction started on site at the beginning of 2009 and completed the project in September 2010, putting its ability to meet tight deadlines down to its directly employed workforce and extensive in-house capability. During the project, Ardmore was able to reduce build and running costs significantly through its innovative approach.

Designed by RHWL Architects, JCoSS is set out as four separate blocks, linked to a magnificent atrium. At the heart of the school, the main assembly hall with dedicated synagogue has been fitted with bespoke curved fibrous plaster and GRG (glass reinforced gypsum) acoustic panels. Block A includes a specially designed wing for children with learning difficulties which features a two-way assessment room, lecture hall and classrooms as well as a fitness room and a hydrotherapy pool, fitted with hoists to assist students where necessary and LED lighting to create 15,000 different colour settings, depending on the mood of the students.

The original design for the sports hall (in Block D), proposed timber lined acoustic panels internally, which would have been time consuming to build and would have created maintenance issues later. Ardmore worked with the project team to design an alternative scheme for the hall, incorporating acoustic blocks and ecophon acoustic panels, which would reduce the timeframe and also the cost of construction by £80 per square meter. Value engineering was achieved through the construction of a sloping concrete roof slab in lieu of timber trusses for a curved Kalzip profiled roof to three teaching blocks. This simpler form of construction also provided a better teaching environment with increased headroom.

Ardmore Director Patrick Byrne said, "We pride ourselves in delivering high quality projects on time and on budget, and because we have a large directly-employed work force and a wide range of skills and capabilities in-house we are ideally placed to work efficiently, on a fixed price. At a total capital cost of around £40m, the JCoSS scheme compares favourably with the benchmark set by Building Schools for the Future (BSF) in terms of quality and value."

Natural ventilation and daylight is a design feature throughout JCoSS, but as each environment must also be sensitive to the children's needs and activities, Ardmore designed and installed a separate Building Management System for each Block, to control mechanical / natural ventilation and heating. The school is fitted with a 150kw biomass boiler, four gas boilers and a tank for rainwater harvesting and has achieved a BREEAM rating of 'Very Good'.

Press Release 26 November 2010

ARDMORE GETS TOP MARKS FOR JCoSS

2/ continued

JCoSS headteacher Jeremy Stowe-Lindner says the new building very much represents the school's ethos of achieving excellence and being open to new ideas. "We are all thoroughly enjoying our new school and facilities and it is wonderful to see the effect that such a high quality environment has on our children and staff. The plans for the project were ambitious from the outset, including the set timescales, but we opened on time and the finished product has more than met our expectations. Ardmores's appointment as a highly experienced and skilled contractor gave us real confidence from the start and their expert advice and extensive knowledge of construction methods proved to be invaluable. "

As president of JCoSS, Gerald Ronson, chief executive of Heron International is leading the design and building of the project with completion of phase two expected in 2011.

(ends)

