



REGISTERED
DESIGN
PRACTICE



DESIGNING AND DELIVERING DERBY'S SCHOOLS



LUNGFISH
ARCHITECTS

INTRODUCTION

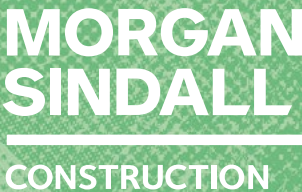
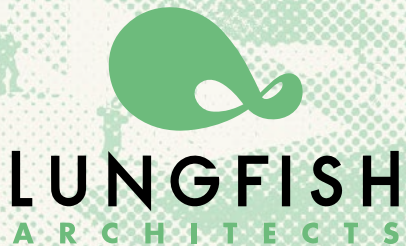
There’s an ever-present need for local councils across the UK to ensure a school place for every child, and this is no less true in Derby and Derbyshire.

Ensuring communities are set for growth, children have a space to learn, and parents are supported are three key priorities for both local authorities. Lungfish Architects have worked collaboratively with both councils to drive forward these priorities and develop Derby’s future learning landscape.

Both Derby City and Derbyshire County Council are founding members of the SCAPE Group and accelerate many of their projects via SCAPE frameworks. As Lungfish Architects are part of the SCAPE Group, both councils were able to utilise not only the speed of the frameworks, as well as our design-led solutions.



Where you see this icon, click for further information on our website.

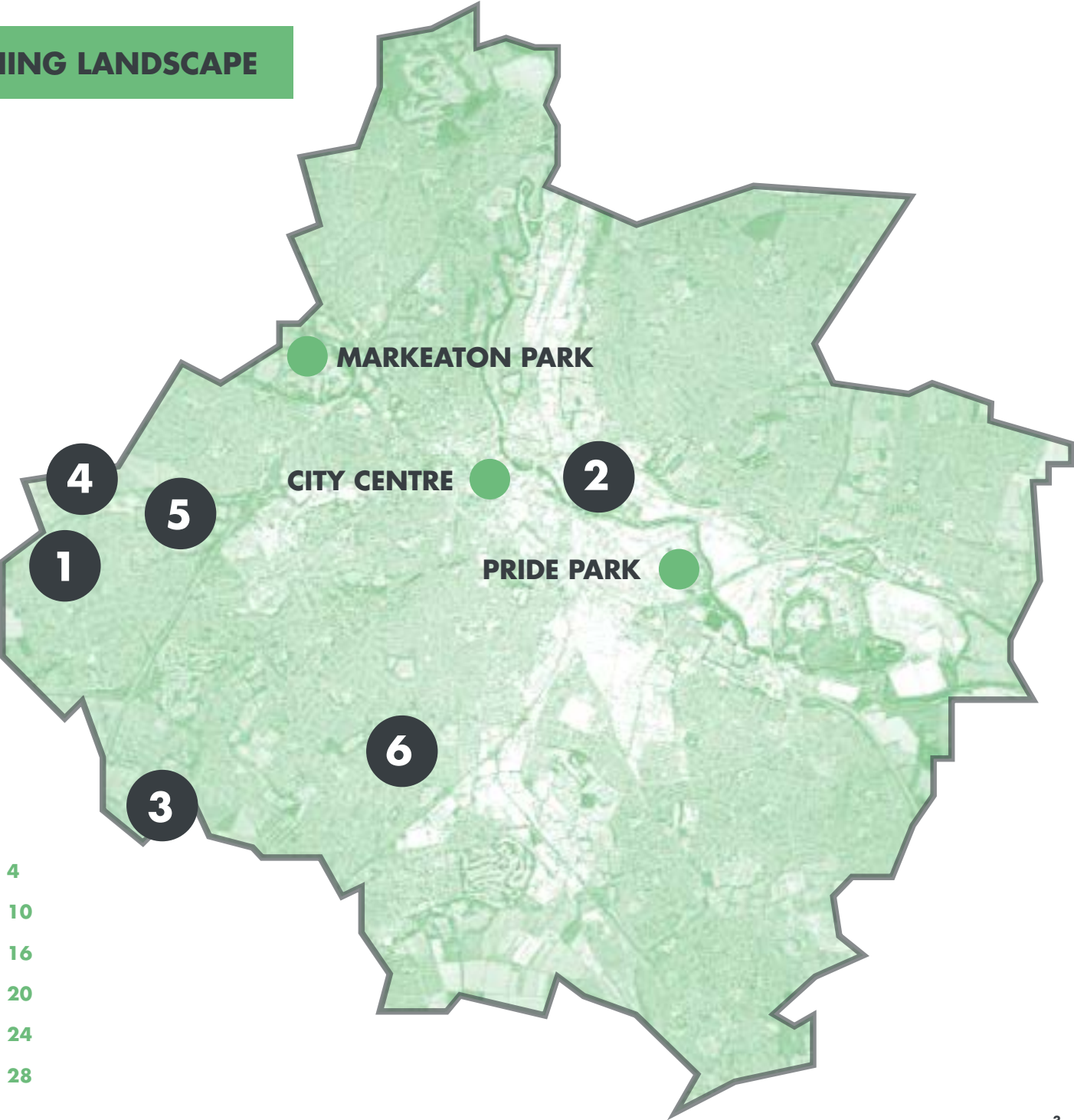


DEVELOPING DERBY’S FUTURE LEARNING LANDSCAPE

With a population **increase of 10%** expected by 2039, the need to provide more infrastructure, housing and school places has been one of Derby City and Derbyshire County Council’s top priorities in recent years.

- 1 RAVENSDALE INFANT & NURSERY SCHOOL
- 2 CASTLEWARD SPENCER ACADEMY
- 3 HIGHFIELDS SPENCER ACADEMY
- 4 HACKWOOD PRIMARY ACADEMY
- 5 MURRAY PARK COMMUNITY SCHOOL
- 6 OAK GRANGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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REQUIREMENT

A devastating arson attack created the need for a new infant and nursery school. Crucially, the project required a rapid response to ensure 296 children aged three to seven, were back in school in shortest timeframe possible. Submitted for planning within just six weeks and delivered in nine months, the project was accelerated by the efficiencies gained from a modular design approach, and speed of delivery.

Having previously delivered two modular schools locally as part of the Derby Schools Programme, Lungfish Architects experience and expertise informed the solution: a standardised modular design, utilising offsite construction and maximising pre-manufactured value, generating enough efficiency to deliver the project within programme and budget.

SOLUTION

Value for money was derived from every aspect of the design having to be verified by insurers, with the scheme requiring certification from a financial perspective. Key to this was taking a creative approach to the design and looking closely at every detail to identify every efficiency that would make room for better learning.

Reconfiguring the layout and shape of the school building, we utilised the resources, service and access routes, topography, and location, making the whole site more efficient. Maximising the layout and sitting directly on top of the former site, the building footprint increased by 300m², modernising the school and bringing it in line with the Department for Education's benchmark for a three-form entry nursery and infant school.

Accommodating 330 pupils, the new school features 10 spacious classrooms, a double-height hall, a library, a group and SEN room and fully equipped catering, staff and admin areas. In keeping with the school's forest ethos, each classroom has their own access to the outdoors plus extensive canopies to allow for outdoor learning.

In total, the school is made up of 58 pre-fabricated modules which were built offsite before being delivered and installed in less than two weeks. This, together with SCAPE's efficient procurement route, helped ensure the construction of the school completed both on time and on budget in just 45 weeks.



**“OUR NEW SCHOOL IS A FABULOUS, MODERN SCHOOL
AND WE ARE REALLY EXCITED AND READY TO MAKE NEW
MEMORIES TOGETHER HERE”**

“ It’s amazing to finally be home and all back together with our staff, children and families all under one roof. Our new school is a fabulous, modern school and we are really excited and ready to make new memories together here. All the children are very excited to begin learning in their new school and the staff have already made it a magical place to learn in and to make our community feel safe, happy and able to reach their full potential.”

LORNA BLANCHENOT

Headteacher of Ravensdale Infant and Nursery



“ This is a joyous milestone for all staff and pupils at the school and I am pleased to see the school rebuilt to the highest standards, on budget and on time. This has been possible because of excellent partnership working between Ravensdale School staff, the governing body, and school leadership team, Morgan Sindall Construction, Lungfish Architects and the Council.

It was deeply upsetting to see the destruction caused by the fire, but these fantastic facilities will help pupils make the most of the first stages of their learning journey. Losing a school has an enormous community impact, and my thanks go to the schools who offered space for Ravensdale children while the building work was ongoing.”

COUNCILLOR EVONNE WILLIAMS

Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Skills at Derby City Council





“ I AM PLEASED TO SEE THE SCHOOL
REBUILT TO THE HIGHEST STANDARDS,
ON BUDGET AND ON TIME.”

COUNCILLOR EVONNE WILLIAMS
Cabinet Member for Children,
Young People & Skills at Derby City Council





REQUIREMENT

With a significant increase in population, more school places were required to service a new community. A brownfield site, formerly utilised as a car park, was identified to become the new home to a one and a half-form entry primary school, providing 315 pupil places and a 39-place nursery.

The £7.6m school was funded collaboratively by Derby City Council, the D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership, Homes England, and section 106 agreements. The new primary school will serve families from the new urban village and the wider local community.

SOLUTION

Located just outside a busy city centre and a brief walk from the Derby City train station, the project location inevitably meant the space to build the school was going to be minimal. A brownfield site which was previously used as a car park provided an effective solution.

Planning permission was granted in May 2020 with work commencing in the Summer amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite this, Castleward Spencer Academy completed on budget and ahead of schedule in August 2021, opening its doors ready for the new academic year.

The brownfield site is small (a 5,200m² development area), almost half the size that usually required for a school, which significantly influenced the building design. To provide the most efficient outcome whilst providing a playful, innovative, and creative space, the Lungfish Architects team used these restrictions as a catalyst for creativity, designing upwards instead of out.

Complementing the heritage of the local area, the school was built using traditional construction techniques and features a brick exterior. The security of the school site and safeguarding of the pupils is paramount, particularly with its city centre location. With that in mind, the design and position of the building was devised to optimise use of the land for the school and provide a clear, visible main entrance and secure line of sight to the building.

Delivered through the SCAPE Regional Construction framework, the new school has helped generate over £3m in social value investment. With 81% spent locally and within 40 miles of the scheme, it has wholly involved the local community and region.



“ We are delighted to be welcoming the first pupils to our newest primary school at Castleward. Its state-of-the-art design features such as the flexible use of space, the innovative outdoor play area and the security of a sprinkler system offer a superb environment for learning. The school will be vital in transforming the regeneration of an inner-city area into a thriving community.”

COUNCILLOR EVONNE WILLIAM

Derby City Council's cabinet member for children, young people, and skills

“ Site size needn't compromise the children's learning environment, and Castleward demonstrates this. Even though we were working with a space half the size, we've created a one-and-a-half form school that has the needs of the children at heart. Regeneration and maximising space in city centres is important. Not compromising on a child's education is vital.”

CRAIG TAYLOR

Director, Lungfish Architects





REQUIREMENT

With S106 funding in place, the school needed to be ready for Spencer Academies Trust to move in ready for the September term, giving the design and project teams only 17 months to design and deliver the new school. We entered into a six-week engagement period with the council to put the school plans and architectural drawings in for approval almost straight away.

Our vast experience in modular builds allowed us to create a modern and cutting-edge design that could be developed offsite, minimising risk, reducing time and resources spent on the Highfields estate, and providing confidence in delivery.

SOLUTION

As a one form-entry primary school, the new Highfields Spencer Academy offers 210 pupil places and a 26-place nursery. The single-storey school is of modular design with 45 pre-fabricated modules constructed offsite.

The colourful windows of the main hall, with their optical illusion, is a favourite feature for our team. It provides a welcoming impact, and the windows are completely flat to the façade. Some very careful geometry and execution has generated this effect, and creates animation from all angles.

The main building features seven general purpose classrooms, a reception, nursery and a double-storey main hall. Every single class has access to the outdoors with their own dedicated area, as well as a landscape garden and a 'habitat area' for a biodiverse outdoor learning zone.

Allowing the pupils to engage and interact with their external environment creates plenty of opportunities for practical hands-on learning.

Internally, the large classrooms feature a modern and bright design throughout, creating positive and engaging learning environments. The building provides an effective indoor environment with natural daylighting and ventilation along with thermal comfort and acoustics. External facilities include a soft play area, a large playing field, and a MUGA pitch. The hall will be able to be utilised by the local community outside of school hours, and fronts the public square.

“ For me as a headteacher, the experience was really positive. It had a great team and they did everything possible to make sure I was involved. We want it to be somewhere the children love coming to every day and the best example of that was one of our pupils asking their parents to drive past the school on a Saturday because they were sad it wasn't open at the weekends. We're so proud of it here.”

ANNA JONES

Principal, Highfields Spencer Academy



“ Highfields is a magical place already, the building is beautiful. The education design is so well considered and the space lends itself to be a really positive space for children”.

ANNA JONES

Principal, Highfields Spencer Academy





REQUIREMENT

An innovative, expandable, and modern primary school designed to serve a recent housing development and support a growing community. It was necessary to build a new 14,000 square foot school to accommodate more than 200 children. This was part of a wider plan to build 700 new homes on the adjoining Hackwood Farm estate.

SOLUTION

Considering the rapid growth of the new estate, the school had to be operational by September 2019. Our modular design capabilities made it easier for Derby City Council to expedite project delivery.

By using modular construction and offsite techniques, the team was able to complete the project in just nine months, compared to a year for a traditional school building. In total, the school covers an area of 14,000 square feet and comprises 42 carefully made modules. Designed collaboratively by Lungfish Architects, Morgan Sindall carefully constructed modules in a factory offsite, transported them to the site, and lifted them into place. It took only seven days for the school to progress from foundation to having every module in place, enabling rapid and efficient construction.

The single-storey primary school has a large hall, six spacious classrooms, and a 26-place nursery. Internally, the large classrooms feature a modern and bright design throughout, creating positive and engaging learning environments. In addition to natural daylight and ventilation, the building has been designed to provide thermal comfort and acoustics to support educational attainment. With an innovative, expandable design, the school is also future-proofed, as additional teaching space can be added in the future, increasing its capacity to 315 students.

Hackwood Primary School provides a beautiful, colourful, and spacious learning environment for local children and is now at the centre of a new community.



“

The experience here has been excellent and that has been from initiation through to the project team on site. What I really liked is that you just got on and built it. The team were great, very professional and always found solutions. It was definitely good collaborative working.”

DAVID HIGHFIELD
Programme Manager, Derby City Council





REQUIREMENT

With the demand for school places growing across Derby, an expansion was required for Murray Park to drive schools places up from 1,100 to 1,650 across years 7 to 11. The new block was designed by Lungfish Architects, constructed by Wates Construction, and procured through SCAPE's Regional Construction framework. In March 2018, the project began on site and was completed ahead of schedule in August 2019, just in time for the new academic year.

SOLUTION

The Maple Park extension is located in front of the existing school building and includes a reception area, 15 classrooms, as well as modern office space. The school has also benefited from new kitchen areas and reconfigured classrooms as part of the refurbishment programme. The food technology department, as well as the modern foreign languages department and the school kitchen, have been completely renovated with updated appliances.

By partnering closely with Wates and utilising their own technical expertise, the Lungfish team was able to push the boundaries of design by using materials intelligently, to maximise the local authority's budget.

To accentuate the windows, Lungfish gave the elevation plenty of relief, and several key façade elements of the building - such as the main entrance and feature corner window - were clad in orange Trespa to complement the brickwork. Incorporating the latest technology, the block now features underfloor heating, interactive whiteboards, and extra-large corridors to provide a modern learning environment.



“ Good facilities and learning environment in general are integral to the educational development of students, so it’s fantastic to be able to deliver these improvements to Murray Park Community School. There are a number of benefits that come with the expansion of a school in terms of opportunities and curriculum range and were excited to see the positive impact it will have on pupils. We are thrilled with our fantastic new building. It has completely transformed our student’s educational experience. Working with Wates has been a pleasure and the delivery of the building ahead of schedule was much appreciated. We would also like to express our thanks to the local authority who have worked tirelessly in the background to ensure the best service.”

NICOLA CALEY

Headteacher of Murray Park School



“ It is a testament to Derby City Council’s foresight for the future of Murray Park Community School that we have now handed over these impressive new facilities to staff and students. It was a bold ambition for the school but our first-class team has delivered on the Council’s brief to create a truly innovative learning environment for young people.”

COUNCILLOR EVONNE WILLIAMS

Derby City Council’s cabinet member for children, young people, and skills





REQUIREMENT

The addition of 990 new homes within the Snelsmoor Grange and Fellow Lands Way housing developments of Derby is set to increase demand for primary school places in the area.

Part-funded through Section 106 contributions from housing developer, Belway Homes, Derby City Council approved the construction of a modern and spacious 1.5 Form Entry (FE) school to cater for 315 primary and 39 nursery children.

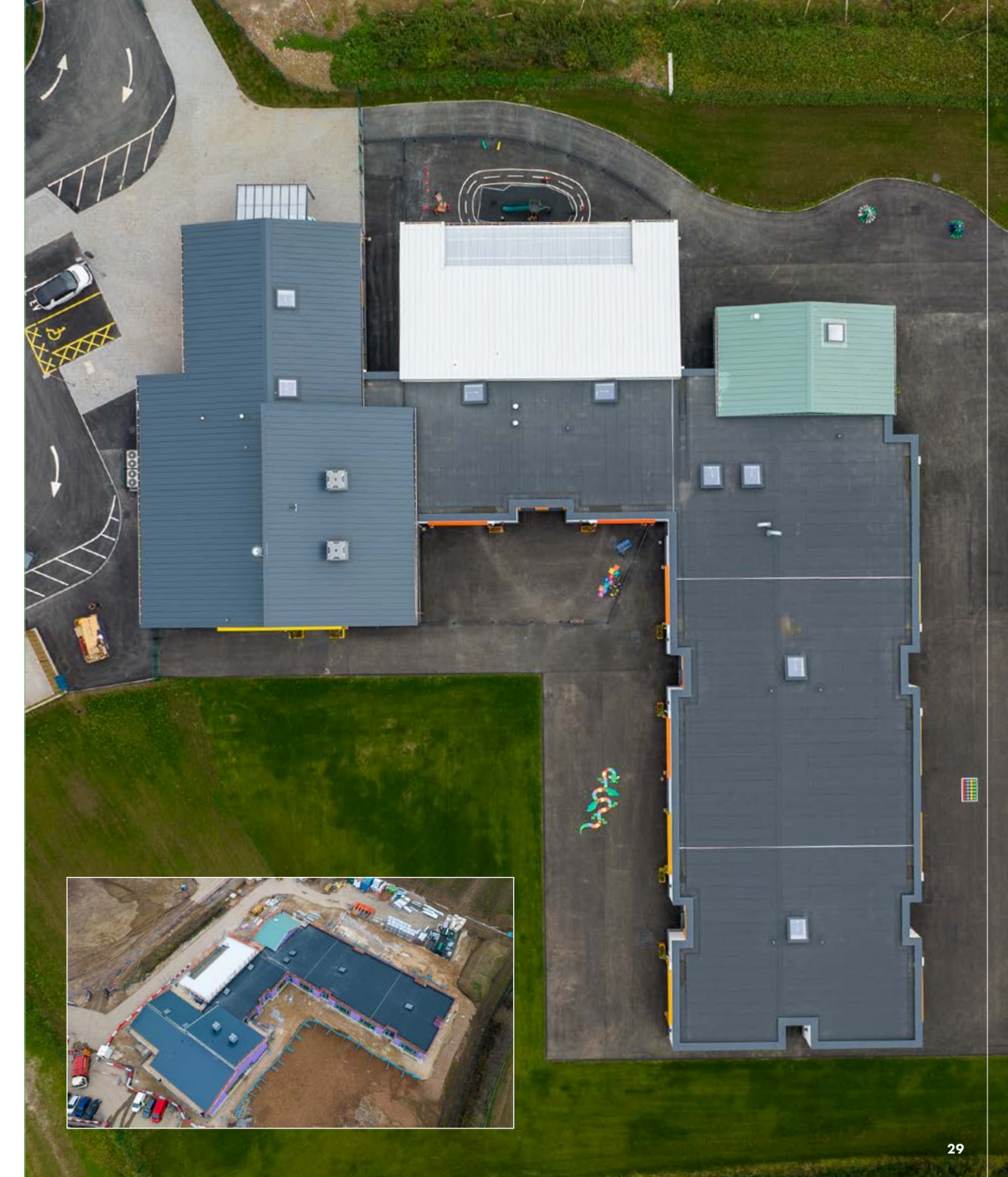
It was important that the new school formed the heart of the new housing estates, with the local community and social groups able to use the facilities at evenings and weekends.

SOLUTION

Traditionally built, the new school has twelve spacious classrooms, a nursery, and a large kitchen hall, based on an efficient 'L-shaped' footprint. Encompassing a countryside feel, whilst also referencing its agricultural past, the external timber-look rock panel on the main façade creates a welcoming feel on approach whilst reinforcing the scale of the school.

Large windows and glazed link corridors help to emulate the seamless transition from inside to out, with every classroom having direct access to the outside.

Near to the school building lies a notable ancient oak tree. Internally, the design has taken inspiration from this and the surrounding countryside, to inform the internal colour palette. Soft, neutral colours throughout create calm learning environments, with the twelve classrooms having feature walls that imitate the oak tree as it transitions throughout the seasons – greens, yellows, and reds – reflecting the child's growth and progression through the school.



“ It has been a privilege to be involved in the development of our brand new school. Having the opportunity to discuss the design with both architects and designers at Lungfish Architects will make a fundamental impact on children for many years to come”.

MRS SARAH COLEMAN
Headteacher, Oak Grange Nursery and Primary School



“ We have embraced the design and “feel” of the school and embodied it into our school ethos. A very natural and calming environment, a respect of the natural world and a feeling of peace. Layouts of rooms, colours and textures all play a huge part in creating an inspiring learning space. Having the opportunity to work together in partnership with Lungfish has resulted in a most beautiful building and learning space, in the words of one of our children, aged 4.... Mrs Coleman, I just love it!”

MRS SARAH COLEMAN

Headteacher, Oak Grange Nursery and Primary School



ABOUT LUNGFISH ARCHITECTS

Lungfish Architects is a design-led, award-winning architecture practice and interior design practice

Our team is ready to bring your ideas to life and will be with you from concept to completion.

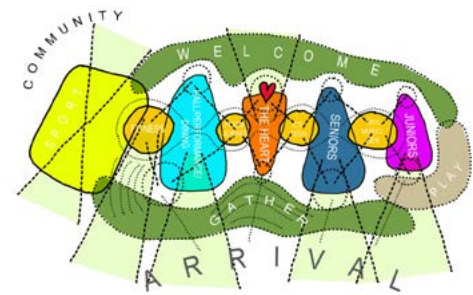
We offer architectural design and interior design services that will give you the results you're after. With our unique three-tier approach, you'll find a build route that meets your brief and delivers enhanced outcomes. Let's design something exceptional together.

OUR VISION

We solve problems through architecture in an honest, open-minded way, delivering affordable, buildable, design-led solutions.

- As designers, we're driven from the outset by transformation, creation, and collaboration.
- We challenge each brief to ensure we save you time, money and ultimately deliver a building designed to last.
- We thrive on delivering your project from concept to completion.
- We don't work in a single style – we work with you to deliver your requirements.
- We also use our designs to serve more than one project. That's why we aren't option-focused and will only present a design-led approach. It's this experience that cements our mission: what we design gets built.

Innovation, research and development are pivotal, and form the backbone of our practice. Our aim is to always better the last building we designed. Once your building is designed and delivered, we bring together our learnings to improve efficiencies for both you, and our future clients. This data-rich approach keeps us ahead of best practice, and ensures we are compliant and sustainable.



DIAGRAM, DESIGN, DETAIL

An architectural floorplan can be overwhelming, and that's exactly why we start with a simple diagram that is used throughout your entire Lungfish experience.

Whether informed by climate, function or place, your design then takes shape as our diagram is enhanced by the details of your fully interrogated brief.

DESIGNS THAT DELIVER

We understand that not every client has the same needs. That's why we've developed a structured, three-tiered approach to architectural design. From completely bespoke designs to a standard volumetric design, our flexible approach allows us to work with your budgets and requirements to meet your design needs.

1 STANDARDISED

The fastest way to get your project off the ground: our standardised designs draw on our portfolio, allowing you access to a wide range of pre-designed elements. Delivered at a set cost, in a fast, fixed timeframe to suit your needs.

2 BLENDED

Combining modular efficiencies with the opportunity to tailor aspects of the design, our blended approach is ideal for you if you'd like a fast yet personalised project. Driving cost efficiency, and adding just a few more weeks to your timescale, the blended approach to design delivers at pace and with flair.

3 BESPOKE

For the hands-on client, a bespoke, custom design offers a fully immersive experience. Engage with the project, and work with us from the drawing board through to the creation of your unique building.

16,600+

school places created since 2013

119+

projects delivered

101+

offsite projects

150+

planning approvals achieved

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