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makin news

April 2008

Students in Henry VIII's Manor

In strolling distance of Kingston upon Hull University and the heart of the City, Manor Mills is historically significant for a number of reasons.

The 3-acre site had until 2006 been home to a working flour mill owned by Rank Hovis and records show amongst other industrial uses, corn was milled here as early as 1890. But perhaps, most significant was the remains of a 16th century fortified city wall, built by Henry VIII, which lays beneath the site. Our clients proposed redevelopment leading to the necessary demolition of the old flourmills, created the ideal opportunity for an archaeological study. The wall was uncovered for the first time in generations and archaeologists were able to fully document it, prior to preserving the remains from future deterioration and with the old wall in mind, the foundations have been designed to bridge over, to ensure it remains intact.

Plans are now well developed to transform this landmark site with smart new city apartments, a hotel and casino, bars and restaurants as well as accommodation for students from the near-by university in a joint design by Robinson Architects and Makin Architecture.

Design Director Ashley Hunt said...
"Proposals put forward by Makin Architecture are an integral part of the overall scheme and the student accommodation will eventually house 624 students. The individual flats will be arranged as clusters of four, with 4 or 5 en-suite, study / bedrooms in each as well as a shared kitchen / living room".

The mass and regular rhythm of windows will be broken-up, by linking them together in bands of opaque glass. This horizontal grouping emphasises the horizontal movement of the building – particularly as it sweeps around the corner.

To prevent public views into the student bedrooms and living spaces from the civic square, windows to the West elevation will take the form of splayed triangular 'bays' with obscured glass facing over the square, whilst clear glass will provide oblique views out to the private courtyard.



Left: The windows emphasise the horizontal movement of the building as it sweeps gracefully around the site boundary.

Below: The building was conceived as a neutral backdrop to the old public house.





Landmark community

Makin Architecture's landmark building on the intersection of Upper Brook Street and Plymouth Grove was handed over, on schedule, prior to the start of the 07/08 University year.

Now around 580 undergraduates are living in the contemporary apartments. The students are conveniently domiciled in walking distance of both the university and all that the city has to offer and a real sense of community is being forged.

Makin Architecture Director Dragana Opačić said... "It is great to see Nick Everton House alive with light and activity from the hundreds of residents already calling it home.

In spite of challenges posed by cost and time constraints and design parameters set by the outline planning permission awarded in 2002, the client saw this as a great opportunity to create a building, that would act as a catalyst to rejuvenate this previously neglected urban area and we can see it's already beginning to make a difference to the neighbourhoods spirit and feel".

Synagogue saved for future generations

People who had attended our PPG15 Seminars on the regeneration and re-use of Historic buildings were invited to view the completed first phase of works on the Grade II listed Wilbraham Road Synagogue on Thursday 24th January.

Ray conducted the tour of the building, which culminated with a buffet and networking opportunity in the new function hall which has been formed within the magnificent dome of the Synagogue.

The additional floor has been carried on an independent structure, at a level just above the existing balcony fronts. This structure is designed to be, and to appear to be, a totally modern intervention with a separate existence to the original building. It is intended to be reversible, in so far as is physically possible, without permanent damage to the structure.

One of our guests Stephen Buxton of Stephen D Buxton Associates said... "Whilst I had a good idea of what you had done from the talk you gave at the Building Centre there is nothing like seeing it in the flesh and I think you have done an excellent job in producing a scheme that makes good use of the space to meet the modern day needs of the congregation".

By the time this reaches your desk, demolition works will be well on the way on the Steele Hall at the rear of the building, which in turn will lead to the construction of phase 2 of the works. The new building will create secure living accommodation for a number of students.



Guests networking in the new function room, which was formed in the original dome.



Whilst touring the building our guests were able to see how the redundant synagogue, which was originally designed by Joseph Sunlight, has been altered and restored and has achieved the following objectives:

- To maintain its religious function.
- To provide a broader focal point for the Jewish students studying in Manchester and for the local congregation.
- To create secure living accommodation for a number of students.
- To restore the building to its former glory and create an income stream to ensure its ongoing maintenance and security.

Beechwood Cancer Care

Due to the opportunity to cater for a new Macmillan 'drop in centre', our client decided to rethink the whole entrance area of this cancer care facility.

One of the key objectives was to get away from the clinical feel, which previously existed, and create a more uplifting environment akin to visiting a health spa.

In doing this, it was important to provide clear identities for the different uses of the building, whilst retaining a coherent whole. This was achieved primarily via colour differentiations.

Official Opening...

As one of the official Mayor's charities during the Mayoral year it was fitting that on Friday 28th September 2007, the centre was officially opened by the Mayor of Stockport, Councilor June Somkh. The event also coincided with the national Macmillan coffee morning fund raising event, and guests were able to hear some motivating and moving speeches. The centre gives valuable support to cancer sufferers and their families, depending on donations and fundraising events to do so.



About Beechwood Cancer Care

Beechwood day centre offers help anyone whose life has been affected by the diagnosis and treatment of cancer.

Within welcoming surroundings they offer a range of free support, including 1 to 1 talk time, complementary therapies and group sessions to help patients, family members and carers cope with all the problems they may have to face.

Anyone who would like to donate to the charity can do so by visiting their website: www.beechwoodcancercare.org.uk



Matt, Peter, Sophie, Jonathan, Becky and Rosie will be running for the Macmillan charity in the Great Manchester Run on 18th May this year. The team decided to support Macmillan after working closely with the Beechwood Trust.

Makin a run for it

Interior Designer Rosie Siford said... "Working with the team at Beechwood and seeing how the vital services they provide make such a difference to sufferers and their families, we were moved to do something to help further and what better way than for us all to get our running shoes on and start training for this event.

We are determined to raise as much as we can on the day and will be most grateful for any support we can generate". Look out for us speeding through Castlefield during our lunch hour.

If you would like to sponsor the Makin lineup log on to: www.justgiving.com/makin



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Makin an Investment in our People

Makin Architecture is delighted to announce they have achieved Investors in People accreditation.

Company Secretary Tracey Beekman said...

"We have always believed that our people are our success, helping them develop their potential, improve skills and gain greater job satisfaction which has helped Makin Architecture grow as a company, that is why the IIP recognition means a great deal to the practice".

MD Andrew Burns is pictured with Company Secretary Tracey Beekman and the new Investors in People plaque.



Focus on Dragana Opačić



Dragana joined the board of directors in October 2007 having made a significant contribution towards the practice with her fresh approach and interminable enthusiasm.

Since joining the practice in 2001, she has worked as a Project Architect on a variety of significant schemes with recent projects including the Plymouth Grove mixed use development and the re-configuration of the grade 2* listed South Manchester Synagogue. She is currently working on projects including apartment schemes in a number of locations and stages of design development.

Dragana had her passion for architecture ignited at an early age and first studied at the School of Architecture in Belgrade, before going on to Manchester University and the Manchester School of Architecture. She was awarded the Haywood Medal for the highest academic achievement and was nominated for the Silver Medal (RIBA) in 2001. Subsequently she achieved her Advanced Diploma in Professional Practice 2002 at RIBA North West.

Dragana now finds time in her busy schedule to pass on her knowledge and experience to students at Manchester School of Architecture, Landscape and Urbanism College where she is a part-time associate lecturer.

Hale House has planning success...

Makin Architecture recently secured planning consent to demolish and rebuild a family house inside a Conservation Area in Hale, Cheshire.

Within the context of the conservation area this particular 1970s house looked bland, out of character and the internal layout was poor. In consultation with our client, it was decided that it would be more appropriate to demolish the existing and replace with a specially commissioned family home that is more in keeping with the delightful tree lined area.

In designing the house Makin Architecture were careful to ensure the proposals followed closely the recommendations set out in the planning guidelines and the proposed new building will both preserve and enhance the Conservation Area in terms of aesthetics, height, massing, materials and siting. The new house will have all the grandeur of the surrounding houses and also benefit from a modern high tech interior for a growing family.



Sketch of new house by Makin Architecture.