

The Sports Leisure Legacy Project (photos courtesy of Faulkner Brown) FAULKNERBROWNS ARCHITECTS

Hebburn Central, South Shields, UK

Hebburn Central is a striking library and community sports facility which is crafted to represent the community it serves. It embodies the first phase of an ambitious regeneration project to redefine a town centre which has suffered dramatically over the years from a decline in the region's shipbuilding and metalworking industries. The facility contains a wide range of leisure elements including a six lane 25m pool, learning pool, fitness suite, dance studio, sports hall, external 3G artificial pitch and children's play area. Integrated alongside this are a community library and customer service centre operated by the local council. Hebburn Central has water cooled heat pumps which redirect heat generated in the gym to the swimming pool plant where it is used to heat the water, vastly reducing energy demand. This has led to Hebburn Central being awarded an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of A which is unusual for a UK building containing a swimming pool. This building has won a number of awards including a 2016 National RIBA Award and Civic Trust Design Award.



Hebburn Pool



Hebburn Central

Derby Arena, Derby, UK

Derby Arena is a landmark venue that inspires people of all ages and abilities to take part in a diverse range of leisure activities and events. It forms part of Derby City Council's ambitious leisure strategy to encourage active lifestyles and to increase participation in sport. The multi-purpose arena is founded on the principles of flexibility and inclusivity, accommodating a 250m cycling track, a 12-court sports hall and fitness centre, as well as event space. There is improved accessibility to the infield by raising the cycle track upwards to first floor level which means that unimpeded access to the central infield from ground level is available at all times without compromising cycling activities. This flexible infield is suitable to host a diverse range of events which helps to ensure long term commercial sustainability for the arena. Derby Arena won an RIBA Regional Award and was named Project of the Year by the RICS East Midlands in 2016.



Derby Arena



Derby Arena

Coventry Water Park, Coventry, UK

Coventry Waterpark is a high octane leisure destination bringing together a variety of water elements including a wave pool, flume rides, river rapids, toddlers' splash area, 25m swimming pool, spa and sauna. The prime city centre location is a bold choice and in contrast to previous leisure water facilities in the UK which have typically been located on 'edge of town' retail parks.

The compact site boundary has forced the design team to redefine the water park typology, raising the feature pools three stories above street level, with supporting accommodation below. Large glass openings in the steel cladding will offer inspiring views out over the city's rooftops, enhancing the visitor experience. The ground floor accommodation will benefit from a direct relationship with the surrounding streetscape creating opportunities for a commercial presence on the street. The result will be an uplifting leisure destination with the ability to regenerate an important city centre location.



Coventry Water Park



English Institute

English Institute for Sport, Sheffield, UK

Dubbed a 'factory for sport', EIS Sheffield has become one of the most well-known and recognised sports buildings in the UK due to its flexibility for training and competition, and for hosting televised indoor sports events. The mix of facilities has been designed to allow for maximum flexibility with provision for athletics, netball, badminton, boxing, judo and table tennis, as well as a state of the art Sports Science and Medicine unit. The specific requirements for each sport have been carefully considered to provide the highest standard of facilities for elite athletes and club use. However, the complex is also designed to be used by all sectors of the community and to provide the facilities for amateur sportsmen, women and children to graduate to higher levels of excellence in their chosen sport.

The building itself is an environmental system: the north-lit roof vaults provide daylight to the whole sports complex and act as reservoirs for warm air which is ventilated through the north-lights. The plant room is just 2% of the gross building area which compares with 7-10% for a normal sports centre.

Ponds Forge International Sports Centre, Sheffield, UK

This pools complex comprises of 29,000m² of covered accommodation and was completed for the World Student Games in 1991. It has since been used for the European Games in 1993 and the Olympic Swimming Trials in 1991 and 1995, and also as a national and international venue for training and other events. The main facilities include a 50m pool with 2500 spectator seats, a 25m diving pool, 650m² leisure water containing a 25m warm up pool, multi-use hall with 1200 spectator seats, sauna, steam and spa pool and fitness suite.

The building was designed with ultimate flexibility in mind and has multiple bulkheads and floating floors to achieve this, but also to ensure the pool would be the 'fastest pool' possible with consistent deep water throughout. Consequently, many world records have been broken at Ponds Forge. The dry sports hall was also designed to be fully flexible to allow for different sports and other community events. Bleacher seats for 1,500 people and integrated TV lighting systems have allowed many televised events to

be made including Crown Bowls, Badminton, Volleyball and Snooker. Ponds Forge won a Civic Trust Award in 1994 and an RIBA Regional Award in 1992.



Ponds Forge



Lee Valley

Lee Valley White Water Centre, Waltham Cross, UK

Lee Valley White Water Centre provides opportunities for both elite athletes and the wider community to reach their individual potential as part of the legacy of the London 2012 Olympic Games. The centre was the first purpose-built venue to be completed for the Games, operating as a community resource in the lead up to - and following - the event. The centre contains a 300m Olympic canoe slalom course, a 160m intermediate course and a pavilion which includes a café with viewing terrace and function room. During competitions, the smaller 160m section is used as a warm up area for competitors, whilst in legacy mode this becomes a training course for beginners to learn in safety. The timber pavilion appears to float in the landscape and has proved popular as a visitor destination in its own right. The vibrant social space offers an excellent vantage point to look north towards the open Lee Valley Park or south over the course itself. The layout of the two courses, pavilion and circulation routes allow plenty of space for the overlay of temporary facilities for major events, including spectator seating and security infrastructure. As a result Lee Valley was described as one of the most organised and spectator friendly venues of the London 2012 Games.

Inverness Aquatics Centre, Inverness, Scotland

Inverness Aquatics Centre is a regional facility which serves the Scottish Highlands. It contains a 25m competition pool with seating for 350 spectators, 450m² of leisure waters with a wave machine, children's play area, a rapids river ride and three exciting flumes, outdoor warm water lagoon, a health suite with steam room and sauna, and a café. The centre provides both a regional tourist attraction and a community resource. For the community, it helps to promote a healthy lifestyle, designed for accessibility by all. It provides excellent facilities for learners with the floating floor allowing a large area of shallow water for beginners. The 25m training pool with banks of 350 spectator seats provides a venue for local and regional swimming competitions. Built to FINA international standards, the pool has been designed to stage national short course swimming events.



Inverness



Horsham

Pavilions in the Park, Horsham, UK

Horsham District Council desired a flagship sports complex and a landmark building set in the context of a mature public park on the edge of the town centre, to replace an exhausted and outdated pool. The complex include an 8 lane 25m competition pool with seating for 360 spectators; water confidence, learner, leisure and outdoor water areas; health suite, fitness gym and dance studios; multi-use sports hall; treatment and beauty suites; regional gymnastics training hall and crèche and children's soft play area. The building is conceived as a series of linked vaulted spaces which give a unifying form to the various primary spaces of the building. The rhythm of the vaults, which are stepped in and out on spine walls, breaks down the scale of this large building and its apparent mass. A winder garden forms a new public gateway to the park and acts as a circulation hub for the building.