

# SEND Portfolio

2024



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Forest Way School,  
Leicestershire



# Introduction

As a chartered architectural practice, Noviun Architects is committed to delivering designs that prioritise human experiences.

This brochure provides an insight into our approach, expertise, and the sectors we serve, focussing on SEND school projects.

Unlike many architectural practices that focus their approach on a project architect, we bring a series of specialist designers, technologists, and operations teams.

Rather than the traditional linear approach to design and procurement, we look to collaboration, where clients, contractors, and consultants all play an integrated role.

The application of the latest technology and software is fundamental to the success of this collaborative way of working. Information is developed and harnessed through our BIM process and virtual reality from day one and throughout the pre-contract and construction stages.

We believe this interactive approach to design and construction is the way forward for our industry, as it strives for better quality delivered faster and within restricted budgets.



A photograph of a modern school building with large windows and a red padded play area in the foreground. The play area features a blue octagonal ring with a colorful geometric pattern inside, an orange square mat with a circular hole, and a red rectangular mat. The background shows a multi-story building with a balcony and a glass door.

Addington Valley School,  
Croydon

“ Our specialisms across the range of building types and sectors, and our experience and lessons learned from the construction stages and buildings in use, all inform our design process.

# About Noviu



SINCE  
1997



CUTTING-EDGE  
SOFTWARE



RIGHT FIRST  
TIME APPROACH



BIM  
TECHNOLOGY



COLLABORATION



SUSTAINABILITY



CHARTERED  
PRACTICE



PEOPLE CENTRIC



PRO-ACTIVE  
DESIGN



AWARD WINNING

## Spatial Equity

Our initiative is to compose creative responses that negotiate the challenges facing our clients, the environment and construction industry.

## Social Impact

We are committed to our role as custodians of the built environment.

## Collaborative Learning

As a collective of individual talents, we have a shared ambition to design and deliver for the communities that exist alongside our creations.

## Technological Innovation

We integrate the latest digital and computational technologies into our workflows.

## Research Practice

Our investment in research is sustained by our motivation to respond creatively to the issues of today, while remaining open to new perspectives across the sectors in which we work.



# How We Work

## **As designers, social responsibility and collaboration defines what we do.**

Our background and expertise in the education sector has cultivated a people-centred approach applied across all sectors.

We aspire to positively integrate user experience and human well-being, alongside the latest technology, to design sustainable spaces that create a positive impact on individuals, communities and the environment. The curation of individual dialogue, into a cohesive architectural narrative, distinguishes each of our projects. Our design process is not pre-determined, but organic responding to our engagement with clients, occupants and stakeholders.

We are a collaborative team of Architects and Architectural Technologists, that recognise the importance of working with specialists during design, construction and post-occupancy stages. Our leading role and engagement within the multidisciplinary design process ranges from end-users, to subcontractors, delivering spatial experience through high-quality buildability.

We take great care to innovate architectural solutions that endeavour to achieve socially equitable environments, to improve lives and sustain communities. Our conscientious and rigorous post-occupancy evaluation process disseminates findings from completed projects, for the benefit of future schemes.

Our studio environment fosters this aim through regular design and sustainability reviews, focus groups and specialist workshops, to share and learn from each other and the wider industry.

Encouraging the coexistence of sketching and physical model making, alongside the latest digital technology, is central to our design process.

To enable effective communication, management and collaboration across multiple disciplines, we continually expand and refine our digital capabilities, foreseeing and responding to industry challenges and demands. This proactive approach to technology is shared across the practice, with design team members utilising a diverse and evolving collection of construction software.

Building on 25 years of industry-leading research and co-creation in design for special educational needs, our investigative method of practice has expanded to engage directly with the challenges of net zero-carbon, digitalisation of the construction industry, advancement of cladding remediation and the potential of MMC.

Samuel Cody,  
Hampshire



# Meet The Team

## Management Team



Andy Wiggins  
Managing Director



Matt Golds  
Managing Director



Daniel Smith  
Director



Chris Watts  
Director



Alastair Mallet  
Technical Director



Giancarlo Pesiri  
Design Director



Shena Mathers  
Practice Director



Zane Putne  
SEND Director

## Executive Management Team



Alan Johnson  
Director



Ed Keelaghan  
Chairman



Ian Hurlstone  
Finance Director

## Associates



Dan Smith  
Associate



Fiona Rogoff  
Associate



Mike Terry  
Associate



Simon Jolly  
Associate



Francesca Bianco  
Associate

**Our expertise is broad,  
encompassing various sectors**

-

Noviun have over 25 years experience in the residential, health and education industry, with specialist knowledge in special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) school design.



# SEND Education



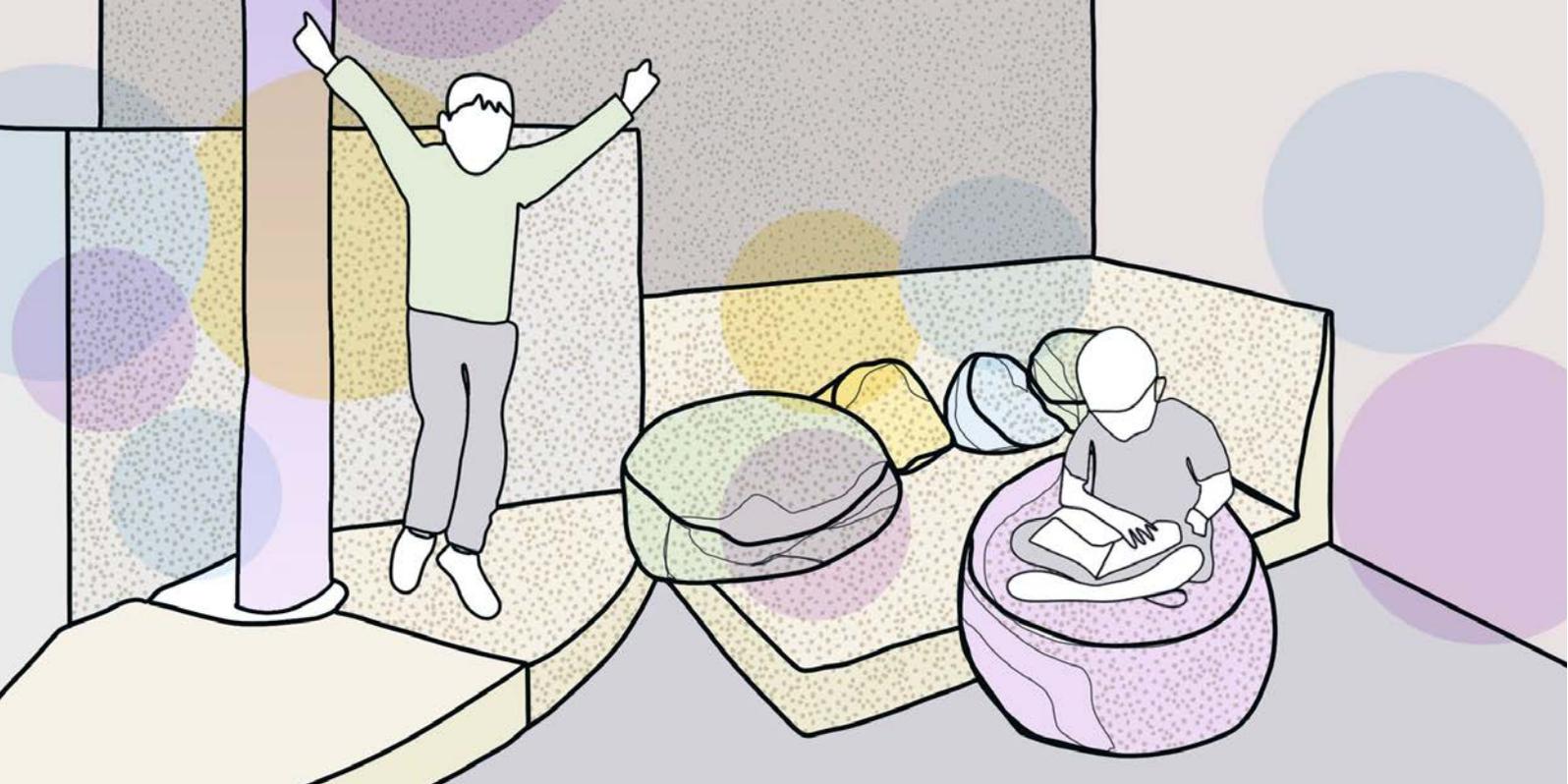
**Zane Putne**  
SEND Director

Over the last 25 years, we have been involved in a wide spectrum of projects, such as The Avenue School which combined an SEND school, community facilities, and office facilities within one building. It was a scheme that was cross-funded by the development of a new residential area on the surplus site area.

## Experience & Expertise

Noviun are seen as market leaders in the SEND sector and has an extensive portfolio of over 75 innovative Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Schools, many of which have won awards for their design and educational impact.

Another example is Daventry Hill School, developed to the latest Building Bulletin 104 guidance and caters to 175 pupils aged 4-18 with a range of profound and multiple difficulties, severe learning difficulties, and autistic spectrum disorder. This project included community access to the 'heart' spaces and hydrotherapy pool.



## Concept

We believe that each educational project is unique and deserves thorough attention, placing not only pupils but also staff and visitors at the centre of the design, creating imaginative and sophisticated learning spaces that suit the needs of all building users. A strong concept can often create a vision for the scheme that all stakeholders can look forward to being completed.

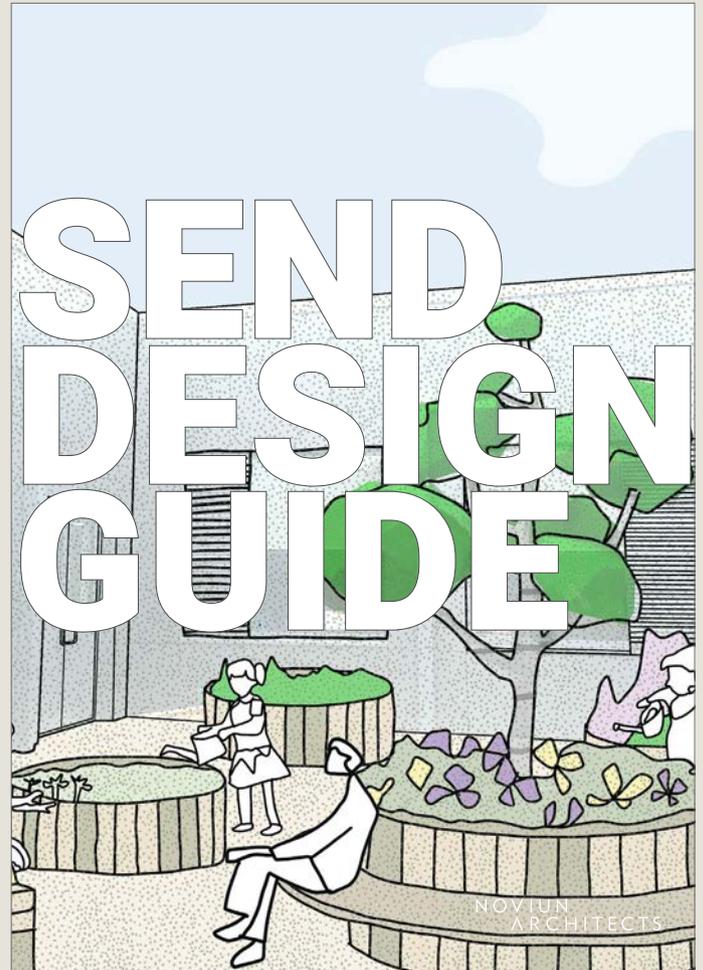
## Inclusion

We have designed some of the most innovative and inclusive models to be found in the UK. One example is our Gillingstool & New Siblands scheme in Gloucestershire, where mainstream and SEND Primary are housed within a single building. This allows inclusion to be introduced slowly over a few years. We have also been involved in The Manor Green Special Needs Schools at Crawley were established as a partnership between the DfE, West Sussex County Council and Noviun. They were a pilot for the first truly inclusive educational campus in the UK, in conjunction with an existing mainstream primary school and a later built secondary school.

## SEND Design Guide

Noviun has created a SEND design guideline, which records a series of key design issues and solutions that we believe will benefit both current and future generations of SEND designers. Noviun as a practice has always specialised in the education sector, however, a particular specialism in SEND developed from the earliest days by being involved in a Department for Education pathfinder scheme.

The scheme came about to assess how special needs schools could be integrated into a mainstream education campus. Establishing a detailed knowledge of individual disabilities and how best they could be accommodated within a school environment, has led to cutting-edge SEND schemes, making the practice a leading national expert in the field.



# Daventry Hill School, Daventry

75+

SEND School  
Projects

10k+

SEND School  
Places

Building  
Bulletin &  
Government  
Guidance  
Advisors

4

Fully Inclusive  
School  
Campuses





# SEND Schools

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# Addington Valley School

## Sector

SEND Schools

## Services

Architect & Lead Designer  
Principal Designer

## Client

LB Croydon  
Department for Education

## Contractor

Kier Construction

## Framework

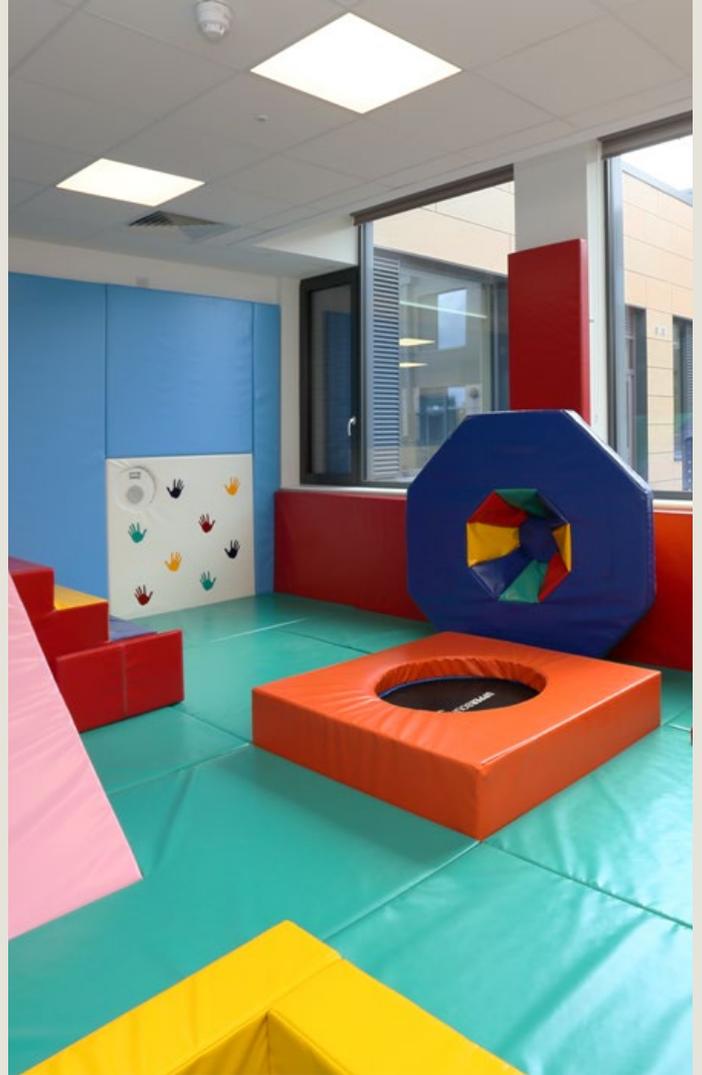
DfE HVB Framework

## Value

£12,000,000

Addington Valley Academy is located on Field Way in London Borough of Croydon (LBC). The proposed new school building is located on the site currently used by Timebridge Community Centre, which is currently being rebuilt adjacent to the proposed school site.

The site has residential properties to South East and is bordered by green fields, which are part of Metropolitan Green Belt to the North and West with the new, re-built Community Centre being proposed East of the site.



The proposal is to develop an all through, co-educational special education needs (SEND) School for 150 pupils aged between 2-19 predominantly with a wide range of learning difficulties some of which with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) or moderate learning difficulties.



# Samuel Cody SEMH School

## Sector

SEND Schools

## Services

Architect & Lead Designer

## Client

Hampshire County Council

## Contractor

Interserve (Tilbury Douglas)

## Framework

DfE HVB Framework

## Value

£13,500,000

Samuel Cody SEMH School in Farnborough, Hampshire is a 90 place school for pupils aged 5-11.

The school caters for pupils with social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) needs. Operated by Hampshire County Council, the campus also includes a new multi-use games area, hard and soft social spaces, a grassed playing field and landscaping, which was crucial in ensuring pupils well-being.



A key requirement of Samuel Cody is durability and the project team have worked hard to integrate high levels of robustness into the detailing and finishes whilst ensuring the exterior and interior design remains welcoming.

The design also included a school-refuser unit, formed of a classroom with associated support spaces and own sensory courtyard for most vulnerable pupils.



CODY OAKS

# Daventry Hill School

## Sector

SEND Schools

## Services

Architect & Lead Consultant  
Principal Designer

## Client

Department for Education  
Daventry Hill School

## Contractor

BAM Construction

## Framework

Design and Build

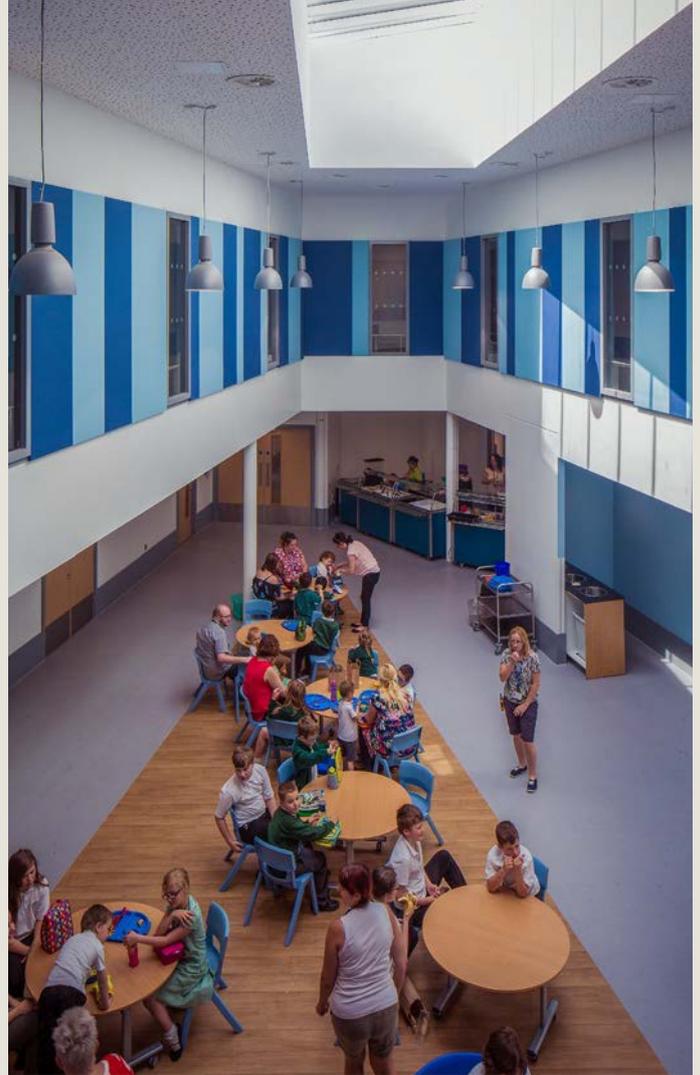
## Value

£10,000,000

Daventry Hill School caters for 175 pupils, aged 4 - 18 with PMLD, SLD and ASD.

The steeply sloping and constrained site posed a challenge for a school of this size and with such exacting requirements.

From the main entrance visitors are able to access the reception and cafe area which serves as an interface between public and pupils. this also served for community use.



The 2-storey design expands outwards and into the site as two wings either side of a double height and central space which forms the secure heart and learning areas of the school.

On completion, the project gained recognition for its inspiring school design. This was due partly to its innovation of dealing with a sensitive mixed use development.



# Yeoman Park Academy

## Sector

SEND Schools  
All-through School

## Services

Architect & Lead Designer

## Client

Department for Education  
Gleeds

## Contractor

BAM Construction

## Framework

DfE HVB Framework

## Value

£16,000,000

Yeoman Park Academy is a replacement building for the existing all-through existing school. The new building accommodates for 138 pupils with a wide range of needs, including profound multiple learning difficulties (PMLD), severe learning difficulties (SLD) and autism (ASC).

The building and site have been designed to ensure each age cluster have their own area, which is directly linked to the external areas. This includes a sixth form at first floor level with its own external terrace, benefiting pupils'



independence and well-being, also highlighting natural progression through the school.

The design was developed in close consultation with the school to ensure all pupils' needs are met and learning support with associated sensory areas are close to the class bases. Each wing of the building has its own character to help pupils orient themselves within the site.

The building will be Net Zero Carbon in Operation.



# Forest Way School

## Sector

SEND Schools

## Services

Architect & Lead Consultant

## Client

Leicester County Council  
Willmott Dixon

## Contractor

Willmott Dixon

## Framework

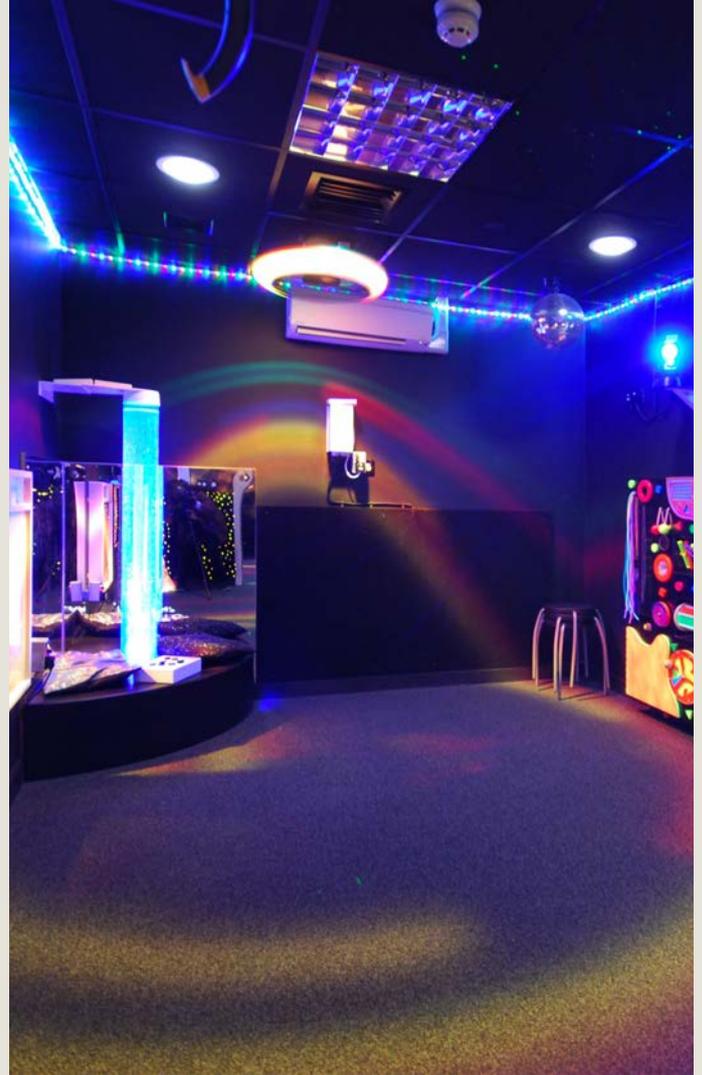
Bespoke Contractor Framework

## Value

£9,000,000

The design of Forest Way sought to integrate the school with the topography, embracing the surroundings and drawing the woodland landscape in the project wherever possible.

The plan form generated a main entrance block, providing admin, hydrotherapy pool and community facilities, from which 'fingers' of teaching accommodation extended out, allowing the landscape to penetrate into the heart of the school.



The interior design generated different atmospheres for the teaching spaces and the transitional zones. The use of wall and floor surfaces for decorative images throughout provided calming devices in the transitional spaces, whilst interactive sensory elements were provided at key orientation points, such as an 'internal forest' with talking tree.

Following its completion, the project reached the final top 10 in the World Architecture Awards.



# Greenwell Academy

## Sector

SEND Schools  
All-through School

## Services

Architect & Lead Designer

## Client

Department for Education  
Mace

## Contractor

Tilbury Douglas

## Framework

DfE Construction Framework

## Value

£13,600,000

The proposal is for the construction of a new special school for Beckmead Trust to cater for 64 pupils, aged 7-16. The school will cater for ambulant pupils with social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) issues. The school will also provide 15 residential places for use by the students during term time.

The scheme was originally designed under MMC framework but re-tendered and brought in-line with DfE's Output Specification 2021 and NZCiO aspirations.



The key requirement for the project was to ensure the security and privacy of the pupils to avoid any overlooking issues from the adjacent 13-storey high Willowfield Tower.

The residential building was designed to create a homely feeling of replicating the design of terraced housing and providing each cluster own living spaces opening onto external areas.

The design was considerate of pupils needs and inside / outside relationships.



# The Studio

Since our founding in 1997, we have grown from a small office within a Hospital to 30+ architectural professionals in the heart of Chichester.

We are an architectural practice built around its people. This is evidenced by having staff working with us for 10, 20 and 30+ years and we continue to grow and take on new members of staff each year, including throughout the pandemic, which has been a challenging time within the industry.

## Academic

Community involvement is a big part of our agenda. We help to inspire children and the next generation of architects by visiting local schools and holding open evenings for university students.

Noviun are also now a proud part of the RIBA Student Mentoring programme, taking on many work experience students and students from universities looking to study for a career in Architecture.

Over the years we have sponsored many of our current staff in furthering their education and qualifications whilst working with us.

Helping those members of staff to become fully qualified architects and technologists, whilst developing their skills and experience in a real-world situation, benefits the individuals, our practice and the industry as a whole.

We are proud to say over 70% of the current practice have had some or all of their academic development sponsored and mentored through Noviun.

## Social

Over the years we have been involved in many events that raise money for charity from Jeans for Genes to Children in Need. We are also proud to support our local community and have recently volunteered at the Ferring Country Centre to paint their riding school.

**We are delighted to announce that we were awarded the SME of the Year at the 2020 SECBE Constructing Excellence Awards.**

The Constructing Excellence Awards set out to recognise the outstanding built environment companies and projects that have delivered improvements in all-round performance through collaborative working and a real desire to make a difference.

“Noviun have shown that they are a forward thinking business with strong work ethic and values putting people at the forefront. They’ve seen major growth and increased turnover in recent years showing best practice with their supply chain.”

- Helen Patel, Employer Engagement Manager at the Chartered Institute of Building



# Sustainability



**Mike Terry**  
Associate Architect  
Sustainability Lead

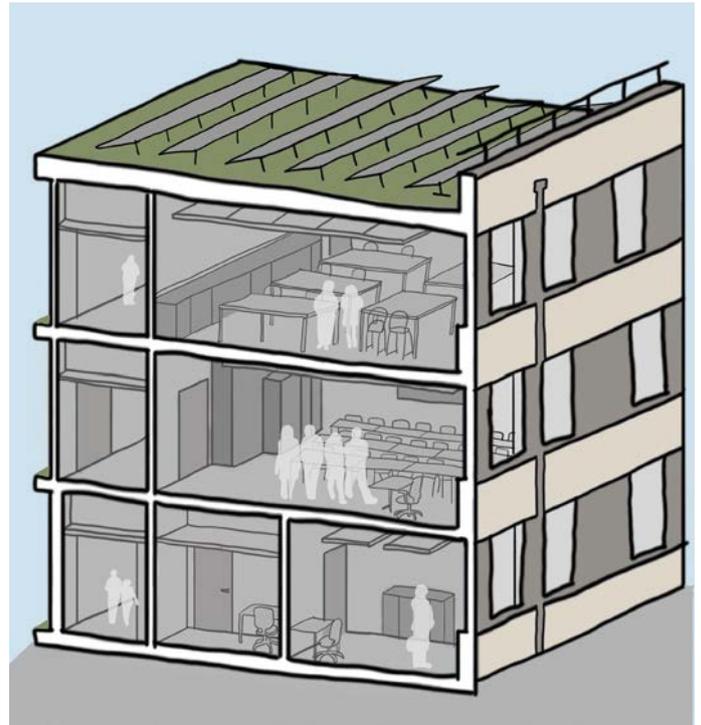


At Novium, we are committed to integrating sustainable practices into every aspect of our architecture practice. Our approach to sustainability is guided by a comprehensive policy designed to achieve several key principles. The 'NOW' group aims to ensure these principles are being met and helps to keep Novium informed with the latest sustainability updates within the industry.

## Sustainability Toolkit

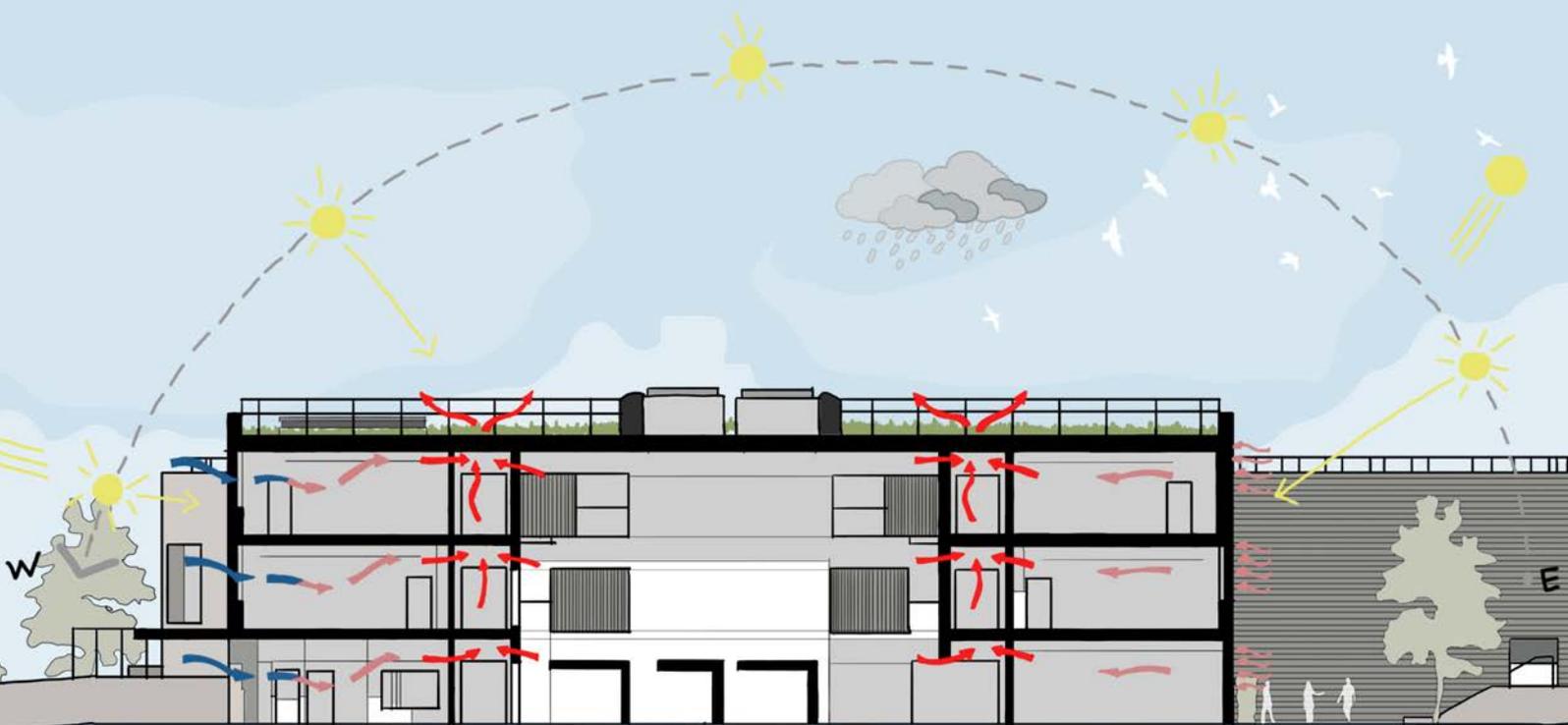
We have developed the 'Novium Sustainability Toolkit', a practical tool to guide and track key sustainability-related decisions and data throughout a project. It is not only useful for individual schemes, each Toolkit is also linked to a Masterfile to allow us to learn from and improve our designs across the practice.

The Toolkit is a prompt and management tool that has been created using the latest guidance and requirements from the RIBA's Plan of Work Sustainability Strategy Detailed Tasks Sustainability Outcomes Guide. We use it within the office to inform our design process and share it with the Client, Design, and Contractor Teams as a focus to prompt timely decisions and manage the Golden Thread of sustainable design. As well as enabling and documenting



successful outcomes, our Sustainability Toolkit is also used to identify where we are not achieving sustainability targets, whether this can be rectified, and any required mitigation measures.

The Toolkit is designed to be simple and concise and has 3 main sections; a front page with relevant project data and headline features; the Sustainability Outcomes Data section which centrally locates initial design targets through to in-use data; and the RIBA Stages. Information is provided from across the Design Team, including Operational and Embodied Carbon, Water Use, Transport, Ecology, and Lifecycle Costs.



Healthy & Safe  
Environments



Functionality



Long Lasting



Sustainable  
Design &  
Construction



Futute Proof

# BIM Expertise



**Alex Beeching**  
BIM Coordinator

**At Novium, we take immense pride in our expertise in Building Information Modeling (BIM) and our unwavering commitment to adhering to the ISO 19650 standards. BIM is a transformative process that empowers architects and design professionals to create and manage complex building projects with greater precision, efficiency, and collaboration. Through our adept utilisation of BIM methodologies, we have consistently delivered exceptional results, setting new benchmarks in the industry.**

## **The BIM Process**

The BIM process is fundamentally based on the creation, sharing, and management of digital information throughout a building project's lifecycle. From the early stages of concept development to the construction phase and beyond, BIM acts as a central repository of data, encompassing geometric models, detailed specifications, and integrated performance data. Our team at Novium leverages this process to achieve a holistic understanding of the project, enabling us to make informed decisions and minimise potential clashes and conflicts, thus reducing rework and costs.

## **Information Management**

A pivotal aspect of our expertise lies in Information Management within the BIM ecosystem. We follow the ISO 19650 standards meticulously, ensuring that all project stakeholders have access to relevant, accurate, and up-to-date information. Our streamlined approach to Information Management optimises collaboration and transparency among architects, engineers, contractors, and clients. This results in enhanced coordination, reduced errors, and accelerated timelines.

## **Advanced BIM Technologies**

At Novium, we employ industry-leading BIM software and platforms, enabling us to generate detailed models and facilitate data exchange efficiently. Our proficiency in BIM extends to clash detection, clash resolution, and 4D simulations, empowering us to anticipate and mitigate potential conflicts before they escalate into costly on-site issues. Additionally, our expertise in BIM facilitates effective communication with clients, offering clear visualisations that enhance their understanding of the design intent and foster more informed decision-making.

## **Proven Track Record**

Throughout the years, we have demonstrated our proficiency in implementing BIM methodologies across diverse architectural projects, ranging in scale and complexity. Our continuous dedication to advancing BIM technologies and Information Management sets us apart as pioneers in the field, bolstering our position as a reliable partner for all architectural endeavors.

“Noviun delivered what was considered to be one of the most sustainable SEN school projects constructed within its time, whilst providing an innovative approach to SEN design, including an internal forest right at the heart of the school”.

- Forest Way School



# Awards

## **Inside Housing Development Awards 2023**

Best Affordable Housing Development less than 20m - Kelso Cochrane House

## **SPACES Awards 2022**

Nominated Civic Building of the Year - Dukes Court

## **Education Estates Awards 2021**

Shortlisted for Architectural Practice of the Year

## **SECBE Awards 2020**

SME of the Year

## **South Coast Property Awards 2019**

Architectural Practice of the Year

## **Education Estates Awards 2019**

Shortlisted for Architectural Practice of the Year

## **Education Estates Awards 2019**

Innovation In Teaching and Learning - West Thornton Primary Academy

## **Education Estates Awards 2019**

Inspiring Learning Spaces - West Thornton Primary Academy

## **Education Estates Awards 2019**

Project of the Year - Chichester Free School

## **SPACES Awards 2019**

Best Educational New Build - Chichester Free School

## **Sussex Heritage Awards 2019**

Highly Commended Public and Community Building - Chichester Free School

## **SECBE Awards 2019**

Shortlisted for People Development

## **SECBE Awards 2018**

Project of the Year - Heathfield Academy

## **South Coast Property Awards 2018**

Nominated for Architectural Practice of the Year

## **Spaces Awards 2018**

Nominated for Civic Building of the Year - ELAM

**As a practice we pride ourselves on our -**

25 years experience  
SEND specialist design  
Practice of the Year Award  
500+ completed projects  
Multi-sector experience  
Use of innovative technology



# NOVIUN ARCHITECTS

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