



**PROJECT** CONSTRUCTION OF ABBEY SURE START CHILDREN'S CENTRE  
**CLIENT** LONDON BOROUGH OF BARKING AND DAGENHAM  
**VALUE** £1.1M  
**CONSULTANT** CAZENOVE ARCHITECTS



Lakehouse was delighted to construct the award winning Abbey Children's Centre, in Barking, which was designed to reflect the maritime history of the local area. The inspirational concept and use of colours resulted in a commendation by the Civic Trust Awards in 2006.

The striking single storey, L-shaped building sits in an area of disjointed architecture, creating something of a focal point in design terms, and in terms of its use. It includes a 54-place day nursery, local Sure Start offices, and multi-cultural community

facilities and crèche. Rather than hiding behind a defensible wall, the exterior of the building, stained black, with bright primary coloured shutters, forms the boundary and curves round to shelter the nursery garden.

The innovative 520m<sup>2</sup> single storey timber-framed nursery has been well received by the local community and provides integrated education, care, family support and health services for children and their parents.



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