



<b>PROJECT</b>	CONSTRUCTION OF HITHERFIELD CHILDREN'S CENTRE
<b>CLIENT</b>	LONDON BOROUGH OF LAMBETH
<b>VALUE</b>	£1.3M
<b>CONSULTANT</b>	ARCHITYPE



Lakehouse was delighted to be selected to demolish an existing nursery annexe to make way for a new one storey children's centre on the site of Hitherfield Primary School, Streatham.

The new children's centre services an area identified as having little existing childcare provision, low employment levels and high levels of households headed by lone parents. The centre provides accommodation for 2 nursery classes, crèche, 2-3 year old facilities, health visitors and adult training.

The new building makes a dramatic impact with its pitched rolled seamed roof and raised deck. The design brief required that the building be to a high level of environmental sustainability, insulation and use of renewable materials. The environmental impact of the scheme is extremely positive and includes improvements to the school entrance, improving

access and the movement of pupils, staff and parents through the school, and new landscaping around the children's centre. During the demolition phase, a number of large footings were uncovered, which were not shown on any of the drawings. Whilst removing these footings asbestos was discovered and work had to cease to enable HSE inspectors to assess the situation and make recommendations for the removal and disposal of the asbestos.

Once the asbestos had been safely removed and disposed of, the children's centre was constructed with a steel frame and glulam beams, creating large teaching spaces. Acoustic ceilings were incorporated throughout the building to keep noise levels to a minimum, reduce reverberation and improve sound quality.



The front elevation of the building has been clad with Siberian larch timber, harder than most conifers, and selected for its durability and strength. The untreated larch has since weathered and softened to a warm golden colour, complementing the Sto render.

The project will greatly improve the learning environment of the young children attending Hitherfield Primary School and the local community, which is recognised to include some very disadvantaged families.

### COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

At the start of the project Corporate Social Responsibility Manager Jon Brookes spent a day at the school, making presentations to two groups of children to highlight the importance of health and safety on and around building sites.

The children were encouraged to get involved by wearing Lakehouse PPE and discussing various health and safety issues that were brought to light whilst watching a DVD.

The short film prompted a high level of interest from the children, many of whom raised concerns about the hazards identified, initiating an interesting discussion which resulted in a question and answer session.

Site tours were arranged for some of the older children and members of the school's Eco Council. The questions raised during site tours reflected the children's interest and awareness of 'green' issues. To ensure that everyone could keep an eye on progress – school staff, parents and children - 'windows' were incorporated in the site hoarding at appropriate levels to enable everyone a good view at all times.