

Centre of Refurbishment Excellence (Core)

This is an exemplar, sustainable project to showcase the reinstatement of historical structures and demonstrate a range of modern technologies focused on optimising energy performance. The significant importance of the brick bottle kilns to the region and the challenging decline of the pottery industries both add to the scale of accomplishment for this project in Stoke on Trent.

Location: Stoke on Trent

Its purpose as a 'living demonstrator' for students and professionals alike makes it an important national hub for teaching, research and development. The re-use of materials or sourcing of similar products was key in striving to preserve the character of the old buildings, while the new interventions are clearly expressed as modern components, both externally and internally. The industrial-chic approach to the interior design is in keeping with the identity of these historical gems.



The re-use of the iconic kiln structures as modern-day heat recovery ventilation units as well as meeting rooms is a stroke of genius and the experience of the spatial quality created around them for teaching, seminars and exhibitions is extraordinary. The use of fabric and M&E solutions is well balanced with a building that has low-impact and low-energy use, as well as utilising renewable resources to meet the energy requirements.

The use of high quality traditional materials including local brickwork, timber sash windows and reclaimed Staffordshire blue tiles demonstrates the attention paid to external detailing in restoring the original design.

Architect: Purcell

Client: Stoke on Trent City Council

Contractor: Graham Construction

Contractor: John Paul Construction

Consultant: ABA Consulting

Consultant: Ramboll

Photographer: Centre of Refurbishment Excellence (Core)

Photographer: Purcell

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