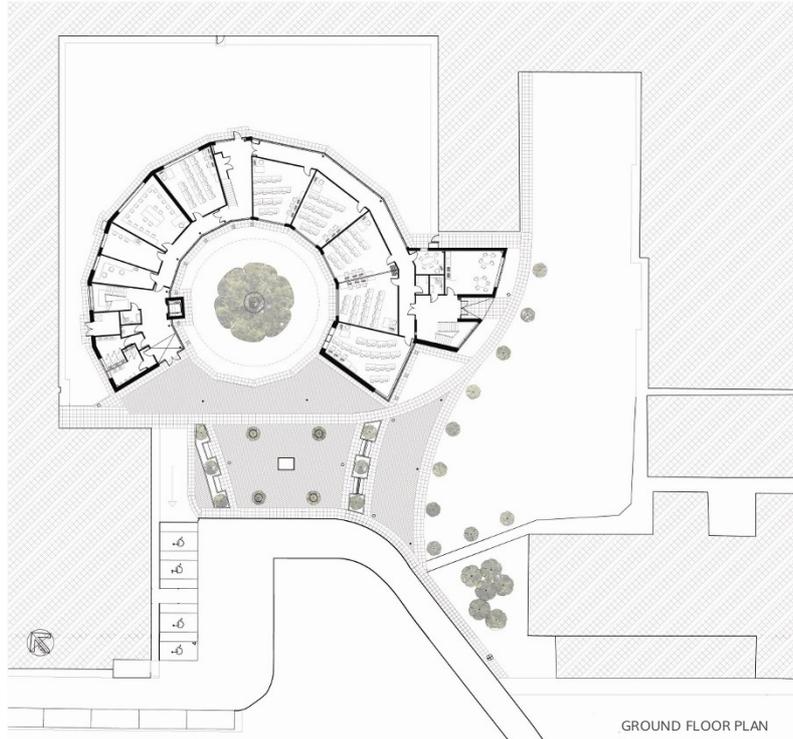


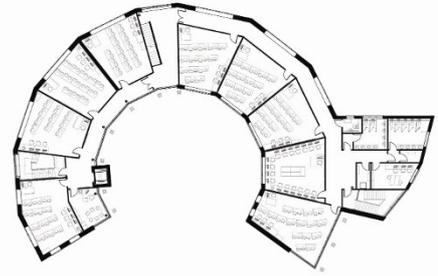


CASE STUDY: EDUCATION

LEARNING CORE DEVELOPMENT CENTRE



GROUND FLOOR PLAN

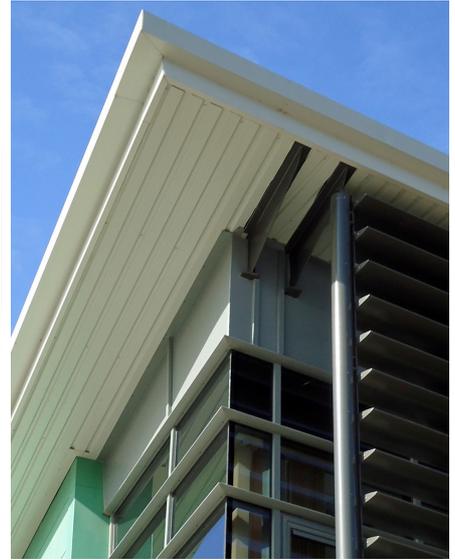


FIRST FLOOR PLAN



SECTION





## Sustainability Strategy

Orientation and the surrounding built form were carefully considered to allow the building to benefit from passive solar gain and high levels of natural daylight, helping to aid productivity and reducing the reliance on artificial light.

Water efficiency was one of the building's primary aims, with water saving devices such as low flow sanitary fittings and a rainwater harvesting system, with a digital readout in the foyer, helping to inform the students and staff.

A steel frame construction is combined with blockwork walls for thermal mass which helps to regulate internal temperature changes. An insulated panel system has also been used to provide enhanced thermal performance and improved air tightness.

The design centred around the existing oak tree, and was supplemented by a planting scheme developed by the College's horticulture department, helping to improve the biodiversity on site.

## Sustainability Overview

- Rainwater Harvesting
- Low flow sanitary fittings & dual flush toilets
- Passive Solar Design
- Overheating prevented by tinted glass, Brise Soleil & internal blinds
- BRE Green Guide 'A' rated materials
- Natural Ventilation and avoidance of air conditioning
- Light sensors & Thermostatic radiator valves creating a responsive building
- High thermal performance through the building fabric
- Improved Biodiversity centred around the retention of existing oak tree

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# CASE STUDY: EDUCATION

## LEARNING CORE DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

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**Name of Building**

Learning Core Development Centre  
Deeside College

**Date Completed**

September 2009

**Project Cost**

£2.25 million

**Building Type**

Education

**Location**

Deeside, Flintshire

**Client**

Deeside College

**Main Contractor**

Anwyl Construction Ltd.

**Awards**

Welsh National Green Apple Gold Award  
2010

**Building Overview**

Ainsley Gommon Architects were commissioned by Deeside College to design a new Learning Core Development Centre for 14-19 year olds at the Deeside Campus in June 2007. The building is located within a courtyard space facing south, and bounded on three sides by the existing 1950's college building. A mature Oak tree central to the site proved to be the inspiration and focal point of the design.

The curved building is orientated around the tree, allowing the Oak to become the core element of the design and creating a sheltered space and meeting point for students, staff and visitors. The building provides sixteen classrooms including computer and video conferencing facilities, two resource rooms, two staff offices and toilet facilities. The aim was to encourage flexibility of space and additional teaching spaces which could be adopted for different uses. The building is not only used by 14-19 year olds, but also for night classes which are proving very popular for all age groups.

Nev Price, the Head of Programmes at Deeside College has said of the building: *"the Centre is a delight to work in. It provides an incredible learning facility which is enjoyed by all."*

The classroom plan shape delivers the areas required to meet education requirements, and the unusual footprints allow for improved acoustic performance and a variety of seating arrangements. Sliding doors to the ground floor classrooms enable teaching to take place outside on warmer days, mixing nature and learning and helping students to appreciate the changing seasons. The building provides a place to learn in a colourful, light and spacious environment that encourages students to study and be inspired. Steve Jackson, Vice-Principle of the College said *"excellent building, on time, within budget.....a true exemplar of a partnering agreement."*

