

**PRESS ENQUIRIES**

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FEILDEN FOWLES

PRESS RELEASE

**THE HOYLAND, PINWOOD SCHOOL
THE COTSWOLDS****03/2022**

Feilden Fowles has completed a new building at Pinewood School, a co-educational day and boarding school in a conservation area on the edge of the Cotswolds, in Wiltshire. Dedicated to learning outside the classroom, the school sought an inspiring new building that would maximise its 84-acre grounds. The result is a highly-sustainable teaching and learning centre embedded in the landscape, serving as a base for the Middle School and the Learning Skills department. The flexible design accommodates varied learning styles and teaching methods, including the integration of technology, while maintaining contact with the verdant surroundings.

Built into the gently rolling landscape, The Hoyland joins the differing levels of the old and new campuses — the estate's original Bourton House and, on lower ground, the sports facilities — negotiating a 3.5 metre drop. The height of the new building was limited to permit unimpeded views to and from the house. At the building's higher level, a palette of clay tiles and ordered openings references the proportion and rhythm of the 19th century context, while taking on a more playful language nearer the ground, with brick piers surmounted by a laminated veneer lumber (LVL) engineered timber clerestory.

The building's key feature is an enclosed learning street — a multipurpose path that begins at the higher end of the site, and provides access to six classrooms, a learning skills suite of rooms, offices and toilets. Entry to the clerestory-lit street is via a double-height open resource space featuring a broad 'Hellerup staircase' and mezzanine that can be used for assemblies, study and socialising. The Hellerup stair is named after the open-plan school in Copenhagen acclaimed for its wide, central staircase. The architects trialled the staircase-cum-assembly area for the design of the award-winning Fitzjames Centre at Hazlegrove School in Somerset, in 2014. Already this feature has been popular with students, who have named it the 'Everest steps'.

The voluminous hall is illuminated by large rooflights with white painted brick walls and pale timber panelling, further brightening the space. At the street's lower level, six classrooms are arranged in pairs, with small pockets between, offering opportunities for passively supervised, self-directed study, and acting as a threshold to the outdoors, where patio areas border the building. The classrooms vary in character depending on their location within the building: close to the forest, embedded within the slope or open towards the landscape. The communal areas provide long views out to the landscape. As universal findings show, experiencing nature — whether physically or visually — improves pupils' ability to learn and benefits their health and wellbeing. Recognising this, Feilden Fowles' design carefully orchestrates connections to the outdoors throughout the building.



The new building adopts a fabric-first approach to sustainability, which minimises energy consumption and ensures a comfortable learning environment. It is highly insulated; naturally ventilated through a combination of windows, vents and rooflights; and heated by means of air source heat pumps in combination with underfloor heating. All spaces include CO2 monitors with a traffic light system indicating when windows need opening.

Feilden Fowles has been actively engaged with education design, both in the delivery of buildings and through research and teaching at London Metropolitan University, where they have led a unit on design for education spaces.

Philip Hoyland, Former Headmaster, Pinewood School, said:

'The new teaching and learning centre is very reflective of the aims and ambitions of the school. Feilden Fowles immediately grasped the fact that we were looking for something more than just a classroom block. We wanted an environment that would stimulate and inspire our children, that would allow for the space to integrate technology into our teaching, and that would serve as a base for our Middle School and Learning Skills department. Above all, we wanted a building that blended the prevailing architectural styles surrounding it, so it sits at ease within the Pinewood estate.'

Neal Bailey, Headmaster, said:

'Teaching and learning in The Hoyland is greatly enhanced by the spacious, light and stimulating environment it provides. The modern, incredibly well-resourced and acoustically calm classrooms flank the Learning Street, leading to the Everest Steps, a mini amphitheatre aptly named by the children, where assemblies, talks and performances all regularly take place. We have also been able to relocate the Learning Skills department to the mezzanine, a brilliant area where some of our learners can receive more sensitive and appropriate assistance in the perfect setting.'

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Address:	Bourton, Shrivenham SN6 8HZ
Start on site:	January 2019
Completion:	March 2020
Gross internal floor area:	676m ²
Construction value:	£2,281,788
Commissioning client:	Pinewood School
Architects:	Feilden Fowles
Main contractor:	Charlie Carter, Beard Construction
Structural engineer:	Peter Laidler, Structure Workshop
Services engineer:	Ritchie + Daffin
Civil engineer:	Genever and Partners
QS:	Gardiner and Theobald
Landscape architect:	Sara Sall Studio (Concept)
Photographer:	© Peter Cook



Feilden Fowles is an award-winning London-based architecture practice founded in 2009 by Fergus Feilden and Edmund Fowles. The practice delivers socially and environmentally sustainable buildings across a variety of sectors, and aims to make architecture that is rich in character and distinct in identity. The projects often interpret historic, cultural or vernacular references to generate clear concepts with a legible diagram. Structural integrity and tectonic expression drive the detailed design process to deliver buildings that are at once robust and well-built.

Current commissions include The Urban Nature Project at the Natural History Museum; the ongoing strategic masterplan for Ralph Allen School, Bath; student accommodation at Green Templeton College, University of Oxford; and an exhibition hall for the Nation Railway Museum in York. Built works to date include cultural buildings, educational projects, heritage, workplace and residential architecture. Examples include 2019 Stirling Prize finalist The Weston visitor centre and gallery at Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Wakefield; and other award-winning projects such as Charlie Bigham's Food Production Campus, Somerset; the Fraternity at Carlisle Cathedral; the Fitzjames Centre, Hazlegrove School; and Waterloo City Farm, where the practice's studio is located. Feilden Fowles was named BD's 'Gold Architect' and 'Public Building Architect of the Year' in 2021, and listed in the AJ's 40 Under 40 list in 2020.

feildenfowles.co.uk



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