



Christmas 2010

Welcome to the Christmas 2010 edition of the Synergy newsletter.

We hope you're all prepared for Christmas and have survived the snow!

In this edition we celebrate the opening of three school building projects, including one of our most discreet educational facilities, a triple win at the Brick Awards and we let you in on some interesting facts about Number 10...

We are pleased to say 2010 has seen an increase in commissions

compared with 2009 and if finances allow, there really is no better time to progress with projects in order to take advantage of low building costs. If you would like to discuss any future plans, no matter how big or small, do get in touch.

Seasons greetings and best wishes to all our clients and fellow consultants for Christmas and the New Year ahead from the Synergy Team.

Graham Harvey-Browne
Executive Chairman

'Camouflaged' Sports Hall Opens at St. Dominic's Sixth Form College

When the College embarked upon a Sports Hall on their Campus at the top of Harrow-on-the-Hill, pressure from neighbours, planners and local interest groups led to a building that is surrounded by a full height "living wall" of climbing plants on a metal trellis, attached to laminated timber tusks capped by a sedum roof.

The resultant green box, which was built over 12 months and opened in the spring, sits well in the wooded hill top. Within is a full size Sports Hall with changing rooms, toilets and offices, a fitness suite and two teaching rooms.

Externally the surrounds are heavily planted and adjacent is an all-weather pitch surrounded by timber retained embankments.

This scheme is the latest of some fifteen projects over the last ten years where we have acted as Employer's Agent and Quantity Surveyors to the College.

Previous projects at the College have included a 3-storey science and music building, a kitchen and dining extension, refurbishment of a 3-storey administration and teaching building and refurbishment of the College Chapel.



CMPB Email Addresses No Longer Valid - Please Change Your Records

The cmpb.co.uk email addresses you may have for some of us have been cancelled due to the liquidation of our service procurer and we are unable to reclaim this domain name.

Please use initial.surname@synergyLLP.com to contact any of our Partners or staff and change your records accordingly. Apologies for any inconvenience caused.



Services

Cost Management

Bills of Quantities
 Claims Consultancy
 Construction Cost Consultancy
 Cost Estimating
 Cost Management/Control
 Expert Witness Work
 Fire Insurance Assessment & Valuations
 Insurance Loss Adjustment & Claims
 Life Cycle Costing
 Project Feasibility Reports
 Quality Assurance
 Risk Management
 Taxation Advice
 on construction properties
 Urban Regeneration
 Value Engineering
 Value Management

Building Surveying & Architecture

Advice to Landlords
 Building Maintenance & Repair Specification
 Building Refurbishment
 Building Technical Audit
 Completion & Handover Management
 Condition Surveys
 Contract Administration
 Cost Estimating
 Cost Management/Control
 Design for New Buildings, Alterations & Extensions
 Detail Design
 Disability Discrimination Act
 Surveys on Buildings
 Employer's Agent
 Fire Protection & Detection
 Party Wall Surveying
 Planned Maintenance Management
 Project Feasibility Reports
 Quality Assurance
 Schedules of Dilapidation
 Chartered Architects
 Full or partial Architects services
 New building design and planning
 Development appraisals
 Refurbishments, alterations, extensions
 Changes of use
 Commercial, educational & residential projects
 Architects services to property developers
 Applications for Planning permission
 Planning consultancy and appeals
 Listed buildings
 Working drawings for construction and building regulations
 Contract administration
 Contractors design & partnering projects
 Landscapes & Interiors
 Sustainability and design and access statements

Project Management

Alternative Dispute Resolution
 Brief & feasibility documents
 Claims Consultancy
 Completion & Handover Management
 Construction Procurement/Management
 Construction Programmes
 Contract Administration
 Design Management
 Employer's Agent
 Monitoring of Construction Progress
 Office Relocation Management
 Planned Maintenance Management
 Project Execution Plans
 Project Feasibility Reports
 Quality Assurance
 Risk Management
 Urban Regeneration

Health and Safety

Assessment of Contractor H&S Competency
 Assessment of Designer H&S Competency
 CDM Co-ordinator services
 Health & safety advice on buildings
 Health & safety advice on construction projects
 Health & Safety Audits of sites
 Health & Safety Training

Sports Surfaces

Feasibility studies and budget costing
 Evaluation of existing facilities and advice on future treatment
 Detailed design, planning and new facilities
 Funding advice
 Full project management and quality control
 Pitch inspection service

A Triple Win at the 2010 Brick Awards!

We are proud to announce Synergy's association with three winning nominations for the 2010 Brick Awards, announced at a ceremony in London on 3 November.

The Olympic Substation, on which we have worked with a division of EDF Energy for the past 2 years, providing project and cost management, health, safety & environmental management, logistics and quality management, won the ultimate accolade, receiving the 'Supreme Award' - crowning it the best of the best! The judges' decision was articulately explained in the following citation:

"This remarkable building demonstrates many ways in which brick can be used. The precision and clarity of the expression persuaded the judges that it deserved the 'best of the best' award. Close co-operation between the architect and client produced a building that is two thirds the size of a standard unit and is within cost limits. It will provide an enduring legacy on the Olympic site."

The substation also won the 'Best Public Building Award'.

The judges were impressed by the "elegant simplicity of the scheme that belies the complex brief", describing the building as "a powerful and convincing solution".



The Olympic Substation at Bow



The opening concert at Sevenoaks Performing Arts Centre

The third award was for Sevenoaks School's Performing Arts Centre, which won the 'Best Education Building Award', and on which we acted as Project Manager and CDM Coordinator. Described by the judges as a "delightful building", it was credited for "exploiting the topography of the site and the creation of external spaces and internal volumes that combine to make a satisfying composition".

Congratulations from Synergy to its clients and those members of the project teams involved in the design and delivery of these exciting and prestigious projects.

The quality of the entries for the 2010 Brick Awards was extremely high which makes receiving these Awards even more memorable.



Sevenoaks Performing Arts Centre



Synergy group

Bare, Leaning & Bare
CM Parker Browne
Cook and Butler
Johnson & Partners
Otley Morrison

Sectors

Commercial
Ecclesiastical
Education
Healthcare
Historic Buildings
& Conservation
Hotels
Infrastructure
Residential
Retail
Sport & Leisure
Sports Surfaces

Services

Cost Management
Building Surveying
& Architecture
Project Management
Health and Safety
Sports Surfaces

BREEAM Excellent achieved at Holy Trinity School, Richmond

Synergy project management and quantity surveying work continues at Holy Trinity School, Richmond and we are pleased that the first two new school wings have been handed over and are now occupied by the school.

This £4.7 million project for the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames increases and vastly improves the school's facilities from 1 Form Entry to 2 Form Entry, with a design that embodies sustainable principles throughout, to meet the BREEAM Excellent target set by the planning authority.

A challenging project for all involved, is now showing the signs of being an exemplar for collaborative working, taking ownership of the needs of the school that has remained in occupation, to deliver a visionary concept that is improving the learning environment at this wonderful school.

The new buildings were constructed from engineered prefabricated timber panels, green roofs and super-insulated wall fabric to meet the stringent energy criteria.



Passive environment systems have been adopted including earth tubes and ground source heat arrays, under or within the beautifully landscaped external zones which will form an integral part of the school learning environments.

Nick Clegg opens Sutton Life Centre

Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg officially opened the Sutton Life Centre on 27th October 2010.

The new £8m facility is one of several projects for which Synergy have provided quantity surveying and cost management services to the London Borough of Sutton.

The Sutton Life Centre offers a unique multi-media learning experience and is targeted at schools across London and the southern Home Counties. Through a combination of built architecture and unrivalled high-definition video projection, used in conjunction with computer-controlled sound and lighting, the Life Centre provides a compelling and immersive learning experience. Visitors experience realistic scenarios to allow them to learn how to handle a range of risky and socially challenging situations they may face in their everyday lives.

Topics include bullying and relationship issues, through to substance abuse and personal safety, as well as the environment and climate change.

The Sutton Life Centre also provides facilities for the local community, including a library, meeting rooms, café, a large climbing wall and outdoor multi-use games areas with indoor changing and shower facilities.

As part of Mr. Clegg's visit he sat in on a short lesson with Greenshaw High School pupils. He described Sutton as a "vanguard of the Big Society" and said the Life Centre "fitted in perfectly with that spirit". "I was struck by what one boy said about the place - he said 'it makes you feel confident about life', which is exactly right. It will give optimism and confidence to young people".



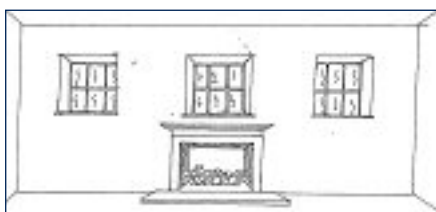
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Well I Never...!

One of our Associate Partners was lucky enough to be given a tour of 10 Downing Street recently.

He did some snooping for us and came back with some interesting facts you may not know... (best Michael Cain voice)

- The letter box on the front door is a dummy. You might have noticed that it is fixed across the centre muntin. A regular timber door would be structurally compromised if there was a letter slot in this position.
- The door is made of steel for security reasons. There is a spare and the doors are switched periodically for overhauling as the weight puts an immense strain on the hinges. The smooth black mirror finish is achieved by suspending the door horizontally and painting it from beneath.
- No-one really knows why the '10' numeral painted on the front door has a lopsided '0' - some think it is so that it appears to be in the correct proportion for a non-circular '0' when approaching from Whitehall.
- The door is rarely opened wide to ensure the press can't take candid shots of the PM and his/her staff going about their business.
- The Terracotta Drawing Room refurbishment in the 80's, included moulded plaster door pediments with cherubs at each end... except that one is not a cherub but a man climbing a ladder with sheaves of straw over his shoulder. The craftsman plasterer did this to ensure that there would always be a Thatcher in 10 Downing Street.
- A portrait of Maggie Thatcher takes pride of place in the room used by Gordon Brown as his office when PM. Apparently he chose it as he is actually an admirer of the former Prime Minister.
- A lot of the graceful sash windows are glazed in extremely thick bomb and bullet-proof glass - the timber glazing bars are not real but simply stuck on each side for effect. Some windows remain as originally glazed in the 17th century, with irreplaceable thin glass from France. These windows have contemporary glazed security screens fitted to the outer reveals.
- On display in the Cabinet Room is a gold sword and scabbard given by the Saudi Royal family during a state visit. The sword is contemporary and fitted with an ivory handle, which makes it illegal to bring into this country... the problem has been overcome by resting the sword on a piece of felt belonging to HM Revenue and Customs - so technically, the piece hasn't been released from Customs and isn't in the UK!



- And finally... the adjacent sketch is of the East wall of the Small Dining Room designed by Sir John Soane – one of three dining rooms in Nr 10 designed by him. There's something odd about it – can you guess what? (Answer at foot of page)



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