



Bertha Park High School

A new era of educational design in Perth, Scotland

Bertha Park High School was designed for Perth + Kinross Council, and delivered through Hub East Central Scotland, based on a radical design vision to give equality of the user and learning experience to all its occupants in an entirely seamless way. The school had to provide both a stimulating place to learn and a facility that could be used by the growing community of Bertha Park, an expanding residential suburb of Perth in central Scotland. The ground up building was the first new school in Scotland in 25 years and was envisioned to create a new era of digital and innovative learning techniques.

To realize the vision, NORR designed a compact, sustainable and highly efficient form that features a deceptively simple urban exterior with a rich series of internal spaces animated by natural light. The variety of internal spaces are creatively encapsulated within four walls and a sloping roof, with repetitive detailing, to improve buildability and whole life costs. Accessibility is at its core giving equality to all users. Bertha Park is arranged on a north-south axis, presenting a taller and highly glazed frontage to the north, attractively putting learning on show to its wider community. In contrast, the lower scaled southern end of the building offers access to the schools' main social area, and to its wider residential context. The school is also connected to the main street to the north by a public plaza, which further integrates the school into the community.

This contemporary building is generally regarded as the most cutting edge, innovative secondary school environment yet built in Scotland and was designed to deliver a fully digitally enabled curriculum. This genuinely radical learning environment is one of only 17 in the world that forms part of the Microsoft Flagship Initiative.

CLIENT	Perth & Kinross Council, delivered by Robertson Construction for Hub East Central Scotland
PORTFOLIO	Education
CATEGORY	K - 12
SIZE	131,589 SF (12,225 SM)
LOCATION	Perth, Scotland, UK
DATE	July 2019
SERVICES	Architecture
AWARDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education Buildings Scotland, Award for Transforming Learning, Teaching and Curriculum, 2019

Education

It's an exciting time in education. Changing pedagogies, advancing technologies and evolving student expectations are influencing educational facility design. The places in which students interact, engage and learn must be hands-on, flexible and technologically advanced. From primary schools to higher education institutions, we carefully craft connections between students, faculty and staff to positively influence learning outcomes.

Good Design Enhances Learning

From early instruction to higher education, we consider the progression of the student experience; we know that good design enhances learning outcomes. Creating a stimulating environment can directly influence the development and pace of learning for students of any age. Students learn in many different ways, and we understand the importance of crafting a facility that is inclusive – a place where all students, faculty and staff can feel warm, welcome and equal.

Navigating Complexity

NORR recognizes that the spaces we create and the environments we shape have a profound impact on the people who use them. Our mission is to deliver distinctive, high-functioning, sustainable and cost effective design solutions that are unique to each client. We fulfill these goals and aspirations by engaging our

clients in a dynamic, inclusive and creative partnership with the design team throughout the planning and design process. Our design teams work collaboratively with all stakeholders to implement solutions that are effective, economical and environmentally responsible.

We implement systems and strategies guided by sustainability, durability, budget and common sense. We select building materials and systems that will perform over a significant life span while maintaining their intended appearance and efficiency. Our goal is to create an environment that meets and exceeds the client's functional, visual and fiscal requirements, while conveying the essence of the school's identity, values and culture.

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