



West Calder High School

Cutting edge educational architecture in Scotland

With a form inspired by the agricultural and industrial heritage of the area, the unique design of West Calder High School supports our client's aspiration for a high quality, inter-connected modern school building that is genuinely stimulating for all those who use it. Its interesting roof-scape echoes the angular forms of the nearby 5 Sisters Shale Bings, and the property includes a wide variety of inviting spaces of varying scale and character awash with natural light.

NORR's educational architecture design team worked with an efficient footprint that is sustainable, allowing us to build additional accommodation and remain well below the relevant Scottish Futures Trust (SFT) area guidance. The building takes a dynamic angular form over a deep, naturally lit plan grouped around a central performance space. Split-level sections provide a rich series of interconnected learning spaces. The design features open plan or multi-purpose spaces, complete with technology to facilitate the school's "Inspired Learning" model. The state-of-the-art design was driven by our design team's deeply collaborative relationship with school and community stakeholders, ensuring the space fits the growing needs of West Calder's community for years to come. When opening the new building, former Prime Minister Gordon Brown said he "had not seen a better school anywhere else in the world."

CLIENT	West Lothian Council, HUB South East Scotland
PORTFOLIO	Education
CATEGORY	K - 12
SIZE	137,380 SF (12,763 SM)
LOCATION	West Lothian, Scotland
DATE	June 2018
SERVICES	Architecture

AWARDS

- 2019 Education Buildings Scotland Awards, Project of the Year
- 2018 Education Buildings Scotland Awards, Pupil/Student Experience (Finalist)
- 2018 Partnership Bulletin Silver Award, Best Social Infrastructure Project
- 2017 Education Buildings Scotland, Inspiring Learning Spaces

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.

CONTACT

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