



# Rectory School

Location: Moulton, Suffolk

Grade: II

Local Authority: Forest Heath District Council (at the time of the project, now West Suffolk District Council)

#### Architects Whitworth

18 Hatter Street, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 INE

www.wcp-architects.com

### Contractors

Self build, various contractors working for the client.

Structural Engineers
AFP Consulting Engineers Ltd
Bury St Edmunds

#### The Application Process

Forest Heath District Council, Suffolk

Whitworth were appointed to assist the client to negotiate the listed building approval process, helping to deal with the challenges of shaping a large and contemporary extension that would connect sensitively with the existing listed former school building. An ongoing dialogue with the conservation officer was developed to negotiate the shape and details of this extension. Various scheme proposals were considered and discussed to meet the client's requirements and address sensitivities of the context of working with a listed building. The approach adopted was largely based upon the reuse of the footprint of the existing dilapidated single storey extensions. In addition, the rising ground level to the rear of the property facilitated the opportunity of forming a roof terrace that matches the rising rear garden level. To guard the edges of this terrace we raised the walls to extend guarding, in order to help soften this large building mass vertical cedar cladding was chosen to help it blend into the landscape.

## **LPOC Comment**

Some extensions to listed buildings are designed to stand out whilst others are designed to blend in. In the case of the former school at Moulton, the architects chose to subdue the visual impact of the extension by digging it into the land which rose steeply at the rear of the building. They used natural cladding to the exterior walls in contrast to the dark flintwork of the Victorian building.

However, it is the design and reinterpretation of the magnificent internal spaces, particularly the former school hall, that stands out in this creative conversion.