

The Edinburgh Academy Sports Pavillion

For The Edinburgh Academy

The concept for this building both arose in response to its site and to enhance its parkland setting.

A freestanding circular 'pavilion' was set into the gap in the existing central avenue of trees, split into two parts, each responding to its orientation and the pitches it faced, and each half offset to create a central zone of accommodation. The circular form presented a strong clear image in the parkland.

Internally, the changing accommodation was mostly inward-looking with little need for windows, so the central zone created some spatial interest, particularly in the social areas of the building.

Sports Pavilions are, by their nature, isolated and intermittently occupied, so it was important that sustainable elements and security features were integrated into the design.

The fabric was designed to be low energy and well insulated with zero-ODP insulation, and sustainable strategies were developed for the heating system, using a 'green' fuel source, the ventilation system, utilising natural where possible, and the hot water system, using separate cylinders for each changing room and utilising the roof for solar collection to supplement it. The concept allowed for the option to put changing accommodation at the upper level to utilise a gravity drainage system, without the need for a pump.

The exterior timber and metal cladding was robust, low maintenance and sustainable. Screens and grillage were integral with the design concept and all openings were secured when the building was not in use.

The building was fully accessible. Social areas could operate discretely and access to and from pitches was separate from general access to the building.

