



were paramount, together with a strong commitment that the physical activities of the Games would be used to inspire a future wellbeing agenda.

The resulting design is one that maximises access to natural light, offers good views to the outside, and promotes simple wayfinding for visitors and staff alike.

The use of the building to serve the Paralympics also brought a new level of rigour to the design process for inclusion, with the architects analysing each space and route in terms of a range of disabilities.

Sarah Drake of Penoyre and Prasad said: “The relative smallness of this building in relation to its towering residential neighbours convinced us of the need to create a dynamic and eye-catching form as a landmark statement from an important local civic building.”

The judges added: “The building is bright and airy, with a strong presence on the street and an optimistic air. This is an absolutely beautiful development.”

WINNER: REFURBISHMENT

★ Barbara Weiss Architects for Wokingham Medical Centre

“Created out of an unremarkable 1980s office block, the new centre is at once stylish and welcoming, flooded with light, and with spaces that are simple and clinical, yet remain humane.”

This comment from the judging panel sums up the impact of the new Wokingham Medical Centre.

Formerly the oldest and largest GP practice in town, Wokingham Medical Centre announced expansion plans after

seeing registrations increase due to new homes being built in the area.

The main aim was to combine under one roof a practice that had been operating from two distinct sites, allowing expansion and accommodation of new services, improving access for mobility-impaired visitors, and creating a state-of-the-art facility that would be a pleasure for all stakeholders

While total demolition of the existing building would have offered many advantages, this option was not viable due to the budget.

BWA’s revamp design substantially expanded the footprint while adding a light and airy penthouse conference room on the roof.

This strategy extended the floor area by a third, with the benefit of replacing the existing façade with a fresh and welcoming new face to the building, notable for its bespoke oak curtain walling and ‘intelligent glass’.

The new consulting rooms meet NHS space standards and are modelled on the typology of traditional doctors’ rooms: discreetly divided into two sections with a consultation space and examination area. Here, a flick of a switch allows doctors to alternate window opacity and transparency, avoiding the need for blinds and the subsequent infection control issues.

Patient safety was carefully considered in all aspects of the design, from improved access, to sensor taps and bespoke holders for sharps bins.

Every floor also accommodates generous waiting areas. Effort has been put into bringing as much natural light as possible into the centre of the building

via skylights and borrowed light.

Sustainability is addressed through passive fabric improvements, replacement windows, and creating cross-ventilation and night-time cooling.

The judges added: “The modernisation of an existing building has been accomplished to yield a medical centre that is not only fit for purpose, but also delivers an environment for today’s patients’ needs.”

ALSO CONSIDERED

★ Abacus Architects for the Lion Health Centre

★ SR Architects for Cranleigh Medical Practice

★ Apollo Capital Projects for Rumney Medical Centre

★ Capita for Cynon Valley Community Hospital

Award for Best Mental Health Development

This award was presented to an exemplary new-build or refurbishment project of a mental health facility designed to create a positive, supportive and therapeutic environment for all users. Entries included low, medium and high-secure facilities; addiction units; and autism centres

WINNERS

★ Gilling Dod Architects for Junction 17, Tier 4 CAMHS Unit at Prestwich

Junction 17 is the new £9m Tier 4 child and adolescent mental health unit in Prestwich.