



LIVING ROOFS AND RENEWABLE ENERGY JUST PART OF OUR RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CRISIS – SEE MORE IN OUR CENTRE SPREAD

# ALNWICK PLAYHOUSE & COMMUNITY HUB REOPENS

The Auditorium now includes improved leg room



Alnwick Playhouse has reopened after a £3.3m refurbishment.



Alnwick Playhouse reopened to the public following the January completion of a £3.3m refurbishment which has added a community hub to the much-loved arts venue.

Our scheme enabled badly needed improvements and repairs to be undertaken to a building that had become the centre of the town's social and cultural calendar as well as offering an efficient rationalisation of the Local Authority amenity space in the town by rehusing Northumberland County Council's Library and Tourist Information facilities on the ground floor.

Originally built in 1925 as a cinema and music hall, with falling audiences the Playhouse had closed in 1979 before re-opening in 1983 as a

small theatre venue for the Northumberland Theatre Trust (NTC) and sharing the venue with the Alnwick District Playhouse Trust (ADPT) who ran the auditorium, providing a variety of services. However, despite the best efforts of both staff and volunteers, the deteriorating fabric of the venue required major capital investment beyond the budget of either group but which has now been provided by its purchase by Northumberland County Council who have granted a 50 year lease to ADPT.

Northumberland County Council has contributed £2.5 million towards the cost of the work, with the Playhouse raising a further £800,000 to finance a new café and restaurant, refurbished auditorium, studio adaptations and full refurbishment throughout.

JDDK Associate Director and Project Architect, Nicky Hodgson, explained the scheme, "The Playhouse sits in a fairly restricted site facing onto Bondgate Without but had sadly become no longer fit for purpose. The whole purpose of the refurbishment has been to provide an improved

Local Ward Councillor, and Playhouse Trust Board member, Gordon Castle, added,

*"Over the years the offer of the Playhouse has expanded with plays, shows, films and events, but unfortunately the building was failing and needed a lot of repairs. The roof was leaking and the electrics weren't great. With the persistence and commitment of a whole range of partners we have been able to restore the building and create a fantastic arts and cultural centre for the north east of the county."*

Arts and Community Facility for the 60,000 visitors who currently enjoy the facility's events by re-modelling the interior, providing a new Playhouse Restaurant and Café, a new lift facility with back stage improvements and a new studio theatre, providing a dedicated safe space for work with children and young people."

"There's also a new ground level entrance for wheelchair and buggy access, a refurbished bar area with additional toilets whilst improvements in the main theatre include improved leg room and a brand new hearing loop system making every seat user friendly to hearing impaired patrons."

The Playhouse's new café



The Gallery looks out onto the main street

The new bar of the Playhouse



The Rivergreen Centre Northumberland

## RIVERGREEN CENTRE NORTHUMBERLAND OPENS AT STANNINGTON

Our design for Rivergreen Developments' new office scheme has officially opened at St Mary's Park, Stannington on the former site of St Mary's Hospital.

The 12,480 sq ft office and conference centre, like the original Rivergreen Centre in Durham which was sold three years ago, has been designed and constructed to minimise

environmental impact. From triple-glazed windows and natural ventilation system down to shower facilities for commuting cyclists and lunch-time runners, the development scores highly on the BREEAM sustainability scale.

The building is kitted out with state-of-the-art communications with fast-fibre broadband throughout, a boardroom with interactive smart screen and conference space for 100 delegates with a super-size wall projection screen.

The original Rivergreen Centre in Durham, also designed by JDDK, was hailed for its design and impact and won the 2007 RICS National Award for Sustainability, a 2007 RIBA award and the 2007 Sustainability, Commercial, Design & Innovation and Project of the Year categories of the RICS North East Renaissance Awards.

Inside the Office and Conference Centre



The Rivergreen Centre Northumberland has been shortlisted for the RICS NE Social Impact Award.

**Rivergreen Developments' Managing Director, Peter Candler, said,**

*"Built in the heart of Northumberland's spectacular living landscape, the Rivergreen Centre offers all the benefits of 21st Century technologies within the tranquillity of a rural setting. It really is the best of both worlds."*

## EUROPEAN PROJECTS WITH ELEKTA

Following on from our work with the Rutherford Cancer Centres and the creation of the DFJ Designs partnership with Desco and Fairhurst Consulting Engineers, we are now also working in partnership with Elekta, who design and manufacture the revolutionary Unity MR-linac system equipment amongst other state-of-the-art medical technology.

Founded in 1972 by the Swedish neurosurgeon and inventor of radiosurgery. Professor Lars Leksell, Elekta AB has now grown into a global leader in the development of MRI scanning, radiotherapy and proton beam therapy equipment, employing some 4,000 people globally providing radiotherapy solutions for cancer care and brain disorders.

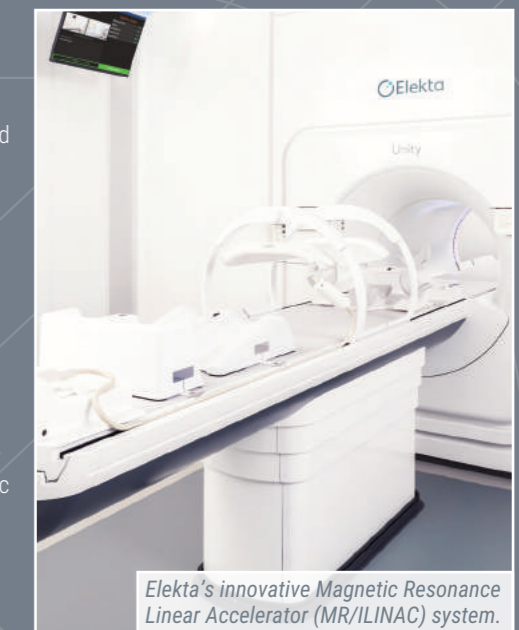
Our work with Elekta so far is the provision of drawing services for three European projects where they have provided a site layout into which we fit in a solution for the heavily shielded Elekta Unity equipment – a magnetic resonance radiation therapy (MR/RT) system which combines a high-field MRI scanner with a best-

in-class linear accelerator to enable personalised radiation therapy.

Our ongoing work for PPI combines the practice's design ideas for health environments with the technical expertise to design and construct heavily serviced and precisely engineered centres at the very cutting edge of medical technology..

In conjunction with Fairhurst Engineers, we are also assisting Elekta in updating their latest Site Planning Guide for their state of the art MR Linac equipment. This will create more construction-friendly information into a BIM/Revit format allowing the end user to navigate an interactive 3D model which can be read in conjunction with the simplified 2D drawings as well as being directly hyperlinked to the text of the main document.

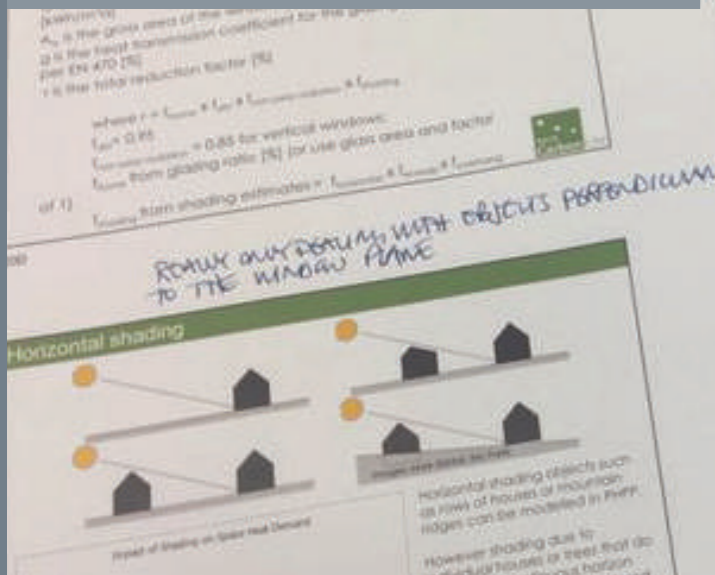
We are using our experience of dealing with the construction requirements of Elekta's MR Linac at the Rutherford Cancer Centre in Liverpool in order to make these improvements.



Elekta's innovative Magnetic Resonance Linear Accelerator (MR/LINAC) system.

JDDK Director, Kevin Turnbull, commented, "We're delighted to be partnering with Elekta and Fairhurst Engineers to assist their clients in the design of new medical facilities using their innovative equipment. The first of the projects is in Belgium with another two European centres already being discussed."

# PASSIVHAUS TRAINING



The Passivhaus course involved a great deal of Physics and Building Science!

As part of our recently launched sustainability strategy, "20:20 – A Vision For Our Future", we committed the practice to continually increasing our knowledge and capability in sustainable design. As part of this, JDDK Director, Adam Vaughan, and Associate and Technologist, Tristan Cooper, have now completed the Passivhaus Designer Course, an intensive training programme into the techniques of designing to the internationally recognized Passivhaus Standard.



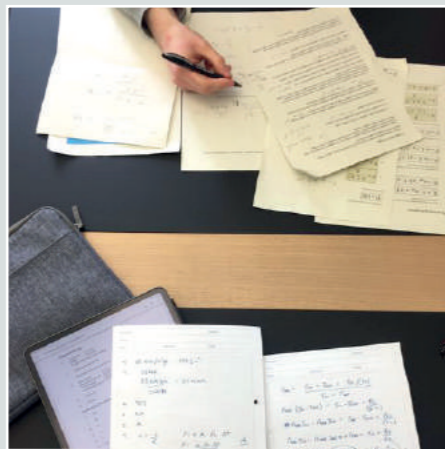
Passivhaus originates from Germany and translates as 'passive house or building'. It is a method for designing and constructing buildings which are very comfortable and healthy to occupy, whilst using considerably less energy in use.

Importantly, the standard is based on years of research and development in the physics of low energy building. This 'evidence based' approach to design ensures that Passivhaus buildings perform well, and this is one reason why we're seeing considerable interest in the standard which has been used to design and build homes, offices, schools, and a range of other buildings around the world.

In essence, Passivhaus buildings are designed to provide comfortable and well-ventilated interiors whilst using very little energy for heating. This is achieved by ensuring continuous and high levels of insulation, triple glazed windows, airtight detailing and mechanical ventilation systems with heat recovery.

The designs also carefully avoid thermal bridges to minimise heat losses. Passivhaus buildings don't rely on renewables such as photovoltaic panels or solar hot water heating, although these can still be installed at a Client's request.

Adam Vaughan commented, "The course was very hard but incredibly useful! I already knew the Passivhaus standard was solidly based on building science, but was quite surprised at how many physics formulae I had to relearn! However, I have no doubt that Passivhaus design is going to play a key role in the practice's workload in the coming years. It gives us a proven method for creating robust low energy buildings, and this is vital if we are going to deal with the Climate Crisis that we're all facing."



The Passivhaus course involved a great deal of Physics and Building Science!

The Passivhaus standard is already being adopted by clients across the UK, from self-build homeowners, to local councils and others building procurers. Social housing providers, in particular, are recognising the benefits of increased comfort and low running costs for their tenants and see low energy design as a means of tackling fuel poverty. Importantly, the standard can be applied across a wide variety of

Tristan and Adam gain hands-on experience with airtightness tapes and membranes



construction methods including timber frame and traditional masonry construction. There is also a version of the Passivhaus standard for retrofitting existing buildings. Known as the Enerphit standard, it has been tailored to meet the specific challenges of upgrading existing properties.

The final course examination for Adam and Tristan has been delayed due to the Coronavirus crisis, and so they can't yet call themselves Certified Passivhaus Designers. However, they now have the skills and knowledge for the practice to be able to offer Passivhaus design services to our clients.

## Origin of Passivhaus

The Passivhaus concept was developed in the early 1990s by Professors Bo Adamson and Wolfgang Feist.

The first Passivhaus dwellings were constructed in Darmstadt in Germany in 1991 and, according to the UK's Passivhaus Trust, over 65,000 buildings have been designed, built and tested to this standard worldwide.

# SUE RYDER NEUROLOGICAL CARE CENTRE COMPLETES AT PRESTON



The Sue Ryder Neurological Care Centre at D'Urton Manor

Seddon Construction, working in collaboration with Newcastle-based JDDK Architects, has handed over the Sue Ryder Neurological Care Centre at Eastway, Preston, to the charity.

Designed by JDDK, who were also responsible for the successful Planning Permission in April 2018, the scheme has developed an innovative rehabilitative and therapeutic 40 bed neurological care centre for adults with complex medical conditions such as multiple sclerosis, Motor Neurone Disease and acquired brain injury.

In addition, there are two pairs of semi-detached bungalows for residents needing either continued rehabilitation for their recovery or for those with complex care needs who require one to one support to enable them to live life to their full potential in a safe, secure and homely environment.

Both the care centre and supported living units will provide specially designed bedrooms and en-suites featuring overhead hoists, extra width

corridors to accommodate specialist wheelchairs, and the use of specialist therapy spaces including a hydrotherapy pool, physio gym and rehabilitation kitchen.

This unique service will be the first of its type in Lancashire supporting an identified need within the community.

The surrounding residential development has influenced the scale of the main building which is divided into three, 12-14 bed houses across 2.5 storeys with a nursing hub on each floor enabling nursing staff to provide care to all bedrooms.

Day services, the gym and hydrotherapy pool, offices and the cafe are located to the ground floor, with further staff facilities to the first floor, whilst the smaller second floor is purely for resident bedrooms and nursing facilities.

The 2.5 storey height is in keeping with the approved residential development on the adjoining site, helping the proposals sit within the character

A typical room within the Care Centre



of the wider Eastway masterplan. Indeed, the Sue Ryder scheme will act as a gateway to the wider residential development of which it forms an important part and creates a first impression for the whole site when approached from the West.

Terry Mears, Care Centre Director at Sue Ryder commented,

"We're delighted .... The JDDK design is perfect answer to our brief for a much needed facility to provide the very best Neurological Care for the North West region."

## NEW HOMES FOR MIDDLESBOROUGH

Construction work by Gus Robinson Developments is well underway on Thirteen Group's Roworth Road development off Cargo Fleet Lane in Middlesborough.

Our design for the 89 affordable home development is being built on a brownfield site between the Thorntree Estate and the Ormesby suburb and will consist of a mix of 36 two and three bedroom bungalows and 64 two and three bedroom two storey homes.

Surrounded by existing housing, the site, which was originally also housing which had been demolished in the 90's, was previously a grassy field with few distinctive features and used mainly dog walkers.

Thirteen Group's Roworth Road development in Middlesborough



Clair Sanders, JDDK Project Architect, explained the scheme, "This substantial site presents a wonderful opportunity for a modern, high quality residential scheme which complements and enhances the existing neighbourhood.

The brief from our clients, Thirteen Group, was for a scheme which mixed different types of home to suit the varying needs of their tenants, which provided a sense of security with roads and footpaths overlooked by properties and which gave private space to each property."

"Following a public consultation in 2018, we've therefore come up with a modern cohesive development whose scale and massing is sympathetic to the surrounding area and which has a defined character and sense of place.

The 36 bungalows, four of which are for residents with accessible needs, are arranged in clusters amongst the semi-detached family homes, and the scheme is enhanced by considerable landscaping and new tree planting to the western and southern edges, and planting within the private front gardens."



## £3.2M REFURBISHMENT FOR LISTED HOMELESS PEOPLE HOSTEL

A detailed investigation into the history of one of Newcastle's listed buildings helped the practice receive Planning Permission on behalf Changing Lives, the national charity dedicated to supporting people experiencing exclusion and disadvantage, for the refurbishment of their largest accommodation project.

Elliott House, on Bentwick Terrace just off Newcastle's Westgate Road, was originally built in 1855 as four substantial Victorian terrace houses in what was at the time one of the most prestigious areas of the town. Run by Changing Lives national charity, the building currently provides safe hostel accommodation for 52 men who are experiencing homelessness, primarily in single bedrooms with either integral washbasins or en-suite facilities, with shared catering and living facilities.

Current best practice, however, is recommending apartment-type accommodation. Having worked for the charity at Elliott House for over 20 years since the original extension in 1999, offices and self-build garden structure in 2008 and further alteration work / extension in 2010, we were appointed in 2018 to assist the charity with the refurbishment and reconfiguration of the facility to provide 36 one bedroom self-contained units, to accommodate single residents but some of the larger units accommodating couples, together with support office accommodation. The new apartments will feature open plan kitchen/lounge



spaces together with bedrooms and separate bathroom facilities.

JDDK Project Architect, Samantha Dixon, listed on the RIBA Conservation register, explained the project, "Changing Lives now provides different facilities for people with different needs and whilst Elliott House was previously a very successful Direct Access facility, new thinking is that it should concentrate solely on providing referred homeless accommodation, with facilities for people with additional needs provided elsewhere by the same charity. As such, it's also now recognised that apartment-type accommodation achieves the best results in successfully integrating people who have experienced homelessness back into communities so our brief was to reconfigure the building internally and look at external possibilities within the grounds, crucially aware that this was a Grade II listed building of architectural importance."

Whilst the original building's plans were not available, Samantha's research into City archives revealed various early Building Control applications which gave an indication of the original internal layout and position of external outbuildings so that pre-application discussions with planning officials could be based on the desire to configure the building as closely to the original layout as possible and restore original features including ornate ceilings and room proportions wherever possible.

A detailed investigation into the history of one of Newcastle's listed buildings helped the practice receive Planning Permission on behalf Changing Lives, the national charity dedicated to supporting people experiencing exclusion and disadvantage, for the refurbishment of their largest accommodation project.

Our proposals, which were granted planning permission in February, were therefore based on an historical understanding and are designed for the betterment of the listed building. Three new build single storey units are to be sensitively located in the walled gardens alongside the reconfiguration of the existing garden structures. Internally, each floor is treated according to the best solution to provide apartment accommodation within the constraints of the historic fabric.

Externally, there will be no alterations to the historic building's east, south and west elevations, although one of the entrances on the west elevation, which is currently blocked up internally will be restored to full use. The new single storey structures within the walled garden are designed as garden structures in red brick with flat sedum roofs to continue the garden theme as well as providing sustainable structures, adding to the biodiversity of the site. Landscaping within the garden will include pathways to create three linking landscaped courtyards set within walled gardens providing access and amenity space.

Alex Shirley, Director at Changing Lives added:

*"The redevelopment of Elliott House is the largest scheme we have undertaken at Changing Lives and it has been great to work with JDDK on this highly impactful project - not only for the people who will live there, but also Changing Lives and Newcastle. The new Elliott House will provide high quality homes to people who need them and in so doing will help them make positive steps for their future."*



CGI's of the Hospice show how the new building could intervene with the existing structure

## PLANNING APPLICATION FOR YORKSHIRE CHILDREN'S HOSPICE

In February we applied to Leeds City Council for planning permission on behalf of Martin House Children's Hospice at Boston Spa for an ambitious refurbishment and expansion.

Opened in 1987, Martin House was only the second such hospice for children and young people with life-limiting conditions, while its Whitby Lodge unit for teenagers and young people was the UK's first when opened in 2002.

The scheme proposes a new Well-Being Centre with specialist treatment facilities, including a Hydrotherapy pool, counselling and therapy rooms, improved patient bedrooms for children and young adults, new educational facilities and improved staff accommodation to include new space for fundraising staff to operate and various meeting and office spaces.

A pre-application was made to Leeds City Council in November 2019 whilst Community Consultations were also carried out with the local Clifford and Boston Spa Parish Councils, neighbours, patients, stakeholders and the general public.

JDDK Associate Director, Stuart Franklin, explained the scheme, "The hospice had a good idea of what they wanted and were also passionate about preserving elements of the original structure and how the new building could intervene with the existing structure. Our job was to prioritise these wishes, to future proof the facility as far as possible whilst providing extra capacity and the privacy and dignity that en-suite bathrooms would create for the children, all within a designated Green Belt area."

Our Proposal for Martin House Children's Hospice at Boston Spa



The financial constraints that Martin House, like any charity, operates under meant the scheme maximises the amount of refurbishment and minimises more expensive new build extensions but still increases the gross internal area by almost 2,000 sq m with single and double storey extensions which create a new 'Orangery' space, an Education Suite, a Day Therapy Unit, 9 children's rooms with en-suite facilities and parent bedrooms.

Crucially the design also allows construction to be phased in line with fund-raising activities and ensures the Hospice can carry on operating during construction.

## 'FABRIC FIRST' APPROACH FOR LONGFRAMLINGTON ECO-HOME



Our clients, Anne & Brian Lowrie, have now moved into their new home of Moor Croft at Longframlington in Northumberland, marking the end of a successful project that has created a low-energy self-build ecohome which generates as much energy as it uses.

Our design maximises daylight and the superb views across the Northumberland countryside and is based on a timber frame with triple glazing to give a 'Fabric First' approach to energy efficiency.

A high level of airtightness, complemented with a mechanical ventilation and heat recovery system gives fresh air throughout the home, and has helped it achieve an EPC rating of A.

The home uses a range of low and zero carbon technologies to reduce its energy consumption. Primarily, the house is heated with a ground source heat pump powered by two large arrays of photovoltaic panels. These also provide hot water during the summer months using a solar diverter.

Anne and Brian Lowrie commented,

*"We wanted to downsize to a less labour-intensive house with fewer, but not smaller rooms and a big kitchen for family meals. We worked closely with JDDK throughout the process from design to completion. Adam (Vaughan) was always knowledgeable and helpful and responded quickly whenever we had problems. We are now enjoying our new, warm, light, environmentally friendly and easily-run home."*

The home also features rainwater harvesting and has been designed to meet the requirements of a Lifetime Home. A ground floor study designed for conversion to a bedroom with a knock out panel to the adjacent bathroom. The main entrance door has a characterful oak framed porch providing generous shelter to the level access doorway whilst the circulation areas are spacious and the stairs have a comfortable pitch with a long landing at mid-height.

Moor Croft, Longframlington



# JDDK AND CORONAVIRUS

At the time of writing we are 6 weeks into the COVID-19 "Stay at Home" period. Our experiences of adapting to the whole office working from home have generally been very positive – the IT has worked and we are all now, as we are sure are you, expert in remote meeting technologies and are enjoying new additions to our vocabulary such as WFH, Unmute & Quarantinis (shaken not stirred).



Dave Meldrum, Managing Director Meldrum Construction.

*"We at Meldrum Construction always enjoy working with the team at JDDK as they provide the perfect blend of professionalism, innovation and hard work – and always done with a smile.*

*We find their ability to listen to the brief, interpret our requirements and willingness to enter into meaningful discussions around the dreaded but often necessary need for 'VE' to be second to none. Once into a project, their response time on turning around requests for information and reacting to technical queries is first class – and this we have found is across the whole team at JDDK not just one or two individuals.*

*Like ourselves they have stayed open for business through the current pandemic crisis and amazingly we have seen absolutely no ill-effects of their entire team working remotely from home. A true sign of a well knit, slick organisation."*

Whilst we are a resilient bunch and work has continued apace on many projects, there is no doubt we have all come to understand what real essential work is, and to those undertaking it whilst we stay at home, we are extremely grateful.

JDDK are making weekly donations to the COVID-19 Urgent Appeal as a small way of expressing our gratitude.

Our gratitude also needs to be expressed to our wonderful clients – to those who have continued with their projects through this period and to those who entirely understandably have had to press pause.

We have also been keeping our spirits up with some light hearted fun. You may have seen our JDDK Architects Stay at Home Takeaway Menu on social media – what will you choose?

We particularly recommend the Early Bird and The Low Carb-on Diet from our Specials menu!

We have been keeping in touch with each other socially as well as through work conversations and meetings – our "Fancy Hat and Chat" quiz last week was a load of fun – we hope for more to come.

The health and well-being of our team has been paramount of course and Alison, JDDK's Well-Being Champion, has been keeping in touch with us all and encouraging us to look after our mental health as well as our physical health.

Her weekly challenges for drawing and sketching have been really therapeutic to do and are allowing us to reconnect with skills and talents that have been under wraps for a long time.



Colin Barnes, Director, Northumberland Estates.

*"We're optimistic that when the current restrictions are lifted, the development and construction side of our business will soon gather momentum – so we remain keen to ensure that the architectural and design work continues.*

*JDDK and their continued service on a number of projects, despite the stay at home restrictions, remain an important part of that."*

John Henderson, Assistant Director (Construction), Your Homes Newcastle.

*"We have developed a strong working relationship with JDDK who are currently delivering a number of schemes at various stages of the design process.*

*The level of service during these current restrictions has been exemplary and we look forward to a continued working relationship when the restrictions are lifted."*

## JDDK ARCHITECTS STAY AT HOME TAKEAWAY MENU

### Our Starters

1. Client briefing
2. Feasibility studies
3. Concept design
4. Digital and physical 3-D Models
5. Scoping studies
6. RIBA Client advisor
7. Sustainability strategies
8. Historic buildings advice
9. Pre-planning enquiries

### THE MAINS

10. Developed design
11. Technical design
12. Production information
13. Materials specification
14. Public consultations
15. Planning applications
16. Tender management
17. Site inspections
18. Contract administration
19. Heritage Statements

### DESSERTS

20. Handover information
21. Defects inspections
22. Post occupancy evaluations

### Specialities

- Healthcare**
23. Proton Centres
  24. Diagnostic Centres
  25. Mental Health Facilities
  26. Hospice
  27. Neurological Care Centres
  28. Veterinary
- Residential**
29. Private Housing
  30. Social Housing
  31. Extra Care/Independent Living
- Commercial**
32. Offices
- Leisure and Tourism**
33. Visitor Centres
  34. Sports and Leisures Centres
  35. Theatre Refurbishments
  36. Libraries
- Conservation**
37. Enabling Developments
  38. Historic Building Refurbishment
- Sustainability**
39. Low Energy Design
  40. Retrofit

### OUR POPULAR SET MENUS

44. **The Early Bird**  
*A client favourite to get your project off on the right track. Includes Feasibility Study followed by a Pre-App.*
45. **The Low Carb-on Diet**  
*Full flavour sustainable design without the carbon*
46. **The Full Works**  
*Can you handle it? All RIBA stages from start to finish, showcasing our skills to 'Discover, Design and Deliver' your project.*

### Need a safe pair of hands?



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Having navigated our way through the challenges of the last few weeks, we are beginning to think about what comes next.

What will be the new normal for how we work, how we do business and what we design? We are looking at what we have found beneficial about working at home and what we have missed about our old routines in order to create a new working environment for us all in future weeks, months and years that will maximise

our service to our clients and collaborators, whilst supporting all of our health and well-being.

We are thinking about how our design work will change – there is no doubt that the design of our towns, cities, homes, workplaces, where we receive healthcare and where we undertake leisure pursuits, be that inside or outside, will all change as a result of our experiences around COVID-19.

We are excited about the prospect of being able to be part of that change – for the better.

Whilst we envision that future we must of course not take our foot off the pedal in our focus on creating a more sustainable future – JDDK's commitment to sustainability with our 20:20 Vision for the Future remains rock solid and we will be continuing to play our part to create a better future for our planet.



# VIRTUAL REALITY AT JDDK



A VR rendering of the internal lay-out of the communal lounge at Enslin Street

We have been working quietly behind the scenes on 3D and Virtual Reality and are now able to offer clients more immersive involvement with their projects through the design phase. Working with Your Homes Newcastle (YHN) on a supported living project in the east end of Newcastle gave us an opportunity to really get in depth with the client's team to review the internal spaces to ensure that the project delivered exactly what they needed.

The Enslin Street project consists of 15 apartments laid out over three floors to accommodate clients with learning disabilities and / or autism. The separate apartments all have their own entrances from the bright communal corridors, have options of one or two bedrooms and all have access to a shared communal area and support staff 24/7.

Given the nature of the user group, it was essential to get the interiors right to give a suitably domestic feel for the end users and engage with the client team at the correct time to make sure that this was achieved.

Using Navisworks to run a virtual walkthrough on the big screen at our offices with the YHN Fairer Housing Unit and LDA Adults team enabled the final decision-making process to be streamlined with full engagement from all parties.

This included reviewing everything from safety, operations and maintenance and deciding on the final position of WCs in the bathrooms to enable ease of access for end users and their support staff, all while walking digitally through the model.

Using the 3D model with an almost fully developed set of models from all disciplines helped to give a new insight to a client team normally used to reviewing 2D drawings and helped to improve their understanding of the building and its spaces. After this exercise was carried out we developed fully detailed room interiors that included mapping chosen finishes to objects to give a further depth of realism, presented as interactive panoramas to the client for further confirmation of the design.



The ability to 'walk' clients through buildings at the design stage enables greater clarity of communications

To see the VR visuals, please go to :-

<https://pano.autodesk.com/pano.html?mono=jpgs/d7a3df09-e13d-4737-ab7f-7ff64d078fed&version=2>

<https://pano.autodesk.com/pano.html?mono=jpgs/a98f94f0-cba0-4ca2-bb42-8b0da07641e5&version=2>

<https://pano.autodesk.com/pano.html?mono=jpgs/b0744d5c-d2a0-46d9-860b-1802a2b48ec1&version=2>

<https://pano.autodesk.com/pano.html?mono=jpgs/8c8bd134-6ff0-4316-b9db-764d1f3f5bb8&version=2>

## PEOPLE'S PASSIONS A CAMPING LIFE



LeeXin Lau enjoying the quiet life

LeeXin Lau joined us last year and is a great fan of the outdoor life and camping, although it's a fairly recent passion as she explained, "I was born and brought up in Malaysia where it's very hot and we have voracious mosquitoes so nobody really camps outside if they can help it!"

"But I went camping about two years ago with my partner, Gavin, in the Lake District and absolutely loved it – the sense of freedom and the slower pace of life gives you time to appreciate the scenery (and the weather!) and to relax – so there's no stopping us now!"

"We went to the Cotswolds last Easter which was fantastic, although Scotland in December was too cold so we stayed in lodges. We're planning a trip to the Peak District next although I think I'm going to have to improve my camping skills a bit if we're going to advance from proper camp sites to wild camping holidays!"

"The great thing about camping is that you don't need much to enjoy it – we have a small tent and a BBQ and that's about it but we love it, and there are no mosquitoes!"

## CONGRATULATIONS...

...To Nicky Watson for being elected onto the restyled RIBA national board with "Learning" as a particular area of responsibility.



Nicky Watson

...To Samantha Dixon and Clair Sanders, both of whom are expecting babies in June and July respectively. For Sam and partner Paul, who live in High Heaton, it will be their second child and a sibling for 5 year old son, Charlie whilst it's also going to be Clair and Nathan Sanders' second child and a sibling for three year old Noah. Must be something in the water at Millmount?



The Dixon family



The Sanders family

## JDDK DISCOVER DESIGN DELIVER

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