

Practice Esteem

Outside their work on JDDK projects, the professional expertise of the practice's senior staff continues to be recognised within the sector.

David Kendall and Mura Mullan are both past and present Civic Trust Award assessors whilst Mura has recently been reappointed as a member of the North East Design Review and Enabling Panel (NEDRES) and as a RIBA Design Advisor. Ian Clarke, a former CABA Enabler prior to the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment's merger with the Design Council last year, has sat on the NHS Design Review Panel and works as a specialist advisor to the Irish Hospice Foundation.

Nicky Watson, having previously completed a four year appointment as External Examiner at Newcastle University for the Post Graduate Diploma in Architectural Practice and Management, has also been a RIBA Award

Assessor, sits on the NEDRES Advisory Board and is Chair of the Board of Trustees of Northern Architecture.

Northern Architecture is the Architecture Centre for the North East of England - an independent charitable body with a regional remit to promote the benefits of high quality design and to engage both professionals and public in the process of delivering this.

Northern Architecture's Director, Carol Botten, commented, "We're delighted to have Nicky as our Chair. The Chair and Board members provide strategic governance and direction for the organisation and Nicky's experience in practice and her support and professional advice are of great value to us."

PS - did you know that we have now won over 80 awards for design quality?



Nicky Watson
Chair of Northern Architecture,
NEDRES Advisory Board



Ian Clarke Former CABA
Enabler and specialist advisor
to the Irish Hospice Foundation



David Kendall
Civic Trust Award Assessor



Mura Mullan Civic Trust Award
Assessor, RIBA Design Advisor,
NEDRES Panel Member



People's Passions Close Calls for Crazy Kayaker!

Stuart Franklin's love of going to sea in a kayak started as a child when he took his hobby of white water kayaking on rivers to the next stage and now enjoys some truly spectacular encounters, as the photograph below shows...

Taking up the sport again when he joined JDDK in 1999, Stuart now has the whole family hooked, including Miffy the dog, as he explained, "It is a great sport as it allows you access to parts of the coast that would be impossible in any other boat or by land. You also have the opportunity to get very close to wild life like seals and otters who are naturally curious, and, in the case of this photo taken off Raasay on the eastern side the Isle of Skye, a school of basking sharks, who fortunately, weren't so curious! Even though they are harmless, feeding purely on plankton, at around 10m in length, they can turn on a sixpence and easily overturn a kayak."

"The sport keeps you fit and is very good for upper body strength and is also quite technical because you have to understand nautical charts and both the winds and tides. I love it, especially going on expeditions up the west coast of Scotland when we catch our own fish and camp overnight on the shoreline. Like any marine sport, you have to be careful and aware of the conditions but otherwise the world's your oyster with a sea kayak."

"For anyone wanting to start, I'd recommend joining a club - there's good local ones at both Amble and Blyth - with a good second hand kayak - go for the heavier but more rugged plastic ones rather than a glass fibre boat - on eBay for anywhere between £500 and £800."



A close encounter of the basking shark kind for Stuart Franklin in his sea kayak.

Welcome to Taz

A warm welcome to Tasmiya Naseer, universally known as Taz, our latest recruit who joins the practice as an Architectural Assistant having recently graduated from the Part II degree at Northumbria University.



Tasmiya Naseer

Taz, originally from Fenham, had always enjoyed an interest in the built environment and creative arts, combining the two to enter Northumbria University, to take her first degree in Architecture in 2005. She is currently working for the final hurdle of her architectural training, the RIBA Part III qualification.

She said, "I was delighted to be offered the post. Having worked with other practices, JDDK really stood out, combining great design with an understanding of the local environment especially the hospice projects, which are exemplary - I think smaller practices often do more client consultation and provide a great working culture for continued education, and I'm really enjoying the work."



Holborn House - a South Shields landmark transformed by the addition of a central atrium.



Celebrating our architecture & people over the past 25 years

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New Lease of Life for South Shields Landmark



Holborn House, South Shields

A £1.8m innovative refurbishment of a 19th Century landmark building in South Shields has resulted in the provision of 26 new apartments for Isos Housing Group.

Following a design competition with four other practices, we were chosen by Isos to design and manage a scheme which would regenerate the three storey Holborn House building which was deemed no longer fit for purpose as a hostel, its previous use since 1984. The brief called for a radical redesign that could provide modern flexible living with access to all - "an inspirational environment that is equal to any



The internal corridors pre-construction

The central atrium now brings daylight and sunlight into the heart of the building.



purpose-built new build product whilst at the same time retaining the unique quality of the existing building and its setting."

The resultant design has inserted a central atrium which provides communal space for gathering and an internal 'street' with a roof light that will bring day light and sunlight into the heart of the building.

Apartments are positioned around the perimeter of the building to benefit from natural light with the existing fenestration of the Victorian building retained, whilst also providing an opportunity to increase the window sizes to the newer elements of the building.

Light from this central atrium is brought into the individual apartments through obscured glazing to bathrooms and windows to kitchens, adding to the sense of street that the internal corridors provide. Automatically opening vents provide natural ventilation and a new lift links all floors of the building, thus helping to avoid residents being isolated in their apartments, particularly if they struggle to use the stairs.

Mura Mullan, Project Architect, said, "It was a very challenging but hugely interesting brief to transform the interior of this important building. The 26 new apartments are split between 21 single bed living spaces and four two bed apartments with one additional wheelchair accessible apartment."

"The brief was very specific about not altering the spirit of this historic building and we feel our scheme has achieved that incorporating minimal external changes with a radical and contemporary internal design."

Michael Farr, Development Director - Delivery, for Isos, commented:

"We are very excited about this project - the JDDK design has transformed what was quite a dark and unwelcoming environment so that it provides homes fit for the 21st century."



Commercial Road entrance at Holborn House

Spending Pennies at Grange First School

A relatively small investment of just £30,000 has had a huge effect on the daily lives of

Grange First School's 200 pupils with a complete refurbishment of the school's toilets, creating a new facility with a completely new and fresh appearance.

Part of the school's toilet provision prior to the refurbishment scheme...



...and £30,000 later.



The scheme and vibrant colour scheme was the brainchild of JDDK Director, Nicky Watson, assisted by our new Architectural Assistant, Tasmiya Naseer. Nicky commented, "We began by looking at the regulations for toilet facilities and realised that we could fulfil these by using just one of the two rooms currently housing the school's toilets and dividing it into Boys and Girls areas which immediately gave the school additional space for future use. We went on to design the

internal space with funky and vibrant colours to avoid the institutional feel such school facilities can often have."

The resultant scheme has created child sized spaces that are easily overseen by staff and that are brightly decorated, producing a lighter, airier and safer feel to the whole of the toilet provision.

The works were undertaken by T Manners and Sons over the School summer holidays.

Grange First School's, Head Teacher, Matt Ward, said:

"We've worked with JDDK on various stages of the ongoing improvements and refurbishments to the school over the years and had always wanted to modernise our toilets. Built into two separate rooms they were fine as they were but seemed dated and didn't put the available space to the best use. Our brief was, with a limited budget of just £30,000, to come up with a proposal that wasn't just a standard refurbishment but rather a scheme that produced something that felt and looked brand new and gave a whole new feel to what is, after all, an important part of daily life!"

"The result is better than we could have hoped for and frees up one of the rooms for alternate use at a later date - the staff and children love it and it's brightened up the whole area."

Regional Framework Appointment



Beaumont Hill scheme in Darlington for Spirit member, Tees Valley Housing.

2011-2015 programme, the Northern region having been allocated 955 of these units. Of the 60 expressions of interest the Home Group received as part of the European tendering process, 18 practices submitted tenders, eight of whom were interviewed with the successful five practices announced in July.

Earlier this year, following a full tendering process, the practice was also successful in being re-appointed to the Spirit Partnership's latest Architects Framework. Now consisting of nine individual NE Housing Associations, the partnership's members are delivering a variety of projects throughout the region, including North Yorkshire and Cumbria.

The partnership's members includes Tees Valley Housing, for whom we recently designed the award-winning Beaumont Hill scheme in Darlington - a £14m scheme of 106 new homes including the town's first houses built to Level 5 of the Code for Sustainable Homes.

We're delighted to have been appointed to the Home Group's Northern Region's Architects Framework as one of five practices selected to design and manage the design and construction of the Group's new home developments within the Northern region (encompassing the North East, Yorkshire, Humber and the North West) for the next four years. Home

state that they "aspire to foster a culture of design excellence to improve the quality of life of their customers, colleagues and communities" and we are therefore pleased to be working alongside an organisation that shares many of our core values. Home have been awarded £40.5million grant and the delivery of 2014 dwellings by the HCA in the



JDDK25

It was 20 years ago today, when Sergeant Pepper taught the band to play... Well, it was actually 25 years ago this month, when the practice was founded by Jane Darbyshire. The proceeding quarter of a century has brought many changes to our business, not least the developments in architectural and construction technology, but hopefully our ethos of approachability, design flair and technical ability have remained constant.

So here's a photo of the present team, a few kind words from clients and some reminders of the last 25 years!



1987 St Oswald's Hospice Adult Unit



1990 Milburn House

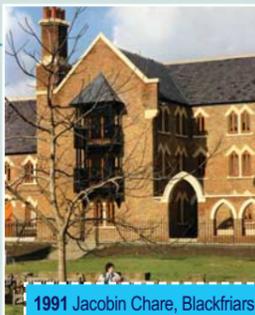


1993 North Tyneside College

1988 Park View Court, North Kenton



1991 Jacobin Chare, Blackfriars



1989 Blue Bell Deen, Newbiggin Hall

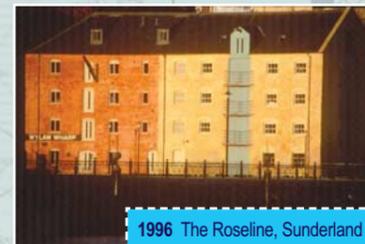


1992 Cheshire Home, Crook



St Oswald's Hospice - Jane Hamblin, Facilities Manager

"St Oswald's Hospice has had a highly successful and extremely effective working relationship with JDDK over the past 25 years. They work closely with us to ensure that the benefit to patients is central to the design and they always make sure everything is carried out to the highest standard. The feedback that we get from patients, families, staff and volunteers alike is always very positive and the finished results have a huge impact on the care we're able to provide."

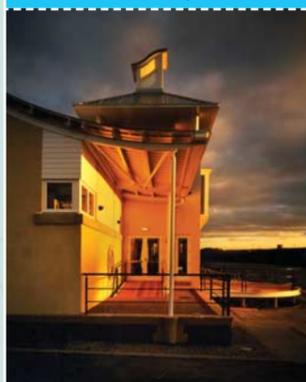


1996 The Roseline, Sunderland

Gentoo Homes - Colin Wood

"Gentoo Homes have embarked on a journey to become one of the region's premier housebuilders and we are proud to say JDDK have worked with us to deliver our flagship developments. The practice's unique style and commitment to their client always make the design process the exciting journey it should be."

1994 Ouseburn Water Sports Association



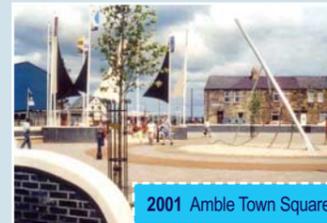
1995 Marie Curie Centre, Newcastle

1997 The Parks, North Shields



Northumberland Estate - Colin Barnes

"We've done many projects with JDDK and they deliver innovative and sensitive designs in often very challenging locations - what we particularly value is their personal approach to our specific requirements as a client - critically, they produce results, as well as being good people to do business with."



2001 Amble Town Square

Newcastle City Council - Malcolm Aitchison, Principal Technical Project Manager Architectural and Building Design Services

"JDDK understands the client priorities, the need to bring solutions not problems, and have the expertise and commitment to deliver those solutions."

"There's a great blend of staff: Mura's patient temperament, Kevin's pragmatism, Claire's attention to detail, Angela's persistence, Nicky's leadership, and Stuart's compulsive urge to squeeze the very last ounce of design flair on even the most mundane project!"

2008 RSPB Saltholme Visitor Centre



2009 St Oswald's Day Centre



1998 Stagline Building, North Shields



2000 Grange Farm, Shindcliffe

2002 St Oswald's Children's Services



2003 Pottergate, Alnwick



2005 Jesmond Dene House



2006 The Rivergreen Centre, Durham



2007 Doxford Park, Sunderland

Cyrenians - Stephen Bell

"We have enjoyed a close working relationship with Jane Darbyshire and David Kendall for many years. JDDK have been part of a number of our memorable successes including the Elliott House Self-Build Project which promoted the Cyrenians on a national level for involving service users in construction. We continue to work with JDDK due to their deep understanding of us, our business and our clients and because they are a pleasure to work with."

2010 St Andrew's Church, Monkseaton



2011 Barnard Castle Sure Start



2012 Napier Street, Shieldfield



Clive Belfield, Head of Construction, Fabrck Group

"JDDK's understanding and use of 'Revit' has been instrumental in the development of our KitS programme of bespoke housing."

"When the head of the HCA looks at your scheme and says, 'This is how all small housing developments should be designed', you know that you've got it right."

"Having JDDK on board made dealing with the Resident's Panel at our Discus project in York much easier. The humanity and professionalism that JDDK brought to the project made it a joy to craft designs that residents really love."

1999 Pioneering Care Centre, Newton Aycliffe



2004 Wear Valley Sure Start



2012



L to R, Ian Adam (Chairman of the Board of Governors, St Columba's Hospice), Michael Matheson MSP, Minister for Public Health, and Margaret Dunbar (Chief Executive, St Columba's Hospice).

Hospice Update

Thursday 13th of September saw the official opening of the first phase of the St Columba's Hospice project in Edinburgh when Michael Matheson, Minister for Public Health to the Scottish Parliament, opened the St Columba's Education Centre.

Adjacent to the Hospice's main site in Trinity, the Education Centre combines the renovation of an existing listed building - formerly a private home - sympathetically reinterpreted to meet the needs of providing 21st Century palliative care education.

The project has retained the terrace and some of the landscaped gardens of the original house, which also include the anchor and railings reputedly from the Cunard luxury liner, HMS Aquitania.

The Centre contains a purpose-built lecture theatre, Library with a book room, a reading room and a computer suite, seminar rooms and social spaces, many of which enjoy panoramic views over the Firth of Forth.

With this first phase of the project now complete, construction work has begun on the main part of the project, the comprehensive re-provision of the patient accommodation based around another listed building, Challenger Lodge.

Our other current hospice work includes three developments for Marie Curie Cancer Care. Construction is in the final stages at the Marie Curie Hospice Solihull with completion expected in early November. A key feature here is the stunning wildlife

garden which the new bedrooms will overlook - a full report on the project will appear in the next issue of Millmount News.

In September we handed over the £1.5m internal refurbishment to the ground and first floors of the Marie Curie Hospice, Penarth - a fast-track project the brief of which was essentially to address patient dignity. Utilising the available space, including an unused balcony area, to better effect, the result was a very fast build programme which improved the communal areas and provided en-suite facilities to all bedrooms.

At the Marie Curie Hospice, Edinburgh, another £1.5m scheme has refurbished the internal areas with en-suite facilities being added to bedrooms whilst also creating a two storey foyer which links the adult unit and day centre. The finished scheme is due for completion and handover back to the hospice in November.

For other clients, we are currently undertaking a feasibility study for Rachel House at Kinross, Scotland's first children's hospice and part of CHAS - the Children's Hospice Association Scotland. As part of this study, we are undertaking a comprehensive consultation with patients, family and hospice staff to determine just what areas are seen as priorities for improvement.

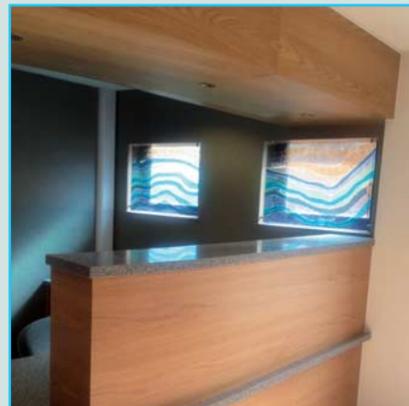
Also in Scotland, we are working with the Highland Hospice in Inverness to develop a proposal for a new In Patient Unit.



Marie Curie Hospice Solihull, cafe courtyard.



Marie Curie Hospice Solihull. Bedrooms overlooking the wildlife garden.



Marie Curie Hospice Penarth, new reception desk and feature glazing.

Finally, construction at the Sue Ryder Thorpe Hall Hospice in Peterborough, a Grade I listed country house, is due to commence next year following a fundraising drive.

Expansion for Chainsaw Specialist

A £450,000 investment in a new build commercial premises by Blagdon Estate at their Milkhope Centre will be home to a state-of-the-art chainsaw retail and repair centre as Gustharts Chainsaw Centre relocate.

For Proprietor, Rob Gusthart, one of four family partners, the move is the latest stage in a story of continual growth since the business began trading in 1985 as one of the first tenants at the Milkhope Centre, as he explained, "We've been very fortunate in steadily growing despite current economic conditions and have continually invested profits back into the business so that we're now the region's main dealer for premier brands such as Stihl chainsaws and Viking gardening equipment."

"We're also fortunate in that we enjoy a very good relationship with our landlords, Blagdon Estate, and approached them last year with a request for larger premises due to the increased business from traditional trade and general public customers and the additional trade our website was bringing in. Like any other online trader, we need large amounts of stock to supply our customers' requirements and were rapidly running out of space due to the success of the website. The new unit will become a showcase for Stihl products and a model for similar centres in other parts of the country."

Construction work by main contractors, Brims, is scheduled to be complete by mid October, with an additional shop-fitting programme in Stihl branding finishing in time for an official December opening.

The new facility combines a steel frame and block construction with traditional rural design to sit comfortably with the existing retail units, themselves conversions of farm buildings. Project Architect, Clair Mawston, commented, "The old unit was some 2,500 sq ft, whilst this new building will be 3,500 sq ft on the ground floor with an additional 2,000 sq ft of storage space on the first floor. The SE corner includes a large amount of fenestration for the display and retail area, and the design includes additional features which Rob Gusthart wanted, such as an internal window from the retail area into the workshop which allows visitors to see the quality of the workmanship."

"Our joint challenge was to blend traditional elements with contemporary features to create a building which sits well within the existing context. The use of the roof space as a storage area allows us to maximise the available floor space whilst keeping the overall form of the building low in line with the surrounding structures."

Mark Wood, Blagdon Estate's Agent, commented:

"We've worked with JDDK for many years and are always impressed by the way their designs provide for quite complex demands for internal space but still seem to be very natural in their external appearance. Rob's company has been one of our anchor tenants at the Milkhope Centre and we're delighted to have been able to accommodate their requirements for additional space with this superb building. The Centre itself is doing very well with all the units occupied and we already have several enquiries for the original Gustharts unit."

(L to R) Malcolm Hedley (Brims' Project Manager), Rob Gusthart, Clair Mawston (JDDK) and Mark Wood (Blagdon Estates) outside the new unit at Blagdon Estate's Milkhope Centre.

