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SPECIALIST REFERRAL VETERINARY CENTRE, NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK

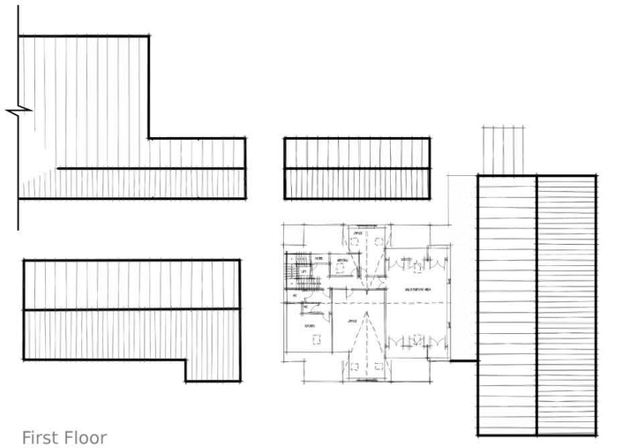
The building is a new reception, consulting and surgical department for SCVS an existing veterinary referral hospital located on the western fringe of the National Park. The site is located in the Western Escarpment Conservation Area and was formally a large pig farm. Following the closure of the farm the majority of the buildings on the site have been repurposed to accommodate alternative business uses. The veterinary hospital now utilises the majority of the buildings on the western side of the site and abuts the lane serving the residential properties on Hangersley Hill. The Building submitted for consideration replaces a large dominating corrugated tin clad grain store and mill building where grain was turned in to feed for the pigs. The construction of the grain store made it difficult to repurpose and its prominent position provided the client with the opportunity of designing a more sympathetic structure. It is considered that the new building is deserving of the Best Non-Residential Award because it sits simply and sympathetically into its surroundings and provides a gentle transition from the adjacent residential properties to the adjacent business units.

The building has been designed to reflect the form of a Hampshire threshing barn by replicating the central opposing gables with large barn door openings within which the glazed reception opening has been introduced. The long perpendicular roof lines to the main roof and catslide Eaves details are finished in slate which hides a modern thermally efficient Kingspan roofing system. The elevations of the building facing out of the site are formed in Kingspan panels overlayed with horizontal feather edge cladding and low-level brick wall. The fenestration has been designed using smaller openings and proportions. The surgical element of the building is a typical agricultural portal structure but has been clad with timber to soften the impact. The whole building has been constructed to modern high energy efficiency standards but retains traditional detailing like the galvanised gutters and downpipes.

The Veterinary Hospital provides a High-quality design, sympathetic to its setting within the National Park.

Materials

Site Plan



First Floor

Ground Floor

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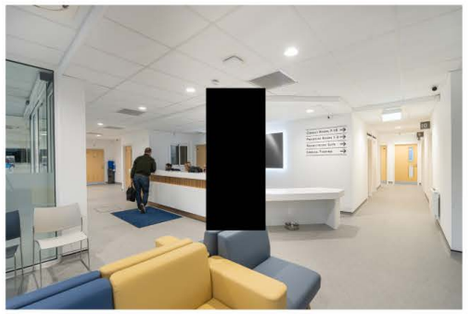

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The new building was designed using a structural steel portal frame, with a masonry cavity plinth at low levels and insulated panels above. The insulated panels were then covered with timber cladding for the front of house areas. The roof of the two-storey element was constructed using insulated panels with Cambrian slate on top, while the roof of the single-storey elements remained as insulated panels. This combination of materials allowed for the appearance of a traditional threshing barn while using modern and energy-efficient construction methods.

The ground floor of the building was designed as a ground-bearing slab. Although there was a suggestion to use a suspended beam and block floor for quicker and easier installation, this option was deemed too expensive because of the cost of removing excavated materials to form the required underfloor ventilation. The site has a sloping topography, and a significant amount of excavation was already needed towards the north end of the building to construct the proposed building footprint without changes in floor level. Therefore, the decision was made to stick with the ground-bearing slab.

Since the building was constructed using a portal frame, the internal walls were not loadbearing. Most of these walls were constructed using metal stud partitions, covered with different materials to satisfy fire and sound regulations. Nevertheless, some walls were built using masonry blockwork.

To provide separation between the client areas and the noisy Sterilisation areas, the separating wall between Unit 1 and Unit 2 was built using masonry cavity construction. The walls enclosing the X-ray room and operating theatres were also constructed using blockwork to reduce the amount of lead lining required for radiation protection.