

NEWS

Grimshaw wins work in Wales and South Korea

Ruth Bloomfield

Grimshaw was celebrating this week after being appointed to design two landmark projects on different sides of the globe.

In Wales it has been appointed to create a £35 million new arts and innovation facility for Bangor University.

In South Korea, it is collaborating with local firm Samoo Architects, to design a £72 million 33,000sq m National Ecology Centre reminiscent of the Eden Project in Cornwall.

The Pontio Project — meaning “to bridge” in Welsh — will link Bangor University’s upper campus with its science site. It will include a 450-seat theatre, cinema space, rehearsal studio and an outdoor amphitheatre.

There will also be social facilities including bars, dining areas, a students’ union and park area on the 2ha site.

The university’s deputy vice chancellor, Fergus Lowe, said: “We will create an internationally significant centre for learning and the performing arts that will be a potent symbol of innovation and

collaboration for the whole community.”

The Welsh Assembly has pledged £15 million towards the scheme, with the rest of the finances coming from the university itself, the Arts Council of Wales and European funding.

Grimshaw was part of a consortium put together by Atkins, which was appointed by the university after a competitive tender process.

The initial designs will be unveiled for public consultation in April with a planning application expected to follow in the summer and construction completed by late 2012.

Meanwhile, the proposed ecology centre, in Seocheon Province, features a spectacular string of arched biome enclosures dubbed “windows to the sky” and arranged in a sequence that recalls a meandering river.

Visitors will move through botanical exhibits, aquariums, exhibition halls, a 3D theatre and restaurants, before re-emerging by way of a rooftop garden with views of the immediate outdoor eco-park. The centre is due to be completed in 2013.

Grimshaw’s ecology centre in Seocheon Province, Korea, groups biomes in the shape of a meandering river.



Inverness house expo begins to take shape

Work is now well under way on the 55 houses that will form the Scottish Housing Expo in Inverness.

The event, due to be held this summer, will feature architect-designed houses of the future in an attempt to demonstrate eco-friendly designs.



HLM’s house for the expo.

Based on the Finnish Housing Fair, the 5ha expo will feature designs by architects including Nord, Graeme Massie, Richard Murphy, HLM and Malcolm Fraser. The houses will be available to buy and rent after the fair has ended.

Originally slated to take place

last August, the expo ran into trouble in early 2008 after local residents and politicians complained they had not been properly consulted about the construction of permanent houses.

The expo was postponed later that year, with organisers blaming the recession, although a source claimed that the project had also run into procurement problems unrelated to the economy.

The event has since got back on track, with the original architects still on board. In February, the event’s organisers announced that designers Wayne and Gerardine Hemingway had also been appointed to design 12 gardens and a children’s play area.

Ross Barrett, project architect at HLM, which is contributing three family houses based on the German PassivHaus model, said: “Scotland’s Housing Expo is about making sustainability all inclusive. We are proud to be a part of it.”

FIRST LOOK



The building, an extension to a Georgian farmhouse, makes reference to the Dutch-style barns of the surrounding area.

Mitchell Taylor refurbishes farm house for Holburne director

Mitchell Taylor Workshop’s £300,000 house extension and refurbishment project for Alexander Sturgis, director of Bath’s Holburne Museum of Art, has started on site.

Like the Eric Parry-designed Holburne extension, the new project, at Starfall Farm in Northend, has had a bumpy ride to win planning approval, finally winning the go-ahead from Bath & North East Somerset Council last October.

Practice director Piers Taylor said: “I did something very similar about four fields away for my own house, which is in a different local authority, but when we wanted to do the same thing here they were absolutely horrified and resisted it at all costs.



The new extension will be clad in black-stained larch.

“They actually said at the committee meeting ‘we hated the Holburne and we hate this’. So we had to resubmit.”

Due for completion this August, the project will see the addition of a 120sq m

blockwork extension to an existing Georgian farm house, with polished concrete floors, waxed plaster walls and plywood lined bedrooms.

Clad in black-stained vertical ribbed larch boards, the building references the Dutch-style barns that populate the surrounding green belt area.

A black metal roof replaces the original copper covering that was rejected by the planners.

“It was an opportunity to do all the things I hadn’t done particularly well at my own house, which has probably got far too much glass,” said Taylor.

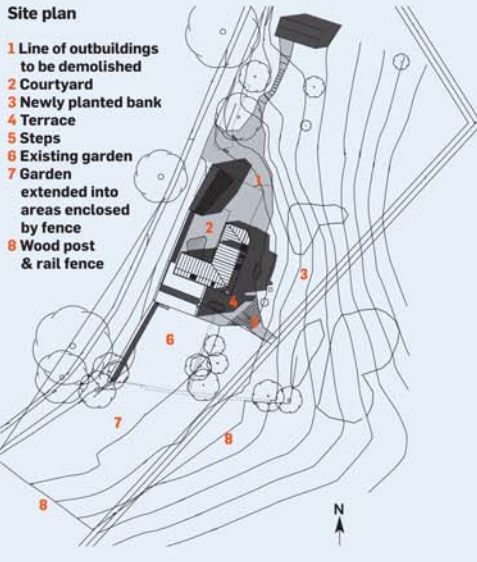
“The house had to be about the landscape and connect in a way that the existing building doesn’t.”



Existing buildings.

Site plan

- 1 Line of outbuildings to be demolished
- 2 Courtyard
- 3 Newly planted bank
- 4 Terrace
- 5 Steps
- 6 Existing garden
- 7 Garden extended into areas enclosed by fence
- 8 Wood post & rail fence



Ground floor plan

- 1 Hall
- 2 Living room
- 3 Children’s room
- 4 Dining
- 5 Kitchen
- 6 Utility
- 7 Games room
- 8 Master bedroom



First floor plan

- 9 Bedrooms
- 10 Bathroom