

# DEAFBLIND SCOTLAND LEARNING + RESOURCE CENTRE, LENZIE



**LOCATION:** LENZIE, SCOTLAND

**CLIENT:** DEAFBLIND SCOTLAND

**COMPLETION:** 2017

**VALUE:** £1.8M

**SIZE:** 7,500 SQFT

**SERVICE:** ARCHITECTURE, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

**SECTOR:** EDUCATION, COMMERCIAL

**CONTRACTOR:** CLARK CONTRACTS LTD

**LANDSCAPE:** AUSTIN-SMITH:LORD

**STRUCTURES:** CHARLES SCOTT & PARTNERS

**SERVICES:** INGEN TECHNICAL SERVICES

**COST CONSULTANT:** HG CONSULTING

The 7,500 square foot building completed in June 2017 provides a centre of excellence for deafblind people with a centre for training and development, a daily resource for more than 300 deafblind people in the Glasgow area, and a further resource for the 2,700 people across Scotland who are severely dual sensory impaired.

Called 'The Field of Dreams', the £1.8m project will offer deafblind people more opportunities to learn, to enjoy a range of subjects, collaborate and to become more familiar with the every growing world of IT with the assistance of specially adapted technology and equipment.



*"Clark Contracts and their design team have been instrumental in the delivery of the project with a hands on and approachable attitude. The team made the language of construction accessible to us all at Deafblind Scotland which in turn made the process inclusive for everyone."*  
**Ruth Dorman, Chief Executive, Deafblind Scotland**



Austin-Smith:Lord were appointed in May 2016 to develop an existing design with the target for the D&B contractor to commence on site in 3 months in August 2016 in order to satisfy funding requirements.

Austin-Smith:Lord led the design process and in the 3 months before commencing on site simplified the existing design to meet the client's requirements, provide value for money and create a building form that was easy to maintain and more appropriate to its function and setting. Prior to commencing works on site we were also responsible for negotiating a non material variation to the existing Planning Consent and securing a stage 1 Building warrant.

Deafblind Scotland providing training for A-S:L staff including simulation of dual impairment in order that designers gained an appreciation of the impediment and barriers faced by those who would use the building. 3D printing technology was utilised to assist the client's team with visual impairment to understand the building layout.

The design team worked closely with the client on the careful selection of materials, colours, stair detailing, thresholds and ironmongery. Careful consideration was also given to pedestrian route configuration that building users would utilise when approaching the building ensuring there was a strong colour contrast between road and pedestrian walkway.

Building Warrant approval was obtained through a stage warrant process to suit the programme of works. A further Planning Consent was also obtained for the elevation redesign. Natural ventilation was maximised in order to reduce energy consumption and therefore operational and maintenance costs.

The building was completed in June 2017, 13 months after appointment of the design team with the official opening by HRH Princess Anne in October 2017. The feedback from building users has been extremely positive with the client remarking on the ease of wayfinding and legibility within the layout.

