

COLEG Y CYMOEDD SPORTS CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE



LOCATION: NANTGARW
CLIENT: COLEG Y CYMOEDD
COMPLETION: 2023
CONSTRUCTION VALUE: £4.8M
SIZE: 2249M ²
SERVICE: ARCHITECTURE
SECTOR: EDUCATION
CONTRACTOR: KIER
STRUCTURES: HYDROCK
SERVICES: HYDROCK
COST CONSULTANT: MOTT MACDONALD

The new Sports Centre of Excellence will bring high-quality sports and teaching accommodation to Coleg y Cymoedd's Nantgarw campus, and create a striking entrance to the Parc Nantgarw estate. The facility is split into two distinct forms, which reflect the internal functions - the sporting side, which accommodates a sports hall, gym, and associated changing spaces, and the teaching side, which houses 8 classrooms, and an IT Study space.

Given the prominent site location, there was a desire to make this a landmark development, and was seen as an opportunity to express the function in its character. This was manifested into the semi-transparent polycarbonate cladding strip, which creates a visually arresting feature at night, and is enhanced by the sporting silhouettes applied externally.



Internally, the 4 court sports hall benefits from the transparent cladding, and the soft diffuse natural light that illuminates the space, creating a more open and welcoming atmosphere. The gym also benefits from natural light, and views out. Coupled with a double-height space, the gym will create a perfect training environment.

The building is sited in a significant flood zone, and so several measures have been implemented to counter this. The most dominant feature is a pair of flood water retention basins, which have enough collective volume to offset the potential flood water that the new building will disperse. In order to balance the functional needs with increasing biodiversity and maintaining the local ecology, these are to be naturally self-seeded with the existing seed bank contained in the site's soil, and left to grow back to mosaic habitat.

