British Red Cross

Project name:
British Red Cross

Location:
Worcester

Value:
£1.5m new build project

Services:
Architecture

The Brief

Employed as architects for the scheme, One was commissioned to design a new office and regional headquarters for the British Red Cross, enabling the charitable organisation to expand its service offering, while keeping operating costs and future outgoings to a minimum.

Project Overview

Previously based in outdated and temporary portacabin-style premises, the British Red Cross required a new facility that would not only accommodate their regional headquarters but would provide high quality and flexible space, improved access for staff and medical vehicles, as well as a more professional image for the charity's operations.

The two-storey new build accommodates c.40 staff and up to 700 volunteers, including provision of open plan office space, conference and meeting rooms, facilities for first aid training, a medical loans facility and garage space for the storage and servicing of medical vehicles.

Designed to keep costs to a minimum and reduce future outgoings, the steel framed building features a host of green technologies. Visually, the building incorporates a set of cedar-clad pods, which appear 'plugged' into the elevations. While providing much needed space for meeting rooms and breakout areas, the pods give the building a sense of identity and aid wayfinding by clearly defining the entrance to the offices.

It is such a pleasure to come to work now, not that it wasn't meaningful and fulfilling before, but the building design and layout has really lifted our spirits.

Fred Hughes, Medical Loan Assistant, British Red Cross

The Benefits

- **Increased revenue through additional space** – The building was designed to provide more flexible space for the British Red Cross to expand its activities but to allow offices to be rented out to generate additional revenue. Space planning involved centralising a single stairwell to provide maximum floorspace and designing in a pitched roof with attic trusses to optimise storage and the efficiency of the building layout.
- **Cost savings and lower energy bills through reduced energy consumption** – A passive approach to ventilation was adopted, designing out the need for costly and energy-inefficient air conditioning. By incorporating a 'night purge' cooling system, heat generated during working hours could be absorbed into the building's thermal mass and 'purged' during the night. Motorised solar shading and positioning the building 'north-south' also worked to reduce the effects of solar gain.

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