



David Sparkes

Dispelling myths about pools for schools



Gordon bleu

Inside Ramsay's maze Grill in London

Stephen Purdew

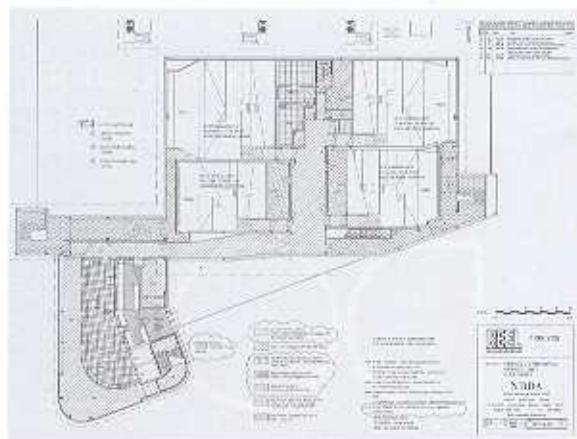
Bringing Champneys to the high street



Cinema on top of a supermarket

Ten years ago Andover was just another commuter-belt town suffering from a severe lack of leisure facilities. But, through a sustained regeneration programme driven by Andover Vision⁽¹⁾, a committee made up of the Andover's business leaders and its local community, the town is changing dramatically.

Below Architects drawing of the Andover Reel Cinema Build.



AT THE FOREFRONT of this change is a £20m riverside development set to open this month, providing, among other things, a four-screen cinema, and creating 450 jobs within the town.

The town had been campaigning for a cinema for a number of years but providers were wary of servicing a town with a relatively small population of 42,000. Furthermore, compared to the established and popular out-of-town developments, town centre builds with all their complications and planning difficulties are often avoided.

However, last year the Test Valley Borough Council announced that 5,200 new homes will be built within Andover, making the town instantly more appealing to providers. Additionally, acknowledging the town's desire for a cinema, when the riverside site was made available, the Council took the unusual step of adding the pre-condition to developers that one must be incorporated.

Having received four pitches from different developers, the Council decided upon the Reel Cinema/ Asda scheme because it maximised the available space and incorporated a spacious car park servicing both facilities.

The scheme's riverside location has presented some interesting construction challenges. Some 702 piles, at an average depth of 12m, provide the foundations and the building itself contains 10,000 tonnes of concrete and 1,000 tonnes of structural steel.

Fit-out company Spacetailors has been putting the finishing touches on the new cinema. "The structure is designed so that the cinema sits on top of the supermarket effectively on stilts with independent access via lifts and stairs," explains Spacetailors md Andy Powell. "Its positioning ensures a bird's eye view of both the town centre and the River Anton."

"Due to its design and its proximity to residential areas, construction has been challenging. A two-phase build ensured that the supermarket was up and running prior to the completion of Reel Cinema. This meant heavy material needed to be crane lifted into position and residents were informed in order to minimise disruption."

The cinema itself has a separate entrance with a large 'Reel' sign over the doorway to the cinema and above the Asda store. It has two lifts that go up to the main foyer where customers can purchase tickets and refreshments. From the foyer, customers are led through to four screens each with approximately 200-seat capacity. ■

(1) www.andovervision.co.uk

EXTENSIVE glazing provides a light and spacious entrance into the building, which is set back under the main roof to create an entrance canopy. The building includes an 800 sqm sports hall – providing for football, badminton, netball, basketball – plus two squash courts, two practice rooms, three viewing galleries, a reception area and shower and changing facilities.

The contractor Ocon Construction utilised durable and recyclable materials along with a range of eco-friendly features to add to the long-term viability of the structure. A Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SUDS) manages water run-off from the site, helping to prevent any localised flooding. This process operates through the use of long, vegetated shallows called swales that surround the sports hall and retain any water run-off.

This water that is collected in the swales feeds into a storme saver tank, which is encased in concrete and stored two metres underground. The tank is able to store 22,000 litres of water and once it has reached its capacity any water overflow flows into an infiltration blanket, which then disperses the water underground. With a football pitch located close to the sports hall, the SUDS system prevents the pitch from becoming too hard in cold weather, as the collected water that is slowly released into the ground has the effect of softening the surface of the football pitch.

The aluminium, curved roof is not only aesthetically pleasing, but also collects

rainwater, which is then stored in the storme saver tank. The water that is collected is then recycled and used for WC and urinal use. The structure itself is built out of steel frame, with silver-grey metal cladding. The squash courts are enclosed within a timber clad box that projects out from under the main roof and have a visual affect of increasing the eco-friendly concept of the building. Overall, the combination of steel, aluminum, timber and glazing creates a modern and vibrant visual appearance to the sports hall that successfully combines contemporary design and sustainability features. ■

The £2m Sutton Bonnington sports hall project for the University of Nottingham is an example of sustainable construction methods and modern architectural design relating to leisure buildings.



Sports building with long-term viability

