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## Rustic Tradition: Workshop construction in southern England

Timber has a long tradition in South East England. The St. James School would also provide the opportunity to their students now to learn the processing of this material. In a building whose exterior contrasts sharply with the interior, found the workshop space. When designing timber was of historical import combined with modern technology.

Client: St James Senior Boys' School

Architects: Squire and Partners

Location: GB-TW15 3DZ, Ashford, Surrey

posted by Lara Marisa Schuster  
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Where once shed and storerooms another queued at random, now located on the campus of St. James School workshop. The single-storey building with a hipped roof has functional reasons on any window. From inside the walls for storing tools are used. Only a skylight in the roof ridge provides light. Just as the gutter it forms part of the roof shape without disturbing the cubature. The outer walls are covered with a black shell of vertically mounted casing boards and cover strips, this is just one of the reminders of the local architecture.

Squire and Partners borrowed again this time several building aspects of the traditional architecture of the site. As the workshop of the boys' school is used for woodworking mainly found classic timber joints even when carrying elements collection. The beams are connected with mortise and tenon to a wooden frame. Since the roof is open and enters the light only from above, rafters, purlins and posts appear strongly to the fore. The only contrast to the wood in the construction, the steel screws, which penetrate the beams in some places. Also, the entire interior is lined with wood: Light Douglas and Birkenfunier boundaries in color clearly from the dark outer skin.

The highly visible construction and the rugged interior constitute a practical reason for the game Workshop activities. The decision to disclose the wooden structures and apply traditional styles, dropped deliberately. By working in this environment the students the beauty, durability and applicability of wood learn casually know as material.



Photo: Gareth Gardner



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