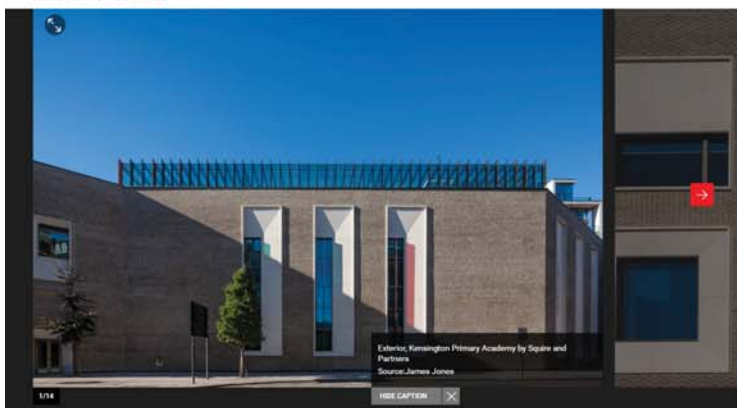


BUILDINGS

# Squire & Partners completes 'playful' £16m London school

20 MARCH 2017 • BY ELLA BRAUERWOOD



Exterior, Kington Primary Academy by Squire and Partners  
Source: James Jones



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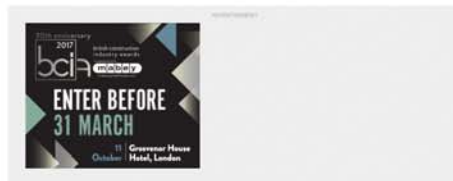
Squire & Partners has taken the wraps off a £16 million primary school for 210 students in Kensington, west London – the first new-build primary school in the borough in 100 years

The brick school on the corner of Kensington High Street and Warwick Road is part of Squire & Partners' Warwick Road masterplan, which is backed by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

Designed on a tightly constrained site, the school features courtyard play areas, a rooftop play space and a basement-level games court.

Multicoloured rooflights allow light – described by the practice as 'rainbow shadows' – to filter into a central atrium, while a wildlife garden is used to improve air quality for students and teachers.

The façade is made of handset brick and prefabricated stone panels, creating a 'playful and animated design', according to the practice.



Project director Barnaby Johnston said: "The location of the school was a key challenge, being a tightly constrained site... Our designs needed to establish a civic presence to the immediate and wider residential community, whilst also coping with environmental and noise issues presented by the busy location, and ensuring the safety of families accessing the school.

"Our response was to create a strongly modelled brick façade with minimal windows addressing the road, which created a buffer to the learning spaces within; adding interest with coloured fins and faceted window reveals. The narrow site was maximised with classrooms addressing a top-lit central atrium and the linear park opposite, and creating courtyard play areas and a rooftop play space."

Squire & Partners was retained as executive architect until completion, working alongside Stockwood, which was appointed to deliver the detailed design.

## Project data

**Location** 205 Warwick Rd, London W14 8PU  
**Type of project** Education  
**Client** St Edward Homes/Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea  
**Executive architect** Squire & Partners  
**Delivery architect** Stockwood  
**Landscape architect** Standerwick Land Design  
**Planning consultant** Gerald Eve  
**Structural engineer** OCSG  
**M&E consultant** Mott MacDonald  
**Quantity surveyor** Gardiner & Theobald (at an early stage)  
**Planning supervisor** St Edward Homes  
**Main contractor** St Edward Homes  
**Funding** St Edward Homes  
**Start on site date** 2014  
**Completion date** September 2016  
**Gross internal floor area** 3,250m<sup>2</sup>  
**Total cost** £16 million



SOURCE: SQUIRE AND PARTNERS



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