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PROJECT NEW WORK IN BRICK

KENSINGTON'S FIRST PURPOSE-BUILT SCHOOL IN 100 YEARS

Kensington Primary Academy is a newly completed single form entry school for pupils aged from 4-11 years old. Located on the prominent corner of Kensington High Street and Warwick Road, the school is part of Squire & Partners' Warwick Road Masterplan.



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Above: Kensington Primary Academy



Kensington Primary Academy

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Kensington Primary Academy

The Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea in London is both the smallest local authority in England and Wales and also the most densely populated, presenting a challenge in providing infrastructure for these growing communities. Kensington Primary is the first new purpose-built school in the borough in over 100 years, creating places for 210 local students as well as public facilities for wider community use.



Kensington Primary Academy

Squire & Partners approached the design of the tightly constrained site as an opportunity to maximise use of the available space, creating courtyard play areas, a rooftop playspace including quiet zones, and a multi-use games court at basement level. A full-height central atrium and multiple rooflights create an airy light-filled space while also providing privacy from the busy roads surrounding the site on two sides. A wildlife garden and landscaping provide green spaces for learning and play, and improve air quality for students and teachers.

The facade employs a playful and animated design, composed of handset brick and prefabricated stone panels with brightly-coloured rooftop glazing casting rainbow shadows throughout the atrium.



Model

Stockwool completed the detailed design, adopting a prefabricated, cross-laminated timber superstructure to provide excellent acoustic and thermal performance, fast construction and a watertight building in just a few weeks. The CLT structure was manufactured in Austria from sustainably managed forests and it is professed, outperforms steel and concrete in terms of embodied energy, carbon emissions and waste.



Site plan