

Kennedy O'Callaghan Architects

www.kocarchitects.com info@kocarchitects.com 020 7253 6600



The Restoration of Bletchley Park

Masterplan and phased conservation of WWII site and buildings in an 83-acre parkland setting in the grounds of a c19th mansion

Value: £8m. Phase 1 "Project Neptune" HLF grant £4.6m, construction cost £4.8m

Dates: 2010-on-going (10 projects to date). Phase 1 opened June 2014.

Client: The Bletchley Park Trust

Project Neptune

The project included a masterplan and conservation of listed derelict WWII huts for visitor access. 'Block C' was transformed into a visitor centre with introductory exhibition, shop, toilets, cafe and offices. Cars were removed from the historic parkland to re-instate the wartime setting and the grass tennis courts were reinstated. Former huts are marked out in the landscape and soundscapes were introduced

Other phases

Other projects include conservation of parts of the C19th mansion, clock tower and stableyard and conservation of further huts, which are treated as artefacts to facilitate interpretation in an authentic setting. Site-wide access improvements have been made

Services provided

Full architectural service RIBA Stage 1 to 7 except the role of Contract Administrator for Phase 1, which was by the Project Manager

Setting

The site now provides an authentic setting for interpreting its significance in C20th history.

Museum in Listed Buildings

The timber codebreakers' huts are Grade 2 listed and the site is in a Conservation Area. Block C was unlisted but was subsequently listed after the work, when post-war partitions and extensions were removed and the original building configuration and colours were restored. The buildings were derelict and at risk and were painstakingly repaired, enhancing their original character.

Fire safety & Access improvements

The buildings were upgraded to provide contemporary fire safety features including detection, signage and emergency lighting

The buildings were discreetly modified to provide inclusive access. Circulation routes and clear signage orientate visitors around the buildings and site

Re-roofing

The buildings were re-roofed and thermal performance was improved

Education

As part of the masterplan we collaborated with the education team to develop the brief and design proposals for a new education centre for a future phase. This will accommodate a range of flexible education spaces suitable for schools, community and adult groups and will be linked to the archive and staff accommodation



Visitor centre in Block C. The WWII building was constructed as an open-plan computer hall to process code-breaking data but lay derelict for 18 years. It now houses the museum entrance and exit, ticketing, an introductory exhibition, Codebreaking in WWI exhibition, Cyberspace exhibition, shop, café, toilets and offices



Spatial divisions were defined by showcases to preserve the integrity of the open-plan computer hall, with designs based on the WWII filing cabinets. Original acoustic ceiling tiles were treated for fire resistance and re-instated



Wartime use as a computer hall. The Holorith machines used 2 million punched cards per week. The lights were modelled from WWII images

Design team leaders

We acted as leaders of a multidisciplinary design team. We employed the structural engineer, services engineer, landscape architect, access consultants, paint consultants and others as our sub-contractors

Building services

The project included the complete renewal of exposed building services, which were carefully designed and controlled to enhance the character of the historic setting



Restored wartime huts. Car parking was removed from the historic parkland and lawns were re-laid. The blast walls were reinstated to match historic images. Colours were analysed and reproduced



New services were carefully designed to complement the wartime character of the building

Future phases

Teleprinter Hall project due to complete in March 2018. 10-year plan on-going

Architects involved

Kennedy O'Callaghan architect
Janie Price conservation architect

Awards

LABC Best public building
RICS SE Finalist Building Conservation
RICS SE Winner Leisure and Tourism
AJ Retrofit Awards Finalist
Constructing Excellence Project of the Year 2015
Museums & Heritage awards 2015 shortlist
Building Magazine project of the year shortlist