

A HIGH-PERFORMANCE SPACE FOR WORLD-CLASS ATHLETES



AWARDS

2012 STRUCTURAL STEEL AWARD
Commendation

ENGLISH INSTITUTE OF SPORT, UNIVERSITY OF BATH BATH, UK

The English Institute of Sport is an elite training facility at the University of Bath, which provides sports facilities for world-class athletes and students alike. The building is home to a multitude of facilities, including a multi-purpose sports hall, an eight court tennis hall, an indoor athletics track, and a 50m pool.

Our team designed two new buildings which sit either side of the existing sports facilities, creating an integrated complex that encloses them all. The facilities are organised around a central gallery, which allows views of all activities.

The main structural challenge faced by our engineers was deciding how to enclose the two main halls in an attractive yet cost-effective manner, while ensuring that each had sufficient height for their intended sports.

The 140m long indoor sprint track stands alongside the university's football pitch and was designed to incorporate a terrace for spectators on the roof. In order to enclose the track space and support the

terrace, lightweight, 75m long span steel structures were used in the roof of the halls, and throughout the complex.

The tennis hall comprises a 65m wide by 75m long space, unobstructed at ground level but divided into two by a viewing gallery at ceiling height. The gallery bisects the hall and gives clear views of all eight courts. It consists of a walkway supported by hollow steel sections, which also support the primary roof trusses at mid span.

The design team aspired to create a truly integrated design that would enable each element of the building to perform multiple functions. The bottom chord of the roof trusses spanning across the tennis hall supports the tennis netting, and radiant heating, lighting and a PA system are contained in the roof trusses.

This successful integration of the services, structure and architecture has resulted in a highly attractive, economical and functional space.

CLIENT
University of Bath

ARCHITECT
David Morley Architects

PROJECT VALUE
£23 million

SERVICES PROVIDED BY
BUROHAPPOLD
Structural engineering, ground engineering,
fire engineering