

CASE STUDY

BACKGROUND

The school includes a new Sixth Form Centre, 420 seat assembly hall, and Learning Resource Centre. The design offers a contemporary interpretation of existing 19th century buildings on the site, exploring the capability of brick to create a forward-thinking statement for the school.

Suffolk Design Brentwood School, Essex



Location: Brentwood, Essex

No. of units: new Sixth-Form Centre, 420 seat assembly hall and learning resource centre

Architect: Cottrell & Vermeulen Architecture

Year of construction: 2015

<http://www.brentwoodschool.co.uk/Brentwood-Prep-revamp-will-place-School-in-Education-Forefront-3>

KEY LEARNINGS

At Brentwood School, an existing Victorian building (Otway House) in the middle of the Sixth Form Centre site initially posed a significant constraint to the development as this had to be retained. However, a rethink of the site layout resulted in Otway House becoming a key element of the tripartite composition of the development, connecting the newly built classroom block and assembly hall, whilst promoting a historical connection to the site and creating a series of courtyards.

Brentwood School adopted a simple approach in response to its heritage context, by taking inspiration from local vernacular forms and materials, and played and modified these in the gables, roofline and brickwork to achieve a simultaneously familiar and different architectural language.