

THE LARGEST SIP STRUCTURE IN THE UK AND EUROPE

innovare[®]
simplifying offsite

PROJECT	Kingfisher Court
CLIENT	Hertfordshire Partnership University NHS
CONTRACTOR	Osborne
ARCHITECT	P+HS Architects
VALUE	£42m
LOCATION	Hertfordshire
GIFA	23,450m ²

"I hope it will provide a therapeutic environment where our service users can begin their recovery journeys, now and in the years to come."

Tom Cahill, Chief Executive



WORLD CLASS, STATE OF THE ART FACILITIES

The aim of the scheme was to create world class facilities to provide the best mental health and learning disability services in the country with a pleasant, airy and comfortable setting for service users, staff and visitors.

The client wanted this 86-bedroom Acute Mental Health Unit to be a sympathetic structure to blend into the landscape and create the most effective healing and therapeutic environment.

The construction method had to balance large scale construction of a 23,000m² structure, with the equivalent of 3 miles of soleplate, with minimum disruption and noise to residents on-site.

Waste elimination, low energy use, carbon reduction, maximum solar gain and environmental protection and enhancement were all important elements to be taken into consideration within the design.

BREEAM EXCELLENCE

The i-SIP Full Structure System was chosen to enable a fabric first approach and it was identified as the most effective way to meet the project's energy efficiency and sustainability requirements.

Innovaré's design and engineering expertise provided solutions for many technical challenges and ensured that simplicity of fit-out and services provision was engineered into the project.

Enormous 6 meter long panels, unique to the industry, were custom designed and over 6,000 panels were used, covering the equivalent of 5 football pitches. The i-SIP System was manufactured offsite at Innovaré's production facility and delivered on a just in time basis in line with programme timings to the site. This approach minimised deliveries and site traffic and substantially reduced onsite work, noise and dust.

The largely naturally ventilated BREEAM excellent rated building is located and shaped to be energy efficient and clad in carbon neutral timber. By providing structure and thermal performance within a single panel, structure and insulation go hand in hand lowering energy costs. Minimising the thickness of the walls allowed for enhanced integration of M & E and services, which was particularly important within the health care environment.

“Designed to enhance recovery, Kingfisher Court provides a remarkable, therapeutic environment for service users, staff and visitors. The development goes a long way in dispelling the outdated stigma associated with mental health and to be shortlisted for these awards is testament to the Trust's vision and the work of the whole project team who worked tirelessly to deliver it.”

Joe Biggs, MD, P+HS Architects

PROJECT OF THE YEAR AT THE DESIGN IN MENTAL HEALTH AWARDS 2015

Kingfisher Court became the largest structure in Europe made entirely out of Structural Insulated Panels. Housed in a mix of single and 2 storey buildings the 86 bed unit also includes a business learning centre and aesthetically calming and therapeutic common areas for residents and their visitors. The resulting design feels more personal and far removed from a typical large institution or hospital.

The calm and airy feel was created by floor to ceiling windows and use of vaulted ceilings throughout.

A large panel design, with fewer structural joints and inherent energy efficiency, meant the whole structure was built in less than 23 weeks. 11,000 sq m of i-SIP panels were installed per week with zero waste and minimal disruption thanks to the benefits of offsite manufacturing.

The project was a finalist for Health Care Project of the Year in the Structural Timber Awards 2015 and was awarded Project of the Year at the Design in Mental Health Awards 2015.

Project of the Year is awarded to a scheme which is visually interesting, sustainable, and has demonstrated exceptional team working and problem solving. It was also a finalist for the much coveted “Service-User Experience.” award.