

A branch library is saved . . . by re-using it !

BURNT OAK LIBRARY AND CUSTOMER ACCESS CENTRE – LONDON BOROUGH OF BARNET

Local libraries are dear to our hearts, but how often do we use them? Many are under threat, but the London Borough of Barnet has found a way to provide them with a sustainable future.

A classic, 'sixties, North London branch library, designed by borough architect B Bancroft in 1968 has been remodelled to designs by Knott Architects to suit its twenty-first century role in the community.

The refurbished building houses a new lending library and also a customer access centre that will deliver much needed council services to the community in the west of the borough.

A new entrance bursts out of the building's corner; acting as a signpost in the streetscape and forming the start to a curving route that navigates through the building. This brightly coloured new route is clad in tiles in a pixelated pattern which is derived from sixties fabric designs and inspired by Enric Miralles and Benedetta Tobbia's roof to the Santa Caterina market in Barcelona.

Knott Architects scheme respects the fine period building while celebrating the buildings fresh new life. The curvaceous playfulness of the organic interventions contrast with the sobriety of their host.

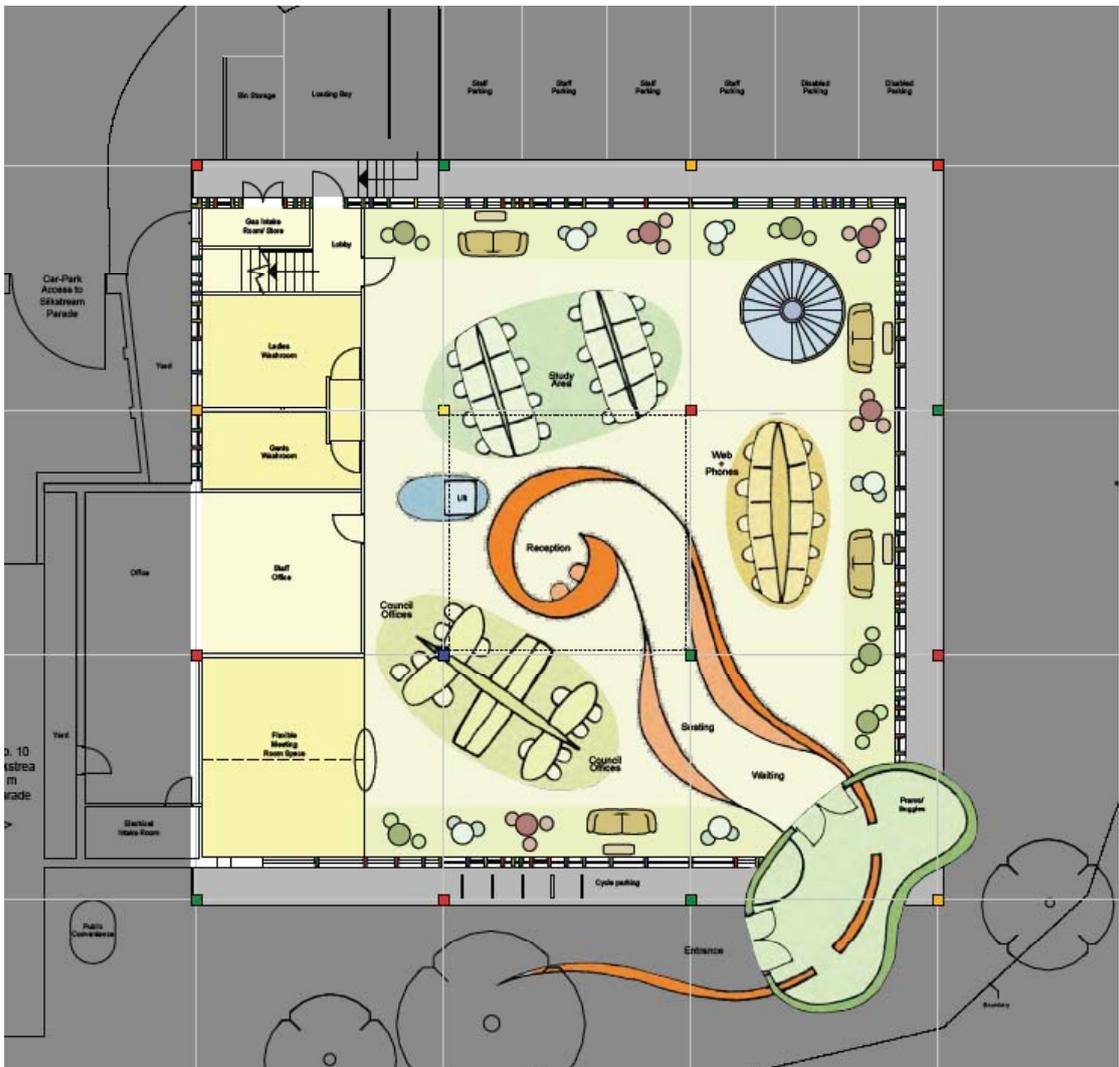
The £1M London Borough of Barnet funded project has recently been completed and is now open to the public. Barnet Councillor Harper says 'Knott Architect's tender submission was both innovative and respectful of the building and the community that it will serve. We are extremely pleased that everyone working on the project at Knott's has taken the project to heart and extremely impressed with the way that they have helped breathe life into this project. Everyone at the practice has worked extremely hard to help achieve the tight deadlines that we have asked of them'.

Knott Architects previous community buildings have included a crèche and a community centre in London and they are currently working on the restoration and redevelopment of an entire, ancient, hamlet in Tuscany to create an artists community of sustainable workshops, studios, a gallery and residences.

Client	London Borough of Barnet
Project Manager	Justine Fletcher
Architects	Knott Architects
Structural Engineer	Michael Baigent Orla Kelly
Services Engineer	Faber Maunsel
Quantity Surveyor	Molton Taggart
Approved Inspector	Approved Inspector Services
Planning Coordinator	Stace
Glass art installation	Art for Glass
Main contractor	Amarylis Principal Contracting
Photographs	Jefferson Smith



Burnt Oak Library Model.



Burnt Oak Library Plan.