

Educational



Prendergast School

Peter Dann were appointed to design a music building for Prendergast School for Girls in Ladywell, Lewisham. Working closely with architects Lee Evans Partnership, the new building was designed to be a focal point of the school in its elevated position on Hilly Fields.

The building was built on a thick layer of fill material, so piled foundations were used. Load bearing masonry with an insitu concrete ribbed first floor slab provided the necessary acoustic separation between the various music and performance rooms.

The roof trusses were designed to be exposed and provide a feature within the performance space on the first floor. Glulam purlins were adopted spanning between trusses with a timber and steel 'fitch' top chord. The bottom chords consisted of steel cables separated from the top chord with a circular hollow section compression member. Steel posts were used to support the trusses and take the roof loads down to foundation level. Traditional timber trusses were used supported on steel beams in areas that were covered from view.

Careful consideration of the choice of materials used, sequence of construction and phasing of the works was necessary as the site was located within the school playground and had limited access. Some works needed to be programmed to fall within school holidays and out of exam times to ensure that the school could keep functioning.