

News

Saint-Gobain starts work on first 'Multi-Comfort' building

Saint-Gobain has announced the start of the first project in the UK to be built to its 'Multi-Comfort' standard. Together with Associated Architects and building contractor Speller Metcalfe, Saint-Gobain is putting the recently launched concept into practice at a new £1.2m multi-purpose school sports and drama hall.

Saint-Gobain described Multi-Comfort as “a holistic approach to constructing buildings, designed to improve occupant comfort, health and wellbeing”. In making the announcement, Saint-Gobain quoted research which shows that well-designed acoustic environments in schools enhance concentration and help pupils and teachers to communicate more effectively, and that better quality environments in schools lead to increased attendance, improvements in tests scores and faster learning rates.

The 450 square metre development at King's Hawford Junior School, in Worcester, will include a main sports hall, an office, storeroom, kitchenette, toilets and changing rooms. Due for completion December 2015, The Barn, which will replace the existing sports hall, will be used

for games, assemblies, drama, music and dance plus external lettings.

Multi-Comfort buildings surpass existing building regulations, Saint-Gobain said, incorporating the energy efficiency and thermal comfort of passive buildings but introducing new standards in audio, indoor-air and visual comfort to give the teachers and students an ideal place to work and learn.

Headmaster Jim Turner said: “The Barn represents a major investment for us and when it's completed it will give fantastic multi-purpose sports and drama facility for our pupils. The use of Multi-Comfort on the building will be perfect for the range of activities held there and I'm looking forward to seeing the difference it makes to the productivity and learning capabilities of the pupils.

Mark Allen, technical director for Saint-Gobain in the UK and Ireland, said: “After launching the concept at Ecobuild this year, it's great to be able to put our years of research and development into practice and see Multi-Comfort



come to life.

“During the building's operation, we'll be working with the team to implement a series of monitoring systems that will collect data, which will prove useful in demonstrating the differences that both the teachers and children will experience within the Multi-Comfort building.”

To follow the progress of The Barn at King's Hawford and to read more about Multi-Comfort, visit: www.multicomfort.co.uk

(above) a rendering of The Barn, the first Multi-Comfort project in the UK