

Laban

1. Project Basics

Location: Deptford Creek, Southeast London

Latitude/Longitude: +51° 21' 48.89", -0° 1' 8.30"

HDD, CDD; annual precipitation: mild climate, 23 inches

Building type: Center for Contemporary Dance

Square footage; 88,264 square feet; 2 stories

Completion date: February 2003

Client: Laban Centre

Design team: Herzog & de Meuron, London associates Harry Gugger and Michael Kasey, and artist Michael Craig-Martin.

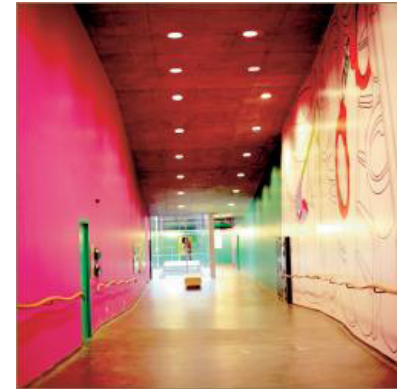


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2. Background and Context

The design aims to:

- provide inspiring spaces that mirror the fluid movements of dance.
- reflect the complex relationships between Laban's many different fields of activity and enable students and staff from various disciplines to meet and exchange ideas.
- preserve some of the distinctive "chaotic beauty" and constructive informality often observed in Laban's old premises at Laurie Grove, New Cross.
- Great care has been taken by the architects to respect existing features in the area including nearby St. Paul's, Deptford, one of the finest remaining Baroque churches in the country, designed by Thomas Archer. Likewise, the impact of the building on the local flora and fauna of the creek has been carefully considered. The roof, for example, incorporates a "brown roof," a special habitat for the Black Redstart, one of the UK's rarest birds.
- The visual artist, Michael Craig-Martin, collaborated with the architects Herzog & de Meuron on the bold decorative scheme for Laban's exterior and on some elements of the interior design. The 7,800m² structure is clad in a revolutionary semi-translucent, coloured polycarbonate punctuated by large clear windows. The polycarbonate cloaks the building in semitransparent shades of lime, turquoise, and magenta.
- The design was conceived as a physical expression of Laban's relationship with its local community—a vibrant, inspiring focal point, accessible and welcoming to all.
- Inside, the building is structured as an urban "streetscape," a series of corridors, interior courtyards and meeting places, centred round the main theatre space, the literal and metaphorical heart of the building.

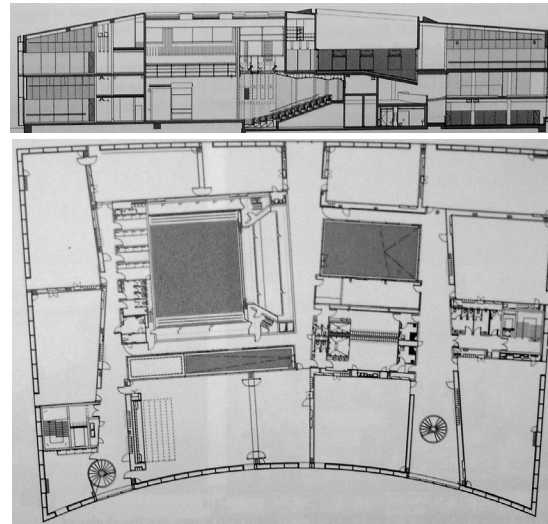


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- Light and colour play key roles in the interior, serving practical and aesthetic purposes. Colour is used as an aid to orientation and to lend a distinct identity to each sector of the building. Vast light wells, some decorated with water or mosses, penetrate deep into the interior of the building from the roof, providing light and further distinctive features amongst the “streets.”

3. Design Intent and Validation

- The building was erected on the site of a former rubbish dump on the banks of a muddy tidal creek, so extensive decontamination was required before construction began.
- This polycarbonate has many properties that make it ideal as a cladding material. It is transparent, with light transmission properties similar to those of glass, but it is virtually unbreakable. It is also nonflammable and serves as a protective shield against sun, glare, and heat radiation, contributing to energy conservation.
- Erected Brown Roof, first of its kind.



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4. Key Design Strategies

- Brown Roof: The term BROWNROOF or ECOROOF is often used in conservation circles in London to refer to this particular model as they mitigate the loss of brownfield land. This uses a substrate material, laid down on a flat roof and allowed to colonise naturally. The research in Switzerland has demonstrated that such roofing systems can be modified to increase their positive impact on biodiversity, specifically for many of the issues associated with brownfield land. They are a significant benefit for Black Redstarts.

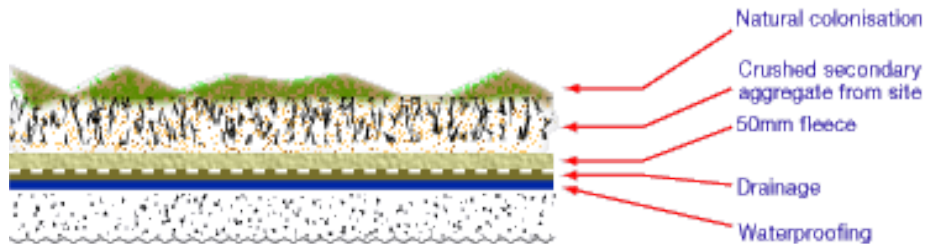


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- Type of Roof: Inverted. Size of Roof: 460 square meters.



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- The Laban Dance Centre is the first of several landmark developments in Deptford Creek. The building is complete and has the first “brown roof” ever built in London for Black Redstarts.

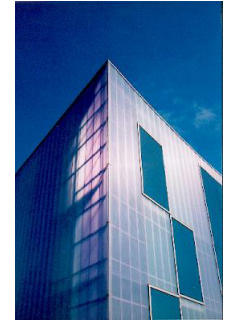
The “brown roof” is 400m² and is constructed of crushed concrete sourced from demolition material from the site prior to construction.

“From Laban’s point of view, because what we do is about the health of the body and the mind, it’s nice that this is to be echoed in the environment around the creekside, and that it has had a knock-on effect with other new buildings in the area.”

—Giles Robertson, Head of Marketing and Press at Laban Centre

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- **Terrestrial Landscaping:** Development on black redstarts' breeding territories need not have an adverse effect on their status. The presence of buildings, stairways, cranes, and other such complex structures are probably ecologically beneficial. With the right mitigation a development can not only ensure the continued presence of black redstarts on a site but, in some cases, may well enhance the site for them. Merely providing nest-boxes is unlikely to provide suitable mitigation.



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5. Performance Studies

- The first “brown roof.” A mixture of site substrates which is beginning to colonise.
- The PRIMARY issue is the provision of suitable, low-nutrient substrate within the development scheme to support a variety and low-density coverage of ruderal plants.



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6. Further Information

<http://www.laban.org/>

<http://www.thersa.org/afanew/intro.htm>

http://www.nai.nl/e/extras_e/webfile_hdm/hdm_office.html

<http://www.nai.nl/>

<http://www.scottf.com/archlinks/tects.htm>

7. References

<http://www.laban.org/building/architecture.phtml>

http://www.architectureweek.com/2003/1015/news_1-1.html

<http://www.livingroofs.org/livingpages/caselaban.html>

<http://www.blackredstarts.org.uk/pages/greenroof.html>

<http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/customs/questions/weather/average.htm>

Images

<http://www.laban.org/building/architecture.phtml>

<http://www.hughpearman.com/articles4/labn2.html>

<http://www.betterpublicbuildings.gov.uk/finalists/2003/labn/>

www.greenroofs.com

<http://www.livingroofs.org/livingpages/caselaban.html>

<http://www.detail.de/Archiv/En/HoleArtikel/5205/Artikel>

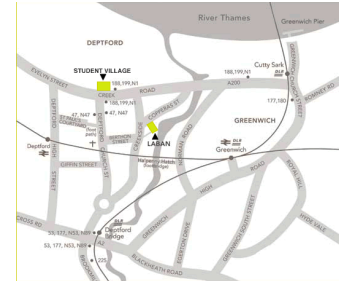
http://brianhstone.fireflyinternet.co.uk/images/black_redstart_29oct04_420a.jpg



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

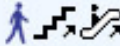



8. Map and Transport Options

- About 8 miles from International Student Housing.



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Map and Transport Options continued

Time	Details	Maps	Information
07:05 	start 229 Great Portland Street Walk to Regent's Park	start map end map	Transfer time: 9 mins 
07:14 	Regent's Park Take the Bakerloo Line towards Elephant & Castle	start map end map area map	Av journey time: 6 mins 
07:20			
07:28 	Charing Cross Take the London & SE Railway towards Dartford	start map end map area map	Av journey time: 13 mins Zone(s): 1
07:41			
	Deptford Walk to SE8 3DZ	start map end map	Transfer time: 12 mins  Zone(s): 1, 2
07:53 end	SE8 3DZ		
<p>Maximum journey time: 00:48 Interchanges: 1</p>			

