

Kennedy O'Callaghan Architects

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The Tank Museum, Bovington, Dorset

Value: Construction cost Phase 1: £350,000
Phase 2: £1.0m, Phase 3: £9.65m

Completion date: 2009

Client: The Trustees of the Tank Museum

Brief description of Project:

A masterplan for the phased re-development of the museum. Phase 1 converted the early 20th century Armour School to extend the archive and library. Phase 2 re-roofed and re-clad the World War 1 and British Steel display halls improving thermal performance. Phase 3 included an extension to house a new entrance, display hall, visitor support facilities and a banked arena for over 2,000 people, a memorial garden, car parking and landscaping

Services provided

Full architectural service - RIBA Stages 1 to 6 for phases 1 and 2. We were novated to the main contractor for Stages 5 & 6 for phase 3

HLF: Phase 1 and 3 were granted funded by the HLF (Phase 3 grant was £9.6M)

Interpretation

We were appointed at the same time as the exhibition designers at Stage 1 and we worked closely together on orientation and way finding as we prepared concept designs for the layout of the site and buildings

Masterplanning and feasibility studies

As masterplanners we had a full understanding of the museum's business, activity and education plans on which the masterplan was based. We worked closely with the project manager and museum director during the feasibility stage, reporting to an executive committee of trustees. We explored a wide range of options over a two year period before submitting a stage 1 application to the HLF. The cafe and mezzanines were designed to provide flexibility to host a range of corporate events, which provide a substantial income and contribute to financial sustainability. We worked closely with the client team for a brief period in 1999 and then from 2002 to completion in 2009. We were appointed for Stage 1 following a competitive interview process and for stage 2 following a competitive OJEU procedure, with Terence O'Rourke as our associate architects and landscape architects

Re-roofing

Polystyrene insulation that did not meet fire safety standards was removed and 3 existing buildings were re-roofed as part of the phased work including the C19th Armour School where a rooflight containing asbestos gaskets was removed.

Architects and Design team leaders

Kennedy O'Callaghan acted as leader of the multidisciplinary design team, chairing regular design team meetings and co-ordinating the design outputs. Janie Price ran the supporting collection study centre and RAC war memorial projects. All phases were delivered on time and on budget



The new entrance and display hall. The tower is used to orientate visitors on the 12-hectare site and to control the 'tank in action' events in the arena below



The Armour School supporting collections



The banked arena



The new display hall



The control tower



Aerial view



The masterplan

Architects: Kennedy O'Callaghan and Janie Price

Associate Architects Terence O'Rourke

Awards or publications

LABC SW Best Technical Design and Construction
ACE Finalist Best public building