

Trem-y-Mor Respite Care Centre,
Aberafan

Project Name: Trem-y-Mor Respite Care Centre,
Scarlet Avenue,
Aberavon,
Port Talbot SA12 7PH

Gross Floor Area: 2660m2

Contract Value: £4,414,445.00

Occupation Date: April 2014

Client: Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council,
Environment Directorate,
The Quays, Brunel Way,
Baglan Energy Park,
Neath SA11 2
Contact : Clive Barnard

Architect : Design Research Unit DRUw
Welsh School of Architecture
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Bute Building,
King Edward VII Avenue, Cathays Park,
Cardiff
CF103NB
Contact : Wayne Forster
Forsterw@cardiff.ac.uk
02920 874000
0797 910744

Contractor: Dawnus Construction Ltd,
7 Dyffryn Court, Riverside Business Park,
Swansea Vale,
Swansea SA7 0AP. Tel: 01792 781870.
enquiries@dawnus.co.uk
D&B Architect: KWL Architects Ltd,
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Newport NP10 8FY.
Tel: 01633 817171.

Other key consultants

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4 Radnor Court, 256 Cowbridge Road East,
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Services Engineer : Vitec Consult,
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Cardiff CF15 7NE. Tel: 02920 620232

Project Description

Functional Brief and Clients Aspirations

The new facility provides planned or emergency care for predominantly young people with extremely challenging special needs providing respite to full time domiciliary carers.

It consists of 16 residential rooms plus communal living and amenity.

This was originally located at Rhodes House where the existing facility failed to meet Care Standards for Wales.

The ambition for the new facility would provide a vibrant and contemporary centre that is at the forefront of respite care in Wales.

- Create a stimulating fusion of care, home and awareness of the outside world;
- Create a flagship facility in Wales that celebrates synergy between user and carers;
- Respect the dignity and privacy of the users in a safe and secure environment;
- Be an exemplar building that promotes healthy living and lifestyles within the community
- To respond to an essentially seaside context and to enable residents to enjoy this whilst maintaining personal privacy and security.



aerial view showing site context and site location



The site is a unique collision/fusion of industrial infrastructure – notably TATA steelworks and former BP refinery and fading seaside resort. Aberavon developed as a natural harbour from the 17th Century, acting as a point of transport for coal and sheep to the production of metals in the 18th c. The steelworks followed and at peak employment in the 1960's, they were Europe's largest and the largest single employer in Wales, with a labour force of 18,000. This forms a dramatic backdrop to the scheme.

This was 'augmented' by a traditional 'bucket and spade' resort serving the south Wales Valleys and was visioned and developed from the 1940's-1960's. During the 1940's, 1950's and 1960's the seafront boasted numerous hotels and leisure facilities and a whole swathe of land parallel to the promenade was landscaped, including flower beds and a sunken garden and seating areas.

Planning

The headline of the Waterfront strategy is that 'quality of place is fundamental to delivering the sustainable, economic and social objectives of the council'.

It is essential that the proposed Respite Care home meets this commitment in providing a building which demonstrates best practice in design, and one which celebrates its unique



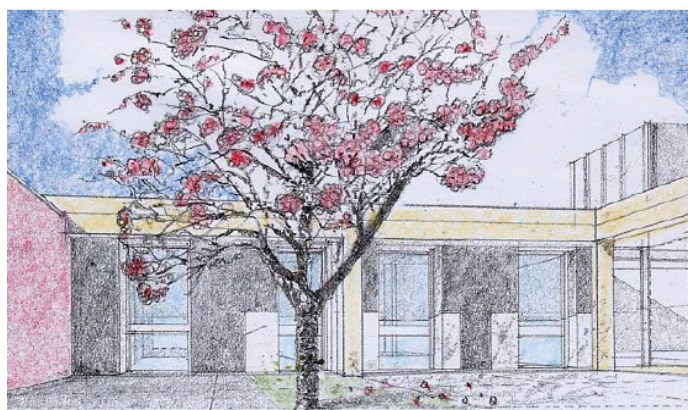
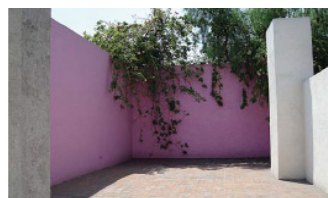
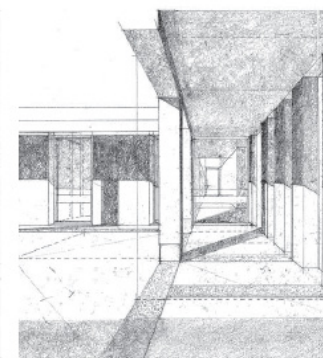
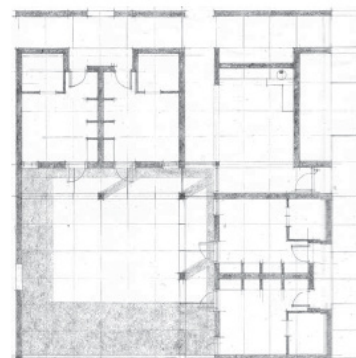
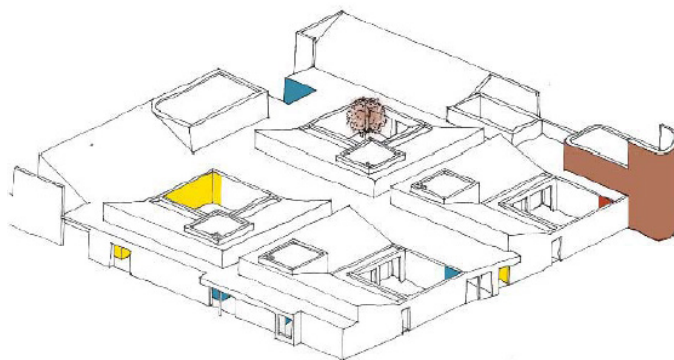
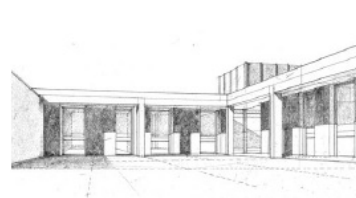
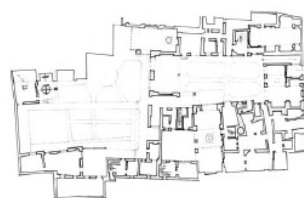
Neath Respite Care Home, Aberafan

position as the western most building along the promenade. The project must be committed to sustainability, and underpin the definition of design as set out in Planning Policy Wales described as: 'the relationship between all elements of the natural and built environment'..... and that for a sustainable development, 'design must go beyond aesthetics and include the social, environmental and economic aspects of the development, including its construction, operation and management, and it's relationship to its surroundings'.

The conceptual vision for the Respite Care facility has

been driven by 4 conceptual ideas, these are:

- the walled city
- courtyard and cloister
- colour and legibility
- access to landscape (as a therapeutic aid)



Drawings



1000 Respite Care Home, Scarlet Avenue
 Client: Neath Port Talbot Cllc
 Draw name: site contact plan
 Draw no: 10000110
 Scale: 1:500 @ A1 paper scale
 Date: 26/10/2011

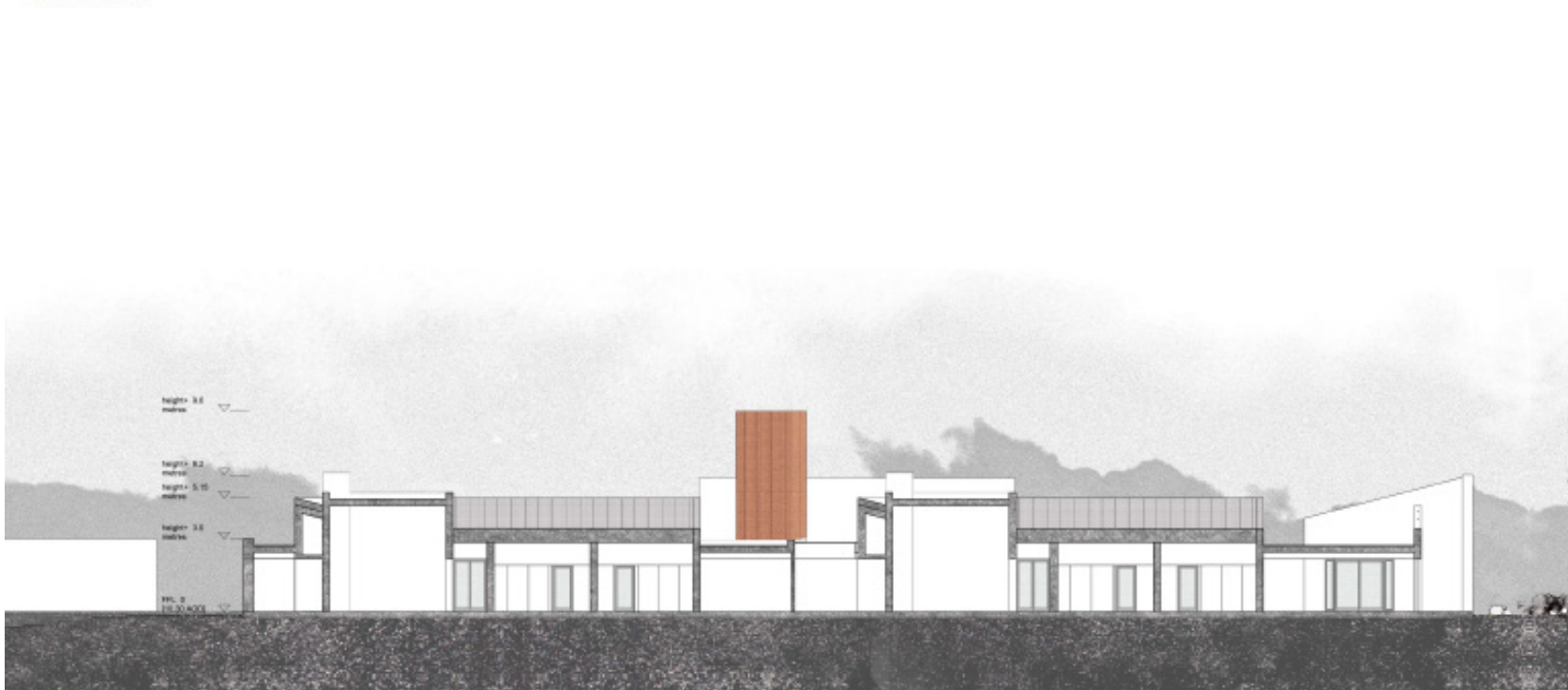
WSA
Design Research Unit Wales
Health Research Unit, 10000110

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Design Research Unit Wales

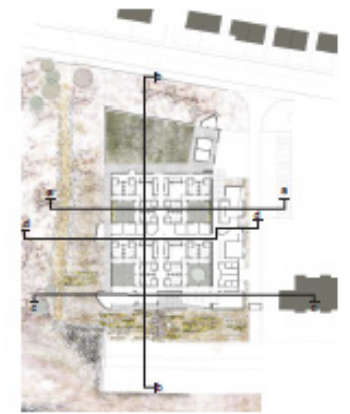




section AA

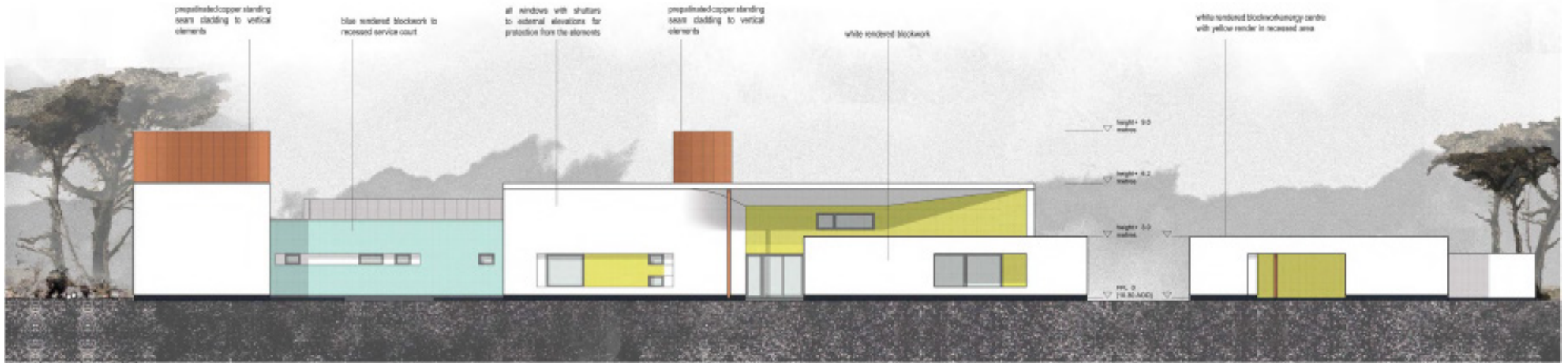


section BB

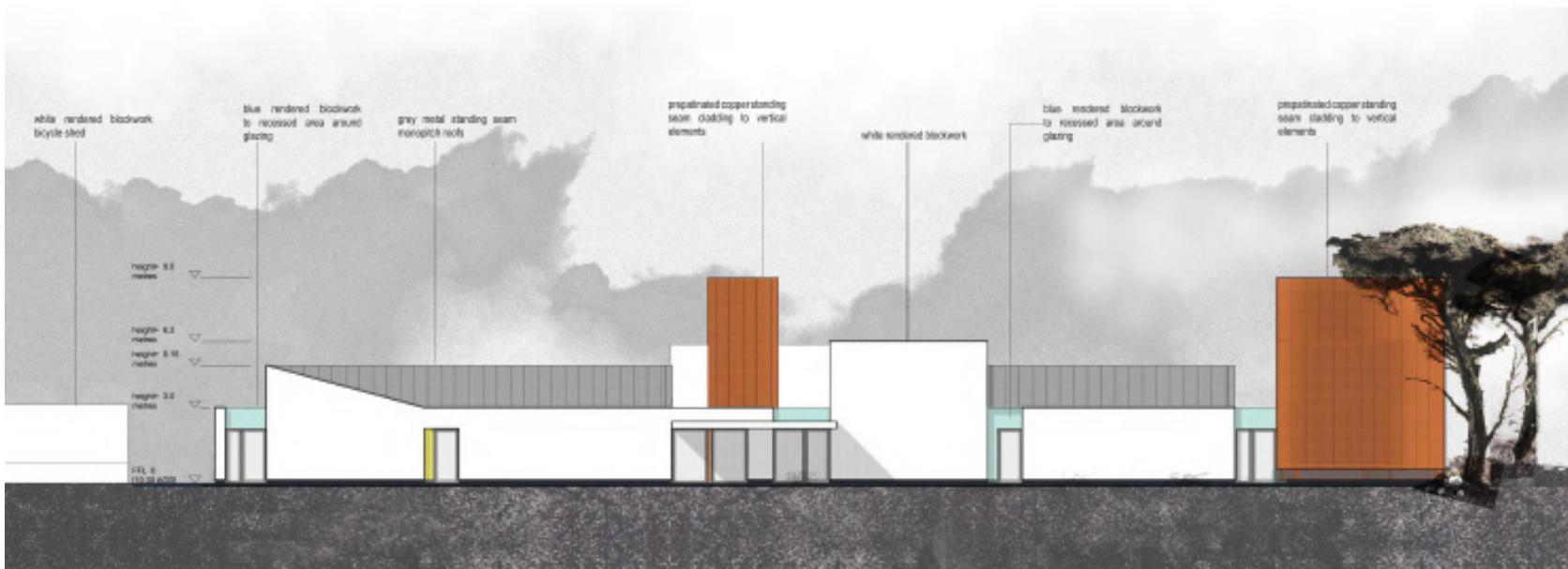


1002 Neath Respite Care Home, Scarlat Avenue
 Client: Neath Port Talbot C&I
 Draw name: Section AA/ Section BB
 Draw no: 1002/01/04
 Scale: 1:150 @ A1 paper scale
 Rev: A
 Date: 28/10/2011

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 Design Research Unit Wales
 Heron School of Architecture, Bute Building, King Edward VII Home
 Cardiff, CF10 2BB & 02920 313333 & 02920 313333 www.wsa-wales.co.uk



elevation KK

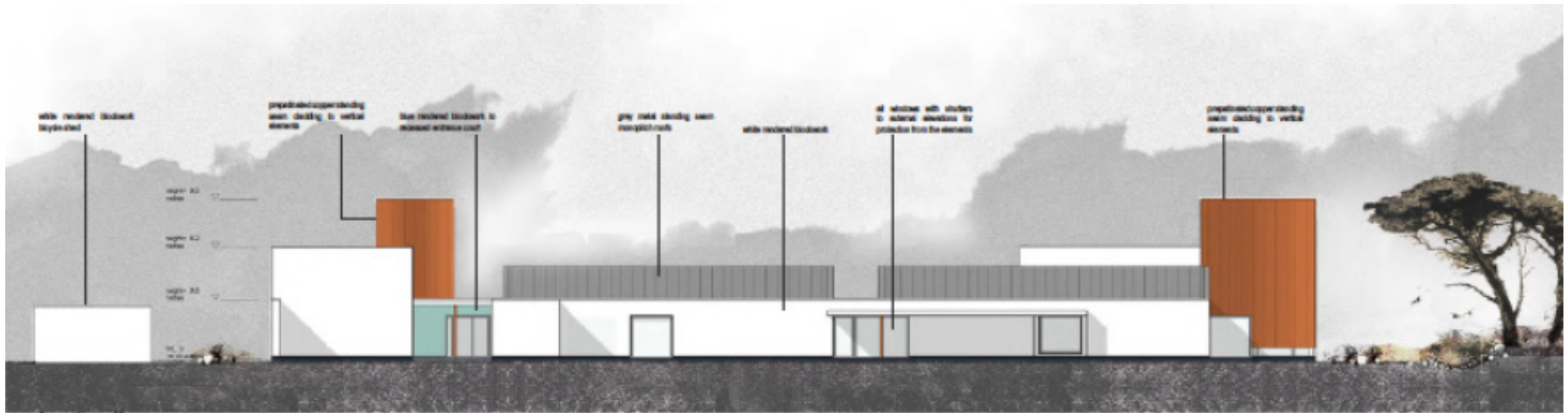


elevation LL

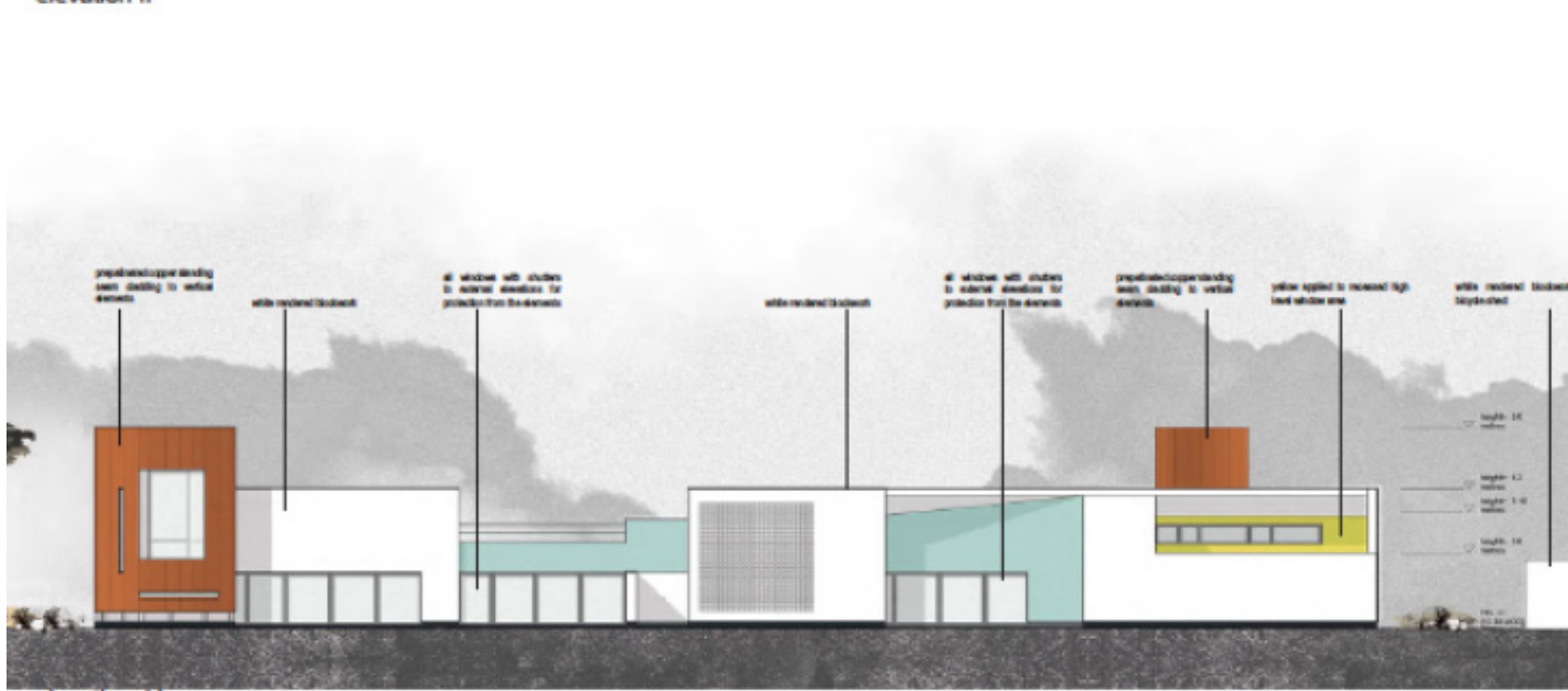


1863 Neath Respite Care Home, Scarlat Avenue
 Client: Neath Port Talbot CSC
 Design: Elevation KK Elevation LL
 Draw no: 1063/01/02
 Scale: 1:150 @ A1 paper scale
 Rev: A
 Date: 26/10/2011

wsa **dru**
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 Health Service of Architecture, Blue Building, King Edward VII Avenue
 Cardiff, CF10 1BB | 01495 474426 | 01495 474427 www.dru.wales



elevation II



elevation JJ



WSA
 1280 Neath Respite Care Home, Neath, South Wales
 Client: Neath Port Talbot CWC
 Design name: Elevation II Elevation JJ
 Drawing: 10000002
 Scale: 1:100 A1 paper width
 Rev: A
 Date: 26.10.2011

WSA
 Design Research Unit Wales
 Neath Port Talbot, South Wales, UK
 www.wsa.co.uk

dru



1000 Respite Care Home, Scarlet Avenue
Client: Health Port Talbot CIC
Design: Site context plan
Design no: 1000SP10
Scale: 1:50
Rev: 1
Date: 26.10.2011

WSA **dru**^w
Design Research Unit Wales
Main Street, Llanidloes, Powys, Wales, NP23 5DA
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Sustainability

Sustainability

Design with climate and weather

On the one hand the selection of the coastal site provides potentially therapeutic opportunities but the site is also climatically challenging. Its popularity as a kite surfing beach is testament to the power of prevailing winds even on relatively calm days inland.

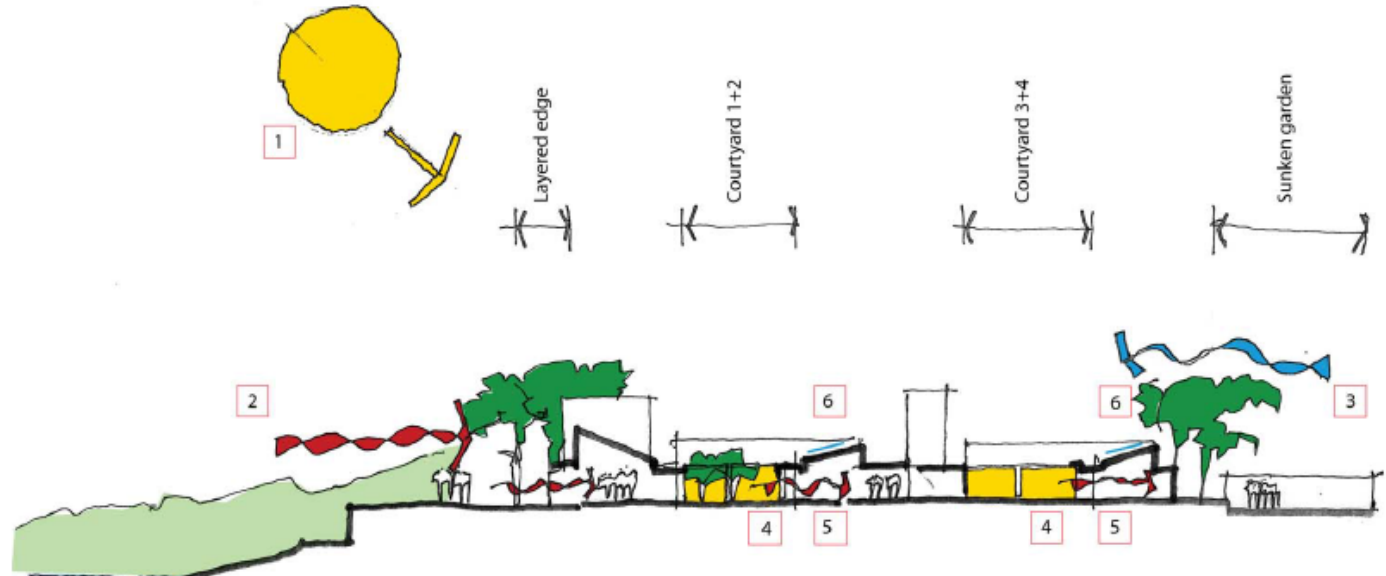
The building therefore 'hunkers down' in what were the dunes and the private courtyards are designed to be sunny but protected from the almost constant coastal winds which can prevent outdoor activity. All bedrooms are daylit and naturally ventilated from these courts. To compensate and complement this the south facing beach façade contains all the communal social facilities and provides access to the beach and promenade. To the North there is a communal garden connecting the facility to Scarlett Avenue designed for shared use.

The building envelope

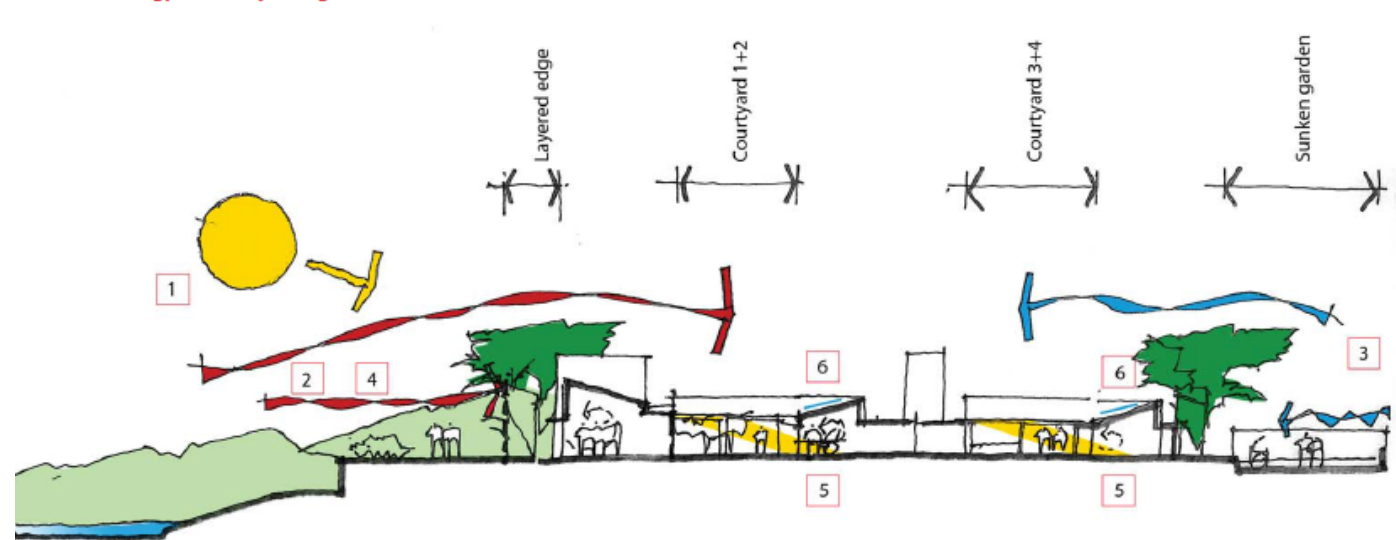
The building was constructed in predominantly precast concrete panels with an insulated render system providing performance for 'severely exposed' areas. The zinc roof is carefully detailed to deal with wind driven rain. The whole building envelope has a U value of $0.15 \text{ w/m}^2 \text{ } ^\circ \text{C}$.

The original intention to provide roof mounted pvs was lost due to budget. The building is heated and powered using a combination of active and passive systems as above but it was considered that due to the vulnerability of the residents a secure and robust heat and power system was vital eliminating the use of bio-fuels.

9.01 Passive strategy - summer operating mode



2 Passive strategy - winter operating mode



Spatial hierarchy - nearness to need

The design team were particularly anxious to limit those characteristics of institutional care that burdened the respite team at Rhodes House and added to residents feelings of isolation.

From public to private

The building is designed to be clearly legible and accessible for all - but with a carefully zoned hierarchy of space from public to private.

The scheme culminates with the private domain which although limited in size can support a range of personal activities, provide privacy but also host invited visitors. Each room shares a threshold with a neighbour and each pair of rooms is positioned either side of a communal lounge. The individual may become a pair and then enjoy the wider company of a quartet. The grouping of four and the spatial relationship emerged from detailed consultation with the care team and relates to issues of privacy and socialization.

Only residents, invited visitors and staff inhabit this domain.

Private routes extend to external spaces in two ways – cloistered gardens to each cluster of 4 and then beyond the building to the main Promenade

Beyond that circulation routes serving the residents rooms and communal lounges are private. The public domain which engages with the sea-front is designed to be opened out on fine days so that the benefits of views, outdoor activities and climate can be enjoyed by all.



1. Public entry



2. Parking and staff entry



3. Public circulation



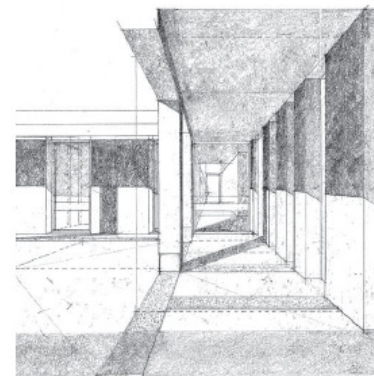
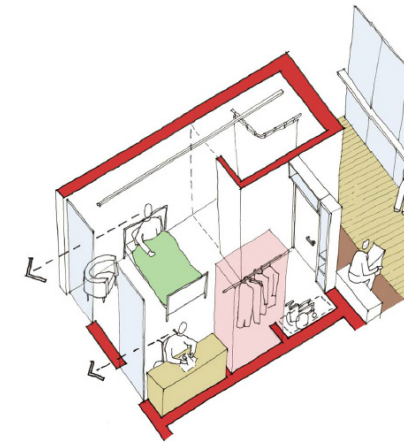
4. Semi-public access



5. Private circulation



6. Private external access



early sketches showing the development of the cloistered courtyard - allowing residents private external space for those who are more vulnerable

