



## John Madejski Academy

by WilkinsonEyre

The first of the DfES secondary school exemplar designs to be built, WilkinsonEyre's kit-of-parts prototype design was modified and developed to suit the specific curriculum demands of the new John Madejski Academy. Three wedge-shaped learning clusters, linked by bridges at first floor level, sit into the corner of the site, with a careful landscape treatment helping to mitigate road noise. They contain the majority of the teaching space, with each acting as a house base for up to 300 students. The teaching areas are configured here on a non-departmental basis – for example, there are a pair of science studios in each cluster.

The fourth cluster is more open plan and contains the Learning Resource Centre and vocational study areas, offices for external agencies, the sixth form social area and staff development centre.

The agora has a covering of ETFE and a rubber crumb floor which modifies the acoustic and reinforces the sporting theme of the Academy. The sports hall has a large number of changing rooms and, along with the external pitches, is available as a regional centre for tournaments. It also contains a 10m high climbing wall. By using the exemplar prototype a year was saved in the pre-planning feasibility stage. The school was officially opened by former Prime Minister Tony Blair in 2007 and has seen a marked improvement in educational standards and achievement.

### Details

Location: Reading, UK  
Client: Department for Education & Skills  
Architect: WilkinsonEyre  
Structural & Services Engineer: Arup  
Area: 9,780m<sup>2</sup>  
Value: £21m  
Completed: February 2007  
BREEAM rating: Very Good