

The National Tennis Centre Roehampton

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As part of its brief to develop young players into world-champions, the Lawn Tennis Association asked Hopkins to help develop a National Tennis Centre. Their site, part of the Bank of England's sports ground at Roehampton, south west London, already has a connection to tennis; young hopefuls play a qualifying tournament here to enter Wimbledon, and one building is let to the International Tennis Federation. It is also metropolitan open land, and the design responds to its setting, preserving woodland with a long established badger sett, using the fall across the site to hide some of its bulk, and selecting forms and materials to complement the surroundings. In parallel with the design, Hopkins and the LTA have developed a "green" transport plan to minimise impact on the neighbourhood.

The centre has numerous differently-surfaced tennis courts. It includes accommodation for 8-16 year olds who might stay for three-month courses, specialised gymnasia, sports injury clinic, a facility for training coaches, and offices. Each function requires a different type of space – the indoor courts need large volumes; the gyms must be well

serviced, the offices efficient and the residential areas comfortable and homely. Most importantly all the elements come together in a way which gives the sport an appropriate image.

Three-dimensional grid shell, dome-like roofs form the largest volumes covering six indoor courts for year-round use. The gyms and training areas on one long façade and the residential areas, carefully articulated with balconies and windows on the other, give scale and richness to what would otherwise be blank walls. Alongside, joined by a courtyard, are the offices. Each part has a separate identity within an overall composition.



Client: Lawn Tennis Association
Programme: Completed 2007
Area: 11,500m²
Value: £20m



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Awards:

2007	London District Surveyors Association Built in Quality Award	2008	BCO "Best of the Best" National and Regional Award
2007	Wandsworth Design Awards Commendation for Access, Contribution to Design in the Borough		
2008	Civic Trust Awards Commendation		
2008	RIBA National Award for Architecture		
2008	Structural Steel Award		