

Gwel an Mor Holiday Village Leisure Centre

Gwel an Mor Holiday Village near Portreath, Cornwall, has improved facilities for its holiday visitors with a new leisure centre.

The Client

Gwel an Mor, a Cornish name meaning 'view of the sea' is a new and exclusive holiday village near Portreath. Designed with family enjoyment or a relaxed romantic break in mind, guests are accommodated in luxurious timber lodges.

The Brief

The owners are dedicated to giving visitors the best holiday experience, regardless of the weather, so they decided to extend the range of facilities by introducing a leisure centre. This would include a swimming pool, spa, steam room, sauna and gymnasium. They had previously seen and admired a leisure centre designed and built by Plus Design and Build (PDB), at a resort in a similar environmentally sensitive area in the north of England.

As Gwel an Mor is situated on open sloping land with spectacular views over the Atlantic, the owners contacted PDB with the request that they design a similar environmentally sustainable building.

Having assessed the site and given a detailed brief and artist's impressions, PDB's architects submitted a design for a low building that would sit well in its surroundings and be built from natural materials. It was also designed to deal with hard use, be sustainable and economical to build and run. Finally, it

would also provide for expansion as in the future there are plans to merge the building with a second phase to form one complex.

The proposal was accepted and PDB then liaised closely with the Planning Department at Kerrier District Council and as a result the plans were approved with only minor modifications.

The Specification

Exploiting the fact that it sits on a steeply sloping site with open views, the new timber frame leisure centre is partially tucked into the hillside. T shaped in plan, the glulam laminated trusses give a vaulted roof style throughout. It is clad with half-round timber on all elevations to give a rustic character and has an overhanging roof, finished with locally sourced Cornish slate. Non-structural exposed laminated trusses on each gable and a feature clock lantern give the building a striking form. The complex is entered through one of the two full height dormers, with guests being guided to a reception area which serves all facilities and monitors visitor movements.





Without doubt the main attraction is the 12m x 6m swimming pool with integral spa. The open truss design allows natural ventilation and gives a light airy feel in the pool and adjacent relaxation area.

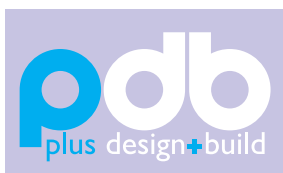
A full run of glazed windows and doors on three sides allows users to take full advantage of the location and combine with the glazed roof panels to make optimum use of natural light at all times of the day. Sliding doors lead out onto a decked area where guests can relax and take in the views.

Client Benefits

The indoor leisure centre has been well received by all. The building has more than met the client's expectations and the design has been admired by all who use it. With the Government considering sustainability in construction as a key element of its political and social agenda, this building is a further example of how PDB can produce visually arresting architecture which is still sympathetic to the environment.



Client: Gwel an Mor
Location: Portreath, Cornwall



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