MOTTISFONT ABBEY

As one of National Trust's most important heritage sites, Mottisfont Abbey presents a delicate balance between preserving its historic value and offering modern, engaging facilities to the public. The development has been expertly realised by Burd Haward Architects, creating an exceptional experience for visitors while having minimal impact on the surrounding environment.

The detailed site masterplan encompassed the conversion of a Grade II Listed Coach House into a restaurant, alongside the construction of new buildings to house a shop, café, and visitor facilities. These new structures were carefully designed to reflect the agricultural vernacular of the estate, with each building possessing its own unique character, while maintaining harmony with the natural landscape.

The Rooflight Co was selected by Burd Haward Architects to design and manufacture bespoke trapezoidal rooflights, based on our contemporary classic Neo Rooflight. Given the complexity of the project, attention to detail was critical in preserving both the aesthetics and functionality of the design.

The buildings are situated on the banks of the River Test, adjacent to a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), so every aspect of the design was carried out with minimal environmental impact in mind. A key feature of this approach was raising the buildings slightly above ground to reduce their effect on the floodplain, while also ensuring that the integrity of the surrounding ecosystem was maintained.

A particularly important element of the design was the use of bespoke rooflights in the gift

shop, which enhance the space with natural light whilst also contributing to the ventilation and temperature control of the building. Designed to resemble a traditional agricultural barn, the rooflights allow an abundance of natural light to flood the interior, creating a light and airy environment that benefits both the visitor experience and the building's energy efficiency. Internally, the frameless appearance of the rooflights offers a sleek, minimalist aesthetic that complements the simplicity of the design and enhances the overall feel of the visitor centre, without detracting from the historic Abbey.

Our Bespoke Design Team worked closely with Burd Haward Architects and the contractors, Beard Construction, from the early design stages through to final installation, ensuring the project was executed flawlessly. The bespoke trapezoidal rooflights featured concealed motors allow the rooflights to open, offering additional ventilation and access to fresh air during the warmer months. At the top-hinged end of the rooflights, the corten roof elegantly sails over the edge of the frame, concealing part of the water channel for a clean finish. This design detail creates the effect that the rooflights are set directly into the roof, like perfectly placed puzzle pieces, ensuring an uninterrupted and cohesive look.

This development represents a major step forward in making Mottisfont Abbey a more accessible and engaging site for visitors, ensuring its continued importance as both a National Trust property and a significant part of our cultural heritage. The collaboration between The Rooflight Co, Burd Haward Architects, and Beard Construction resulted in an exceptional project that is both environmentally sensitive and visually stunning, exemplifying the care and expertise that went into every aspect of this landmark development.

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'We specified The Rooflight Co because we were impressed by the attention to detail and quality of construction of their roof lights. We also needed a company that could supply a bespoke product and so worked closely with their design department to develop a roof light that would dovetail with the rest of our design.'

Buddy Haward, Burd Haward Architects

Architect:
Burd Haward Architects Ltd

Contractor:
Beard Construction

Awards:
RIBA South 2016, Wood Awards 2016 – Highly Commended

Rooflights:
Bespoke Neo Rooflights from The Rooflight Co.

Contact us for more information:
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Alternatively, visit our website: www.therooflightco.com

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THE ROOFLIGHT CO. COTSWOLDS