

Press Release

For Immediate Release:

Eric Parry's Cedars Hall gets planning

Eric Parry Architects' £4.5m new music facility for Wells Cathedral School has been granted planning permission from Mendip District Council.

The stunning Cedars Hall provides flexible spaces for rehearsal, performing and recording. The building includes a recital hall that can accommodate an audience of over 340 people and offers professional quality facilities for the music school and the wider community.

The building is set into the landscape of Cedars Field, the grounds to the Grade 2* listed Cedars House, and responds to the school's heritage and setting with a considered palette of materials, including weathering steel, timber and clear glazing.

The hall's interior incorporates warm timber paneling, with full height glazing that creates visual connections with the surrounding landscape and allows natural light to fill the interior spaces; in the evenings, the building appears as a lantern on the landscape, uplifting the surrounding exterior areas.

Both the stage and seating can be adjusted allowing different configurations for both performances and rehearsals. Differing acoustic qualities are achieved with easily adjustable wall panels, and the exposed timber roof structure enhances the acoustic performance of the space. The hall can be used for orchestral music, choir, amplified music, drama, dance and lectures.

The practice has also designed a new sports pavilion on the site, offering Sport England standard accommodation for two teams and spectators adjacent to the county standard cricket pitch, as well as the restoration of the historic landscape of Cedars Field, which is also formed part of this application.

Commenting on the project getting the green light, Eric Parry said:

"The progression of the scheme is a significant step towards adding to the school's rich history. The new building will create fantastic, modern interior spaces whilst also making a confident architectural statement that is in tune with its surroundings."

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For information on Eric Parry Architects, please contact:



Peter Dye / Sarah Rutt

T 020 7247 8334

M 07738 260 447/ 07894 462 376

E peter@ing-media.com / sarah.rutt@ing-media.com

Notes to Editors:

Eric Parry Architects is an established and award-winning practice with an extensive portfolio of notable work.

The practice has recently completed the exhibition design for the Royal Academy of Art's Andrea Palladio exhibition, the much-acclaimed £36m restoration and renewal project for the historic St Martin-in-the-Fields Church in Trafalgar Square, as well as the commercial office building at 5 Aldermanbury Square, shortlisted for this year's Stirling Prize. The practice is responsible for several prestigious commercial projects in the City and West End. 60 Threadneedle Street and 23 Savile Row are now complete while 50 New Bond Street is currently on site. The practice is also working on a number of cultural projects including a new wing for the Holburne Museum of Art in Bath.

The practice has won numerous awards, most recently at the RIBA Awards 2009 where the St Martin-in-the-Fields Renewal Project won three awards. This adds to a successful year for St Martins, which has also been awarded the Westminster Society Biennial Urban Design Award, and the American Institute of Architects UK Design Excellence Award. 5 Aldermanbury Square also won an RIBA Award this year, which follows on from its success at the British Council for Offices Awards where the building was voted best in the Commercial Workplace category both Regional (London) and National 2008.

Eric Parry founded the practice in 1983. It is based in London, and employs over 40 staff. The practice also has an office in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, where it has designed a number of residential schemes.

www.ericparryarchitects.co.uk
