

Clore Learning Centre

Location: RHS Garden Hyde Hall, Essex, UK

Client: Royal Horticultural Society

Completed: 2018

Size: 1,094 sqm

Contract Value: £4.5M

Awards:

- Civic Trust Award
- Civic Trust Selwyn Goldsmith Universal Design Award Shortlist
- RICS Awards - Tourism & Leisure
- RICS Awards - Design Through Innovation Finalist
- Blueprint Awards Finalist
- AJ Architecture Awards Finalist

“Everyone was so proud, so excited... we had all waited so long for this building. The Learning Centre’s prominent position made us feel like we were shouting out that the RHS is doing education! We love it.” Jill Baker, Education and Learning Manager, RHS Garden Hyde Hall



The Hilltop hub has become a home for a thriving horticultural community.



A moveable wall offers flexibility to convert the open plan Learning Centre into smaller classrooms. Both arrangements have direct access to the teaching garden.

On the Hilltop overlooking the rolling Essex landscape and expansive grounds of RHS Hyde Hall, a major transformation has taken root. What was once a working farmstead for the site is now a hub for enjoying and learning about horticulture.

We designed new Hilltop buildings to house key facilities that the Garden was lacking. They comprise the Clore Learning Centre, funded by Clore Duffield Foundation; and the Hilltop Lodge, home to a new award-winning field to fork restaurant and new activity barn.

The Hilltop project is part of recent architectural investments made by RHS to improve education facilities and the visitor experience across all of its five gardens. The Learning Centre completes the RHS’s nationwide purpose-built education spaces, equipping Hyde Hall with the facilities to drive forward the RHS Campaign for School Gardening; inspiring schools to provide children with gardening opportunities to enhance their skills and boost their development, improving physical and mental well-being.

Integrating architecture with the garden was paramount. Award-winning landscape designer, Adam Frost, collaborated with us on the wider masterplan and the new gardens surrounding the Hilltop Buildings. Head of Site Ian le Gros and Curator Robert Brett guided the overall vision to ensure new interventions supported the long-term ambitions for Hyde Hall.



The Hilltop has been designed as a family of buildings which enclose and open up to the landscape so that it can be enjoyed in all seasons.

