

EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION CENTRE

Location: Cambridge, UK
Client: University of Cambridge Botanic Garden

Stage C Completed: 2002
Size: 2,800sqm
Construction cost: £13m (anticipated)

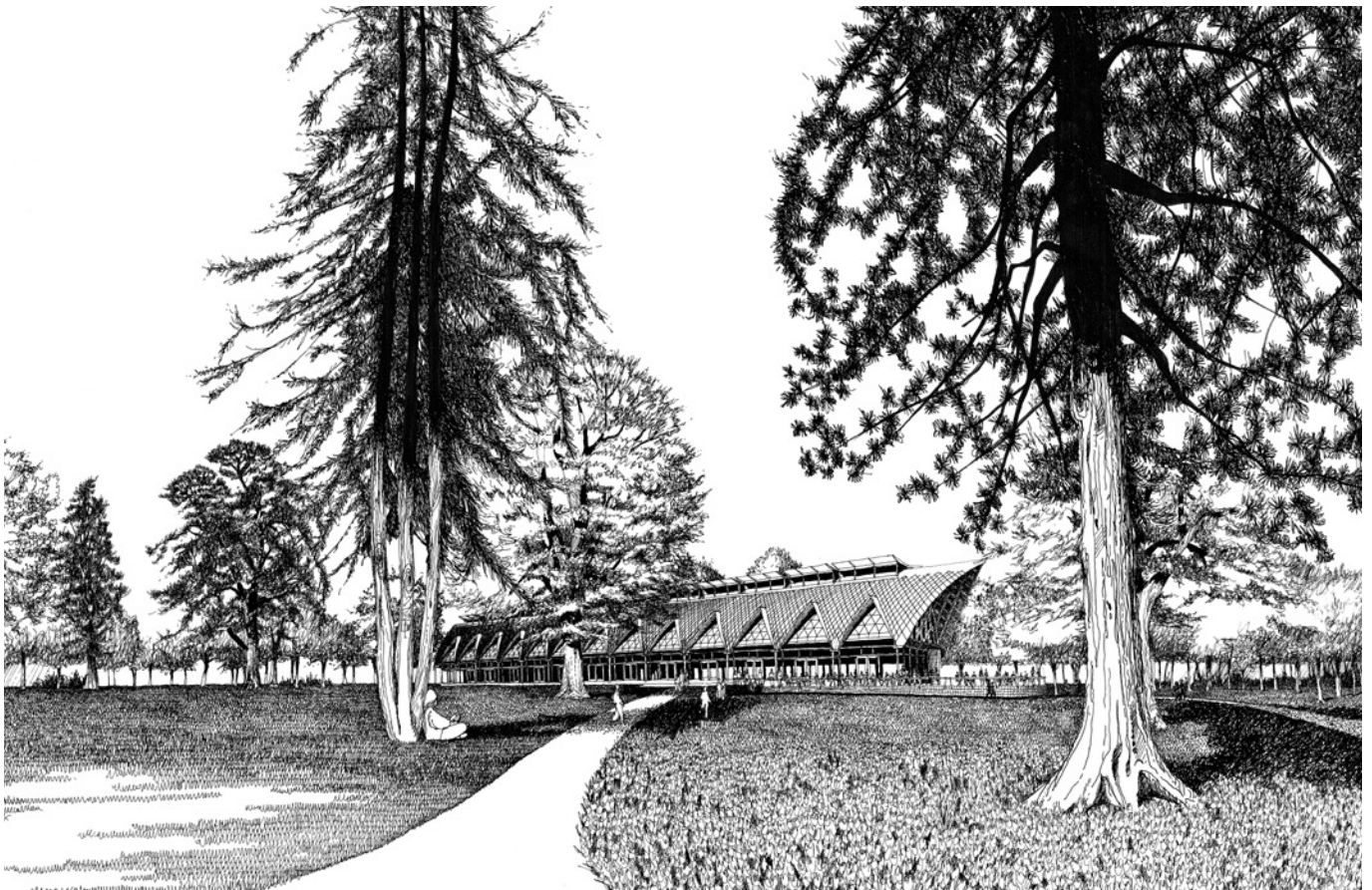
The Education and Interpretation Centre is designed as an elegant, expressive and evocative teaching and conference building for the University of Cambridge Botanic Garden. Our design includes facilities to educate and interpret the University of Cambridge's Botanic Garden to visitors, as well as uniting the Garden staff in new offices.

The Centre would accommodate a variety of functions – dining areas, exhibition spaces, offices and conference facilities – while building-in flexibility for future change of use.

The building has been designed so that the individual components - floor, roof, column - come together to form an integrated structure. Collaborating with the structural and services engineers we developed a lamella structure - an extremely efficient structural concept - formed of a repeated pattern of interlocking short timber members, pre-fabricated for easy on-site assembly.

The gothic arched shape of the lamella structure is evocative of the Glasshouse architecture, tying the building in to a lineage of heroic garden architecture, whilst also being conducive to natural ventilation, good daylighting and solar shading.

The Centre is designed to be an exemplar of sustainable design which is to be demonstrable to visitors and to the city of Cambridge.



Above: The Education and Interpretation Centre is designed to serve the needs of various types of visitor in a clear and enjoyable way. The regular visitor would be able to easily enter the garden without being tied into other other attractions, whereas those visiting for the first time would be able to gain a deeper understanding of the Garden in the spaces extending out from the lobby. .