New innings for SMC Alsop

9 September, 2008

A £17 million cricket pavilion at Headingley Carnegie Cricket Ground in Leeds by SMC Alsop has won planning.

The 4,000sq m project, for Yorkshire County Cricket Club and Leeds Metropolitan University, combines new cricket, media and hospitality facilities for the university and is now set for completion in 2010.

BD reported in January that the scheme would not be ready for next year’s Ashes series following a number of delays and design changes.

Shaun Russell, SMC Alsop director, said: “The Carnegie Pavilion has undoubtedly been a real challenge for our joint clients and the whole design team — an unusual dual-use building on a highly constrained site and surrounded by residential properties.

“We are extremely pleased with the outcome of the planning application. We consider the Carnegie Pavilion to be a genuinely ground-breaking project.”

The project is designed to achieve Breeam’s “excellent” rating and start on site in November.

Readers’ comments

• james turner 9 September, 2008

not sure the image provided gives us a good understanding of the design. I have enjoyed alsops previous work, however i feel cheapened by this attempt of 'fractured' work, with over large facets to
almost be nothing more than superstructure expressed at the rear face moving up to a messy roof of broken elements. The glazed 2 storey facility suite feels like it could have formed a plinth for the fractured mess to sit on, however the folded cladded faceted style again weakens the design. It seems like its been valued engineered or the team leader on this project has a lack of understanding for non standard space, missing possible opportunities for glimessing the space inside between broken faceted planes. Lords Pavillion by Future Systems will out shine this. That saying, maybe we should be given more information of what alsop's team is trying to do here, or maybe a better image used to understand the design at a more human level. With all the style and beauty put into modern stadium designs (Emirates Stadium) and the new Olympic options, you'd hope for better from one of our 'best' offices.
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