



Having decided to replace their conservatory style chlorine pool which had reached the end of its natural life, Wycombe Abbey Girls' School approached BH&M for their expertise in sports centres. The School also had no major indoor sports arena.

The site at Wycombe Abbey, at the bottom of the hill on the south side of High Wycombe, is a particularly sensitive landscaped garden. The buildings were therefore designed to fit on the footprint of existing all-weather hard tennis courts. However, they could still be seen from the opposite side of the Wycombe Valley and extensive negotiations were necessary with the local planning authority and the Garden History Society. Tenuous evidence that Capability Brown had been involved in the garden was not helpful.



The resulting building has become one of the foremost sports centres in education in this country. Consisting of a 25 metre six lane pool, the sports centre also has a full sized sports hall, gymnasium, fitness suite, climbing wall and four squash courts.



Top: New Swimming Pool  
Left: Fitness Suite  
Middle: Squash Courts  
Bottom: Sports hall



The entrance to the sports hall also forms the school café, a centre of gravity for the girls as part of their normal social life. The Centre also needed to include changing for the entire school and this is provided on the lower ground floor, giving access directly onto the playing fields.

Perhaps the most successful part of the entire project was the major new underground store created under the main entrance area which provided the Estates Bursar with an amount of storage space only bursars dream of.



Top: External Stair  
Above: Main Entrance  
Bottom: Cafe