# Jestico + Whiles completes timber-framed Rosalind Franklin Wing blending heritage and innovation at St Paul’s Girls’ School



Jestico + Whiles has completed the Rosalind Franklin Wing at St Paul's Girls' School in Hammersmith, marking the first phase of a broader masterplan aimed at modernising the school's historic Edwardian campus. This new facility combines a deep retrofit of the existing wing with a contemporary mass-timber structure, creating an interdisciplinary, project-based learning environment that fosters collaboration and innovation across departments.

The updated wing is carefully designed to harmonise with the surrounding Grade II-listed buildings, drawing inspiration from their Arts and Crafts stylings while introducing modern architectural elements. Externally, the building features a base of Portland stone and upper levels of red brickwork, topped with a brown zinc standing seam roof punctuated by ventilation chimneys. This approach respects the heritage of the campus without replicating it, using complementary materials and forms such as gabled roofs and chimneys reinterpreted in a contemporary fashion.

Central to the wing’s design is a double-height, skylit gathering space with timber amphitheatre-style seating, serving as a versatile hub for meetings, events, and celebrations. Overlooking this area is the Immersive Studio, which can function both as a glazed exhibition space or an acoustically isolated black box theatre. To the south, a glazed link connects the wing to the 1994 Mercer's Building, which has undergone renovations to accommodate an IT studio, makerspace, and fabrication area, further supporting the school's innovative curriculum.

Inside, transparency and sustainability are key themes. Exposed brick walls, timber roof beams, and visible service elements illustrate environmentally responsible design while enabling flexible use of the space. According to Jestico + Whiles, these exposed systems serve an educational purpose by introducing students firsthand to sustainable building principles and the building's structural and mechanical workings. The wing's sustainable glulam timber frame and ventilation strategies underpin this ethos, reflecting the school's commitment to environmental responsibility.

The Rosalind Franklin Wing forms part of a wider masterplan that not only enhances teaching facilities but also improves accessibility and circulation across the site. The masterplan includes refurbishments to other listed buildings as well as new staff facilities, all designed to respect the original Edwardian architecture by Gerald Horsley while accommodating the evolving educational needs and wellbeing of students and staff.

The opening of the wing was celebrated as a significant milestone for St Paul’s Girls’ School, affirming its dedication to providing state-of-the-art, creative learning environments that bridge traditional education with future-focused practices. The project exemplifies a sensitive yet bold reworking of a historic school campus, balancing heritage with innovation to create a vibrant, sustainable space for interdisciplinary education.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dezeen.com/2025/07/15/jestico-whiles-historic-school-modern-take-rosalind-franklin-wing/), [[2]](https://www.jesticowhiles.com/project/rosalind-franklin-wing-st-pauls-girls-school/), [[4]](https://www.jesticowhiles.com/project/st-pauls-girls-school-masterplan/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.dezeen.com/2025/07/15/jestico-whiles-historic-school-modern-take-rosalind-franklin-wing/), [[2]](https://www.jesticowhiles.com/project/rosalind-franklin-wing-st-pauls-girls-school/), [[5]](https://www.architectsjournal.co.uk/buildings/jestico-whiles-arts-and-crafts-rework-of-st-pauls-girls-school-completes)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.dezeen.com/2025/07/15/jestico-whiles-historic-school-modern-take-rosalind-franklin-wing/), [[2]](https://www.jesticowhiles.com/project/rosalind-franklin-wing-st-pauls-girls-school/), [[3]](https://www.jesticowhiles.com/news/the-rosalind-franklin-wing-at-st-pauls-girls-school-officially-opens/), [[5]](https://www.architectsjournal.co.uk/buildings/jestico-whiles-arts-and-crafts-rework-of-st-pauls-girls-school-completes)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.dezeen.com/2025/07/15/jestico-whiles-historic-school-modern-take-rosalind-franklin-wing/), [[2]](https://www.jesticowhiles.com/project/rosalind-franklin-wing-st-pauls-girls-school/), [[5]](https://www.architectsjournal.co.uk/buildings/jestico-whiles-arts-and-crafts-rework-of-st-pauls-girls-school-completes)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.dezeen.com/2025/07/15/jestico-whiles-historic-school-modern-take-rosalind-franklin-wing/), [[4]](https://www.jesticowhiles.com/project/st-pauls-girls-school-masterplan/), [[7]](https://bdaily.co.uk/articles/2020/10/02/hammersmith-girls-school-to-benefit-from-new-buildings-and-refurb), [[6]](https://www.landuse.co.uk/news/rosalind-franklin-wing-st-pauls-girls-school/)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dezeen.com/2025/07/15/jestico-whiles-historic-school-modern-take-rosalind-franklin-wing/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.jesticowhiles.com/project/rosalind-franklin-wing-st-pauls-girls-school/> - Jestico + Whiles has completed the Rosalind Franklin Wing at St Paul's Girls' School, introducing a new typology for education. The building combines a deep retrofit of the existing Rosalind Franklin Wing with a new mass-timber structure, creating an interdisciplinary project-based learning space. It features a central double-height, skylit gathering area, an Immersive Studio, and connects to the 1994 Mercer's Building via glazed links. The design incorporates red brick, Portland stone, and brown zinc, referencing the arts and crafts style of the Edwardian campus. Exposed brickwork and timber roof beams, along with large glass walls and visible services, promote transparency and durability, aligning with sustainable design principles. The project is part of a broader masterplan to modernise the school's facilities and enhance connectivity between buildings. ([jesticowhiles.com](https://www.jesticowhiles.com/project/rosalind-franklin-wing-st-pauls-girls-school/?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://www.jesticowhiles.com/news/the-rosalind-franklin-wing-at-st-pauls-girls-school-officially-opens/> - The Rosalind Franklin Wing at St Paul's Girls' School has officially opened, marking a significant milestone in the school's development. Designed by Jestico + Whiles, the building serves as a centre for design and innovation, fostering interdisciplinary, project-based learning. It integrates sensitive architectural detailing and materials to blend with the historic surroundings, featuring a sustainable glulam structural frame and ventilation strategy. The project is part of a wider masterplan to equip the school with modern facilities while preserving its heritage. ([jesticowhiles.com](https://www.jesticowhiles.com/news/the-rosalind-franklin-wing-at-st-pauls-girls-school-officially-opens/?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.jesticowhiles.com/project/st-pauls-girls-school-masterplan/> - Jestico + Whiles has developed a masterplan for St Paul's Girls' School, aiming to honour the school's history while supporting its future ambitions. Central to the plan is the Rosalind Franklin Wing, a centre for design and innovation that supports collaborative, project-based learning across subjects. The design incorporates red brick, Portland stone, and zinc, with contemporary interpretations of existing architectural features. Internally, exposed systems and materials serve as teaching tools, promoting sustainable design principles. The masterplan also includes a new staff hub and refurbishments to existing listed buildings, enhancing accessibility and sustainability. ([jesticowhiles.com](https://www.jesticowhiles.com/project/st-pauls-girls-school-masterplan/?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.architectsjournal.co.uk/buildings/jestico-whiles-arts-and-crafts-rework-of-st-pauls-girls-school-completes> - Jestico + Whiles has completed a major period-style overhaul of St Paul's Girls' School in west London, including the new Rosalind Franklin Wing. The two-storey facility draws upon the school's existing Grade II-listed buildings, reinterpreting gable forms and chimneys, and constructed from red brick and Portland stone. It is connected to the 1994 Mercer Building via glazed links and combines an extensively retrofitted existing building with a new mass timber structure. Internally, services and materials have been left exposed as teaching tools to show functional low-carbon design. The layout is organised around a double-height central gathering space for meetings and events. ([architectsjournal.co.uk](https://www.architectsjournal.co.uk/buildings/jestico-whiles-arts-and-crafts-rework-of-st-pauls-girls-school-completes?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.landuse.co.uk/news/rosalind-franklin-wing-st-pauls-girls-school/> - LUC attended the official opening of the Rosalind Franklin Wing at St Paul's Girls' School, a groundbreaking innovation and design centre. The project marks a significant milestone in the school's ongoing development and represents the first completed phase of a comprehensive masterplan. Representatives from LUC, Jestico + Whiles, and Bidwells gathered at the opening ceremony. The new wing stands as a testament to St Paul's Girls' School's commitment to providing state-of-the-art learning environments that inspire and empower students. ([landuse.co.uk](https://www.landuse.co.uk/news/rosalind-franklin-wing-st-pauls-girls-school/?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://bdaily.co.uk/articles/2020/10/02/hammersmith-girls-school-to-benefit-from-new-buildings-and-refurb> - Developers have received planning permission for the delivery of two new buildings and a major refurbishment at St Paul's Girls' School in Hammersmith. Jestico + Whiles will deliver the masterplan scheme, designed in response to changes in the educational landscape to better support the wellbeing of pupils and staff, while retaining the character of the school's original Edwardian buildings. The school's main building, designed by Gerald Horsley between 1903-1911, will be refurbished to make better use of the currently under-utilised lower ground floor, while two new buildings will replace a redundant swimming pool and gymnasium. ([bdaily.co.uk](https://bdaily.co.uk/articles/2020/10/02/hammersmith-girls-school-to-benefit-from-new-buildings-and-refurb?utm_source=openai))