Project 351: School Air Raid Shelter Conversion

Client: Newington CEP School, Sittingbourne, Kent

Programme: 6 Weeks

Construction Details: Decorating, Double Glazed, Floor Coverings, Improved Thermal Efficiency, Plastering, Plumbing, Refurbishment, School Improvement, uPVC Windows

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School Air Raid Shelter Conversion

This school air raid shelter conversion was an unusual and interesting project. The original structure was a WWII air raid shelter but had recently been used as a store room. Newington CEP School saw the potential of the building and were looking to turn it into a staffroom. After the storeroom was emptied, works consisted of the boarding out and plastering of the walls and new floor coverings. Additionally new electrics were installed which included lighting and heaters. The building was decorated throughout and a kitchenette was installed, complete with a dishwasher, sink and fridge. This was added to provide an area to prepare snacks and hot drinks.

Due to the low height of the ceiling our options were limited. We applied retro artexing to the existing ceiling which was finished off with two coats of white paint which helped to brighten the room and transform it into a light and welcoming space.

Exterior Works

New guttering, fascias and soffits were fitted to the outside of the staffroom. We also installed new uPVC double glazed windows which will help with the building thermal efficiency.

Dampness

The main challenge of this project was the dampness in the walls and floor. To combat this we introduced dehumidifiers to the building during the early stages of the works. They extracted a large amount of moisture in the air, walls and flooring. With the unwanted moisture removed we wanted to ensure that it would not return. A moisture resistant barrier was created by applying a special paint that-forms an odourless and taint free black film suitable for protection of walls and floors. We also installed a gyplyner stud lining system and moisture resistant plaster board to ensure that the staffroom would not be affected by damp in the future.

New Staffroom

The school is extremely happy that they now have utilised a building that wasn't being used to its full potential previously and now have a light and bright area for staff during their break.

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