

Nomination for DESIGN Building Awards 2008



Nature Study Centre

Address : **Dow Corning,
Cardiff Road,
Barry,
Vale of Glamorgan.**

Applicant : **Dow Corning**

Agent : **Milsom Architects, Powys**

Contractor : **Twyn Construction, Newport.**

The external form of this building is of a low profile, with a curving roof and timber clad walls which contain the open, multi purpose hall. The building reduces in plan towards the front entrance around which, amenities are located. A central window is laid out on the axis of the plan which serves to provide views and serves to link the interior of the hall to the exterior layout.

There are close links with the viewing/activities platform, outside teaching areas and external landscaping related to the nature reserve.

The design responds to a strong sustainability agenda, a sensitive location and multi-functional brief. This is commendable and imaginative design in terms of the plan, form and architectural composition of the building, constructed in traditional materials which are entirely appropriate to the setting. The result is a robust, contemporary statement of merit.

The building is also recognised for its strong 'green' credentials in the use of materials and energy efficient technologies.



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