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## Landscape takes a leading role at Kent school

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Work is now complete on a transformational school redevelopment project in Kent, with b:d landscape architects having finished its involvement in the £4.4 million redevelopment of Hilden Grange School near Tonbridge.



The development comprises two low-level building wings by Hawkins\Brown architects extending into the steeply sloping site on three diminishing levels.

The intention was to restore expansive views of the Weald of Kent that had been obscured by temporary classrooms, and to integrate the building with the sensitive landscape and Conservation Area setting.

Described as vibrant and dynamic learning landscape, it comprises a series of play terraces that are tailored to each of the age groups that spill out from the surrounding classrooms. Bright-coloured surfaces that undulate and morph provide subtle opportunities for external learning and play and create interest from the many aerial vantage points.

Groves of specimen Scots pine and birch trees humanise the terraces, providing shelter and shade. Geotextile-reinforced wildflower banks and a green roof add to the ecological credentials and respond to the local biodiversity action plans.