

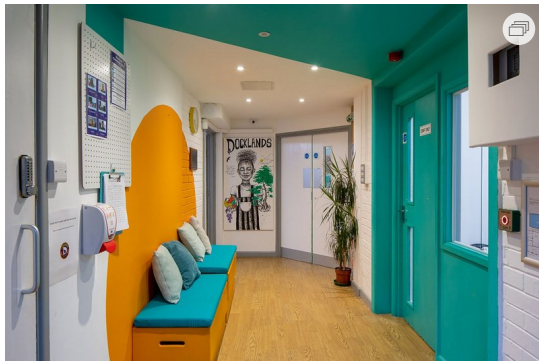
Buildings MacEwen Awards: Shortlist

Bristol youth centre gives its users authorship of the space

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Words: Michèle Woodger

Askew Cavanna Architects' redesign of a community centre for black-led charity Full Circle@Docklands has been shortlisted for the MacEwen Award



The history of the charity is expressed within the building through mural artwork. Credit: Alex Campbell

Building Full Circle @ Docklands community centre

Location St Pauls, Bristol

Architect Askew Cavanna Architects

Building type Community centre

Established in 1980, Full Circle @ Docklands is a black-led charity promoting inclusion and enhancing life opportunities for young Bristolians. Its service provision includes a youth and community centre housed in a historic 20th century building.

Askew Cavanna Architects was appointed to redesign this underperforming space amid the challenges of a hugely restricted budget and the 2020 lockdowns. The practice was nevertheless able to hold extensive consultations with community stakeholders including teenagers, youth workers, representatives from homeless charities, therapists and dance school leaders.

This diverse feedback helped prioritise those architectural interventions that provided maximum social value, namely: increased flexibility of space, new showers, a welcoming reception area, co-working spaces and improved accessibility and acoustics.



Docklands Youth and Community Centre

Needs to have a good balance between youth centre and community centre. Must not look like a corporate building, must not forget our roots.



Far left: Press clipping from RIBA Journal MacEwen Award.

Above: Finished photo of the Sports Hall.

Left: Young person quote from the co-design process

Below: Concept design sketch following co-design process.

