

ARCHITECTURE

10

RIBA BUILDINGS OF THE YEAR

TONY CHAPMAN

MERRELL

CREATIVE EXCHANGE LONGSANDS CAMPUS, ST NEOTS

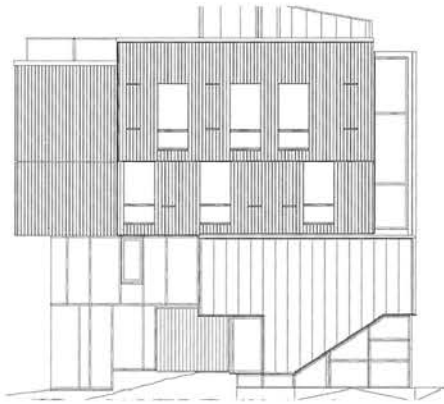
5TH STUDIO

CLIENT: HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
 STRUCTURAL ENGINEER: SCOTT WILSON
 SERVICES ENGINEER: ZEF
 CONTRACTOR: SDC SPECIAL PROJECTS
 CONTRACT VALUE: £1,530,000
 DATE OF COMPLETION: JANUARY 2009
 GROSS INTERNAL AREA: 705 SQ. M
 IMAGES: TIMOTHY SOAR

This extraordinary and intriguing building is an entirely appropriate response to the issues of business development in the rural context of Cambridgeshire.

The building form is complex. Each floorplate and each elevation creates a distinct 'place' for a small business. The experience is of an exhilarating tree house from which the occupants look down on the children rushing to and from Longsands College.

The choice of materials and fixings is strongly influenced by the budget, but also displays a touch of 'Hoxton chic', with such experimental materials as structural glass, second-hand plywood linings and face-fixed services. The energy strategy has surprising innovations, such as a buried earth pipe that provides cooled or warmed air, thus reducing energy costs.



Elevation

