

CHURCH building



Salvation Army Citadel Corps Chelmsford, Essex

Constructed entirely of timber and cloaked in an undulating zinc roof, the new £2 million Salvation Army Citadel Corps in Chelmsford by Hudson Architects provides 900 sq m new accommodation for the mission on the site of its former premises, which it has occupied since 1974.

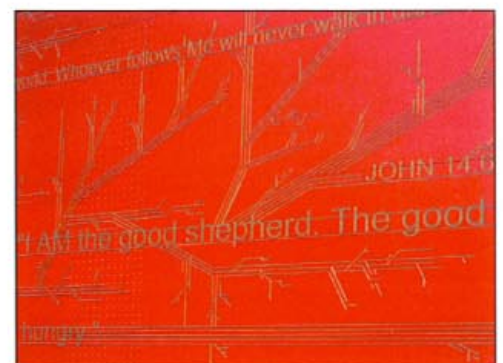


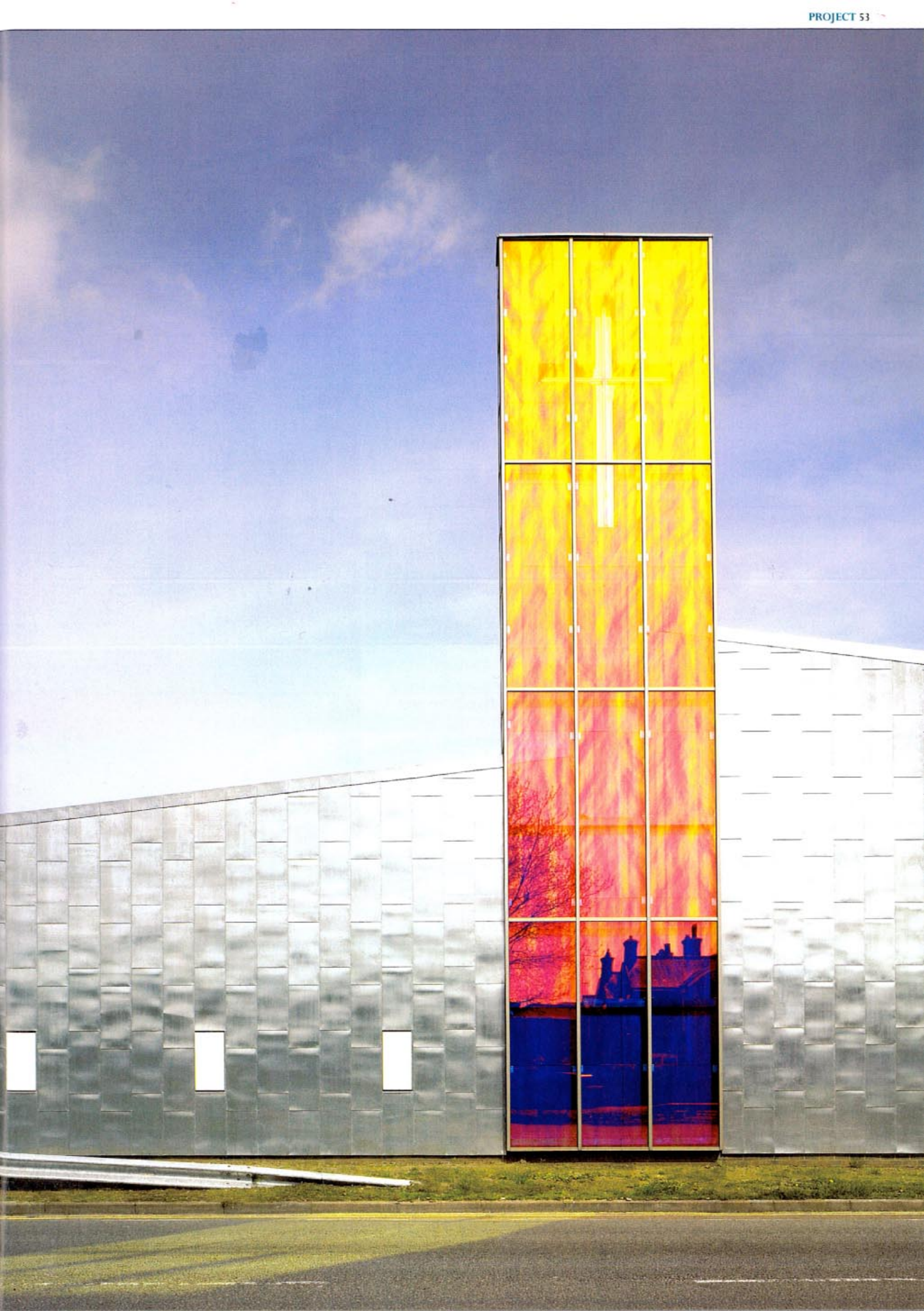
The new centre reflects the two sides of the mission, providing an assembly hall for worship as well as recreational facilities for the wide range of community outreach activities that The Salvation Army provides, such as over 60's clubs, youth activities and toddler care. The building's plan recognises that these two aspects are interconnected whilst offering flexibility and separation to permit activities to function simultaneously. An indoor sports hall, outdoor play area, lounge, kitchen and foyer with reception café facilities are arranged around a 320-seater worship hall, with administration offices located on the first floor.

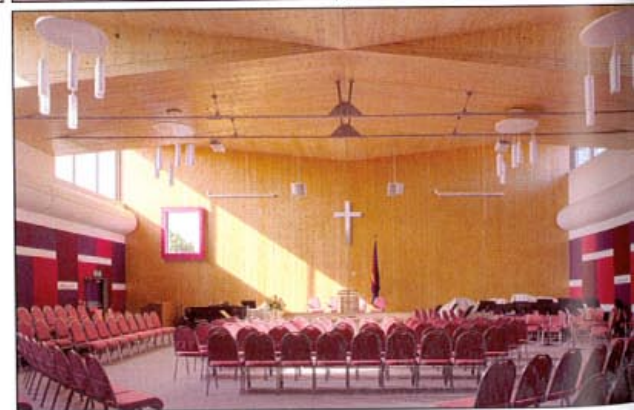
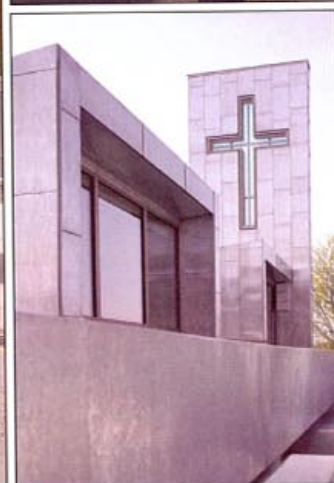
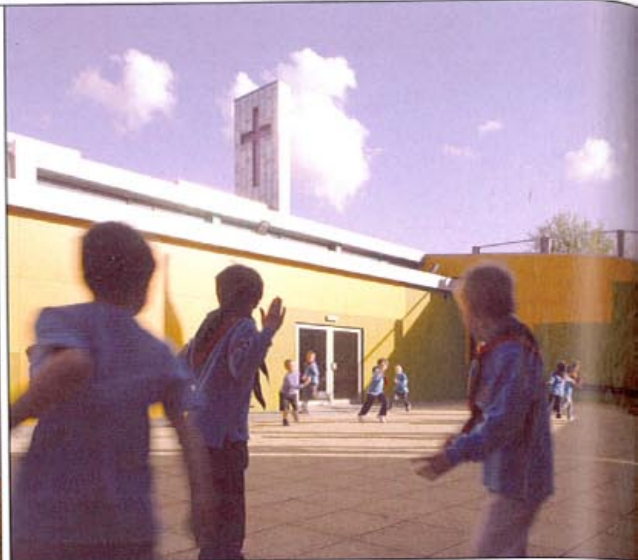
The project illustrates the practice's commitment to pioneering modern methods of construction to maximise the potential of

sustainable materials. The building is constructed using a cross-laminated timber panel system pioneered by manufacturers KLH of Austria. The system is akin to jumbo plywood and offers all the advantages of reinforced concrete construction without the environmental cost. All walls and floor plates arrived on site as prefabricated panels with cut-outs for doors and windows, ready for quick assembly, allowing the building's frame to be erected in just 24 days.

The two most conspicuous elements of the scheme which maximise the cross-laminated technology are the entrance canopy on the North elevation, which provides lateral stability to the front elevation, and the building's signature undulating butterfly roof, which rises to accommodate six generously sized dormer windows, measuring 4.2 m wide. **>54**







PROJECT TEAM

Client:
The Salvation Army
Architect:
Hudson Architects
Structural Engineer:
Curtins Consulting
Engineers Plc
KLH Engineer:
Techniker Ltd
Photography:
Keith Collie

The butterfly roof is further dramatised by a zinc cladding, which cloaks the building and sweeps down and anchors it on its north elevation on Baddow Road and south elevation on Parkway.

The zinc cloak forms a striking enclosure, which gives the building a very robust toughened and urbanistic character and distinguishes it from the surrounding brick buildings.

A 13m tall x 3m wide tower, made from the longest piece of KLH available, creates a contemporary steeple on Parkway, giving the building a strong street presence to passing traffic on the A138. The bronze steeple is clad in a radiant light film, which reflects a spectrum of colour, enshrining the cruciform symbol at its centre.

The building's toughened zinc shell breaks at the Baddow Road entrance lintel where floor to ceiling glazing creates a dialogue between the foyer café and the street, projecting an image of openness crucial to the work of the organisation. The east elevation on Goldlay Road and west facing courtyard elevation are both clad in brightly coloured rockpanel board. On Goldlay Road the entire elevation has been CNC router pattern cut with a bespoke graphic indicative of the work of The Salvation Army.

Inside the 320-seater worship hall is the most dramatic space within the building,

measuring 17m x 17m. It is in this room that Hudson Architects, working with Techniker Ltd KLH's specialist engineers, have exploited the plate-like organisation of the KLH system, pushing the spans of the roof and how it is supported. Unlike the foyer space, which is lined with mdf panels, in this room the raw KLH structural panels are treated with an intumescent varnish but left exposed so that walls and roof plate read as one sculptural form. The room is toplit by dormer windows on the east and west elevations and a square window on the Parkway elevation. Acoustic panels line the lower half of the walls to strengthen the hall's acoustics and minimise noise pollution to neighbouring residences. The room is hung with bespoke contemporary chandeliers manufactured by concord:marlin. ■



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