



Lessons in light

Main picture:
West view of the
school with
"spiritual tower"

Right, top: East
view, featuring
rendered
blockwork.

Right, bottom:
Elevation.

1 Render
2 Window with
metal mesh
3 Metal gate
with mesh
infill

4 Spiritual tower
5 Metal mesh
balustrade
6 Roof chimney
7 Slate roofing
8 Metal window
9 Concrete
balustrade
10 Exposed
concrete

Deborah Saunt David Hills
Architecture has unveiled images of
its school in Sheffield which will
unite the St Johns Church of
England School and St Oswalds
Roman Catholic School in a new
building on the Manor Estate near
the city centre.

The DSDHA design attempts to
use natural light to convey
spirituality. "We have worked
closely with the Church of England
diocese of Sheffield and Roman
Catholic Diocese of Hallam to
deliver a design that embodies
spirituality through the careful
design of natural light, which is used
to guide the journey through the
building," said David Hills.

"Careful control of natural
daylight has been sculpted through
the school to evoke a sense of
calmness."

According to Hills, this is
embodied by "the room for spiritual
development, which is crowned by a
dramatic vertical slot of light that
carves up the building plan and
creates an ethereal sense of
illumination on axis with the main
length of the building".

The £3 million school, in
rendered blockwork with a glazed
south elevation and slate roof, will
be built on a site sloping 10m from
one side of the school to the other.
Construction will start later this
month and the school, for 315 junior
school children, is expected to open
in 2006.

The practice was celebrating this
week after winning the British
Construction Industry Small
Building Award 2004 for Hoyle
Early Years Centre in the Lancashire
town of Bury.

