

## City of London Freeman's School, swimming pool, Ashtead



Light and spacious with a cathedral-like quality

17 May 2018

Region: South East: RIBA Regional Awards 2018,  
Hawkins\Brown,Ashtead



City of London Freeman's School, Swimming Pool, Ashtead.  
Credit: Jack Hobhouse

**Hawkins\Brown for City of London Freeman's School**

**Contract value: £8.2m**

**GIA: 1,750 m<sup>2</sup>**

**Cost per m<sup>2</sup>: £4,686**

This swimming pool replaces one on the school grounds which recently burned down. The location is sensitive, set within the Green Belt, near grade II listed buildings and next to ancient woodland. In response, the architect has created a building that is practically

invisible from the outside. The simple, low-lying form clad in dark brown zinc panelling reveals few hints as to what one will experience within.



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This interior is predominantly timber with white-washed glulam frames and CLT panels – all well detailed and finely crafted. The atmosphere is light and spacious with a cathedral-like quality, its tranquillity heightened by beautiful views across a meadow to the woodland beyond.

The proportions and spatial arrangement of the main pool interior, at a level with the ground on two sides, are elegant and pleasing, windows dropping down to the floor to create the sensation of swimming in nature.

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