



The new garden pavilion

Oakwood House's new facilities boost revenue potential (02/05/07)

Lee Evans Partnership (LEP) has just completed a major £1.2m refurbishment and extension programme for Oakwood House, in Maidstone, Kent County Council's (KCC) popular hotel, conference and training centre. The scheme builds on the success of the centre's highly successful courtyard bar project, also designed by LEP and completed in 2005.

KCC Leader Paul Carter officially opened the newly-built John Wigan Room, the attractive garden pavilion, which leads on to a patio overlooking the extensive gardens which surround the former Victorian mansion on 19 April. When combined with the adjacent refurbished Lewis Wigan Room, seating capacity at the venue, which is also licensed for Kentish Wedding Ceremonies, is now in excess of 300 people.

Designed to a high specification the improvements have been sensitively designed not only to complement Oakwood's fine Victorian heritage but create a flexible combination of multifunctional spaces which include a new lounge, servery and conservatory which supplement the two main function rooms. The conference centre now has 16 meeting rooms and the very latest audio-visual facilities with free broadband wireless access in all rooms. The scheme's DDA improvements have also solved significant access problems and created logical circulation links between the conference centre and hotel accommodation.

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