

# NEWS

## FCBS/Ryder group scoops Kent schools

**Helen Crump**

A consortium including Feilden Clegg Bradley and Ryder has won a £600 million Building Schools for the Future deal after beating the much touted Skanska consortium, which included Make, DRMM, Flacq and DSDHA.

The Land Securities Trillium consortium, which also includes local firms Clague, Lee Evans Partnership, CTM and Hazle McCormack Young, was victorious in the fiercely contested £1.8 billion Kent BSF programme's first phase.

Both teams had to produce seven sample schools during the 15-month process, which initially attracted six consortiums.

Kent BSF and academies programme manager Karl Limbert said: "There was a lot of to-ing and fro-ing but at the end of the day, [the winner] responded very well. It was particularly good at the way it engaged the schools in the design process."

Stephen Coomber, partner of Hazle McCormack Young, said the four Kent practices' local creden-

tials had also been an factor.

"It's really all about the supply chain. As well as bringing the expertise from outside, you're using expertise and creating employment within the county," he said.

James Berry, director of design at Skanska, called the decision a "huge disappointment".

He said: "Kent was and is trying to do a good job and to get a set of schools that are better than most. We were talking to Kent in very, very fine detail about the designs until the last minute.

"We went into a greater level of detail at all levels than we've ever done before. I think that's fairly symptomatic of the way the competitive dialogue process is developing around PFI."

The first phase of the programme is set to include three new-build sample schools – one by FCBS, the other two by Ryder – and two refurbishments, plus a number of non-sample schools.

The phase covers schools in the Gravesham, Swale and Thanet districts of Kent, and is due to be completed by 2014.



Design for Northfleet School for Girls by Hazle McCormack Young.