

DESIGN STATEMENT

Project Number: 2434
Date: 24/02/26

19 New Road, Llandeilo, SA19 6DD
107 Cowbridge Road East, Cardiff, CF11 9AG
www.mwd.wales | 01558 822009



THE ROSE RETREAT – DESIGN STATEMENT

Following the delegated report of the previously submitted application (P/25/0035), MWD Architects have refined the design to address the matters raised by the planning case officer. The proposal has been developed with a focus on enhancing the existing spa while respecting the sensitive historic and landscape context of Cyfarthfa Park. The following sections set out the key design principles and explain how the proposal responds to its setting in terms of scale, layout, materials, landscaping and ecology.



Figure 1 : Interior perspective illustrating how the massing is set back from the boundary wall to retain and celebrate views of the existing hedgerow, planting and mature trees.

Massing & Layout:

- The footprint is located primarily over existing grassed areas and hardstanding, avoiding boundary hedges, mature trees and ecologically valuable planting.
- The extension is compact and single storey, set away from neighbouring boundaries to minimise its visual presence and avoid effects on nearby properties.



Figure 2: In response to matters raised by the planning case officer, the massing is set back from the street to create a softer, edge to the public realm, which also allows for a secondary access route to the retreat via stepping stones set within planting.

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Rear decking

- The rear outdoor relaxation area is finished in stone paving rather than decking, reflecting the historic character and material palette of the registered park and garden and the surrounding conservation area.



Figure 3: Rear perspective illustrating the use of natural stone paving in the outdoor relaxation area.

Ecology

- **The green roof** A biodiverse green roof forms an integral part of the site's surface water management strategy, helping to attenuate runoff, mitigate the loss of existing grassed areas and contribute to biodiversity and wildlife enhancement.
- **SuDS Planting zone** - A SuDS-focused landscaping zone is provided along the south-west elevation and is designed to work in conjunction with the green roof, creating a multi-level system that improves surface water management and introduces new habitats.
- **Planting border** - A planted border along the front elevation incorporates native species of local provenance to reinforce existing green infrastructure and enhance biodiversity.



Figure 4: Aerial perspective illustrating the green and richly planted character of the proposal, including the biodiverse green roof, SuDS planting and native boundary planting.

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The Timber Screen



Figure 5: Perspective showing the timber screen blending with garden trees and the surrounding green landscape.

- The timber screen is inspired by Castan Cabins products, with a bespoke design that reflects the organic rhythm of tree branches and the landscape character of Cyfarthfa Castle Park and Gardens.
- The screen is softened by native planting and climbers to the front, with additional greenery from the green roof visible above, helping to further soften its appearance and integrate it within the surrounding landscape.
- The screen defines the retreat and distinguishes it from a domestic extension when viewed from nearby public routes, including the footpath and castle grounds. Its bespoke, nature-inspired design creates a memorable feature that sparks curiosity and draws interest from the public.
- Whilst the planning officer raised concerns with the garden changing from a low level and open to one that is enclosed, in line with SW4 and SW13 for enhancing community facilities and developing sites within the primary growth area, it is deemed a necessary element of the overall design to ensure spa users are afforded a good level of privacy with some suggestion of activity within.

Timber screen design evolution and inspiration



Figure 6: The screen will be constructed from locally sourced timber by a local craftsman, who, once appointed, will have an active role in the design process. The design draws inspiration from organic forms and is intentionally inconsistent in height and thickness to give an organic feel.

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Summary

The proposal represents a sensitive and well-considered enhancement to the existing spa, carefully integrated within its setting. Through its modest scale, thoughtful positioning, natural materials and extensive landscaping, the development preserves the character of the site while enhancing the spa experience and environmental performance, whilst at the same time being unapologetically contemporary.

Relevant Precedents & Experience

The Welsh landscape is a key influence on our architect-designed, environmentally responsible buildings. Alongside larger projects, we design park homes, glamping cabins and garden offices, and also run a sister company, Castan Cabins. The projects below show our experience in nature-based design and in particular timber screens, as proposed for the Rose Retreat.

