



The design development process involved hydraulic modelling and full scale testing to optimise the design and minimise the energy requirements

Olympic white water facility opens to the public

Lee Valley White Water Centre, the first Olympic facility to be available to the public ahead of the Olympic Games, opened as *bfl* went to press.

Designed by FaulknerBrowns Architects, the White Water Centre is located near to Waltham Cross in Hertfordshire and is designed to support and sustain opportunities for both elite athletes and the wider community. The facility comprises a 300m Olympic standard canoe and kayak slalom course and a 160m intermediate/training course with start and finish pools, together with a Facilities Building housing the support accommodation.

FaulknerBrowns and Cundall worked with the course designers, Whitewater Parks International, and landscape designers, Michael van Valkenburgh Associates, to sustainably create the type of white water conventionally associated with a mountain stream in a relatively flat flood plain, and to integrate the course and the Facilities Building into the landscape.

The energy efficient course meets the International Canoe Federation requirements for Olympic slalom competition venues and supports longer term ambitions for legacy uses.

in brief

● Planning for tower scheme

Planning has been awarded for a 19-storey tower designed by Glenn Howells Architects, on behalf of client Ballymore. The building contains 162 apartments with a large public gallery space and supporting ground floor retail/commercial units. The building will include four communal-space viewing platforms or sky gardens that take advantage of the surrounding London skyline.

An island site due to its location in the bow of the River Lea, the vision for the overall Leamouth development is to create a peninsula community with a focus on the arts, citing creative venues to be developed for the residents and wider community. The new building will sit within the wider Skidmore Owings & Merrill masterplan in east London. The project is anticipated to start on site winter 2011 and complete in 2014.

● Days Inn Liverpool launch

The first Days Inn to arrive in Liverpool is set to be the flagship new generation Days Inn for Europe, offering affordable, comfortable and chic accommodation. The hotel occupies all five floors of the vacant former Ministry of Defence offices at Moor House, directly adjacent to James Street railway station in the city centre.

The three-star venue, which is operated by Sanguine Hospitality Limited, has already secured £400,000 in bookings. It is operating to 90 per cent capacity for peak weekends such as the Grand National, Mathew Street Festival and the Labour Party Conference in September. The hotel aims to attract tourists looking for short, affordable stays in an up and coming area of the city as well as commuters. Room rates start at £59. ■



The first Days Inn for Liverpool