

Foundation Centre, 2006

W x 0H x 0D cm

Not available for sale





Cass Sculpture

Foundation

The design of the Foundation Centre executed by Studio Downie Architects cuts dramatically into the chalk landscape, creating a powerful sense of space released from the intimate woodland surroundings. The ceiling's deep ribs add a sense of subterranean strength from within and distribute daylight in the interior space. The building blends and disappears in harmony with its surroundings with sporadic rough timber fins and flint coloured render wrapping the exterior. Natural elements have reclaimed the building into its woodland surroundings, with the growth of escarpments and a carpet of natural sedum on the roof which supports other local flora and fauna.



Just one year after having set up his architectural practice, Craig Downie was commissioned by Wilfred Cass to create the Cass Sculpture Foundation's Visitors' Gallery in 1994. Downie was to receive a RIBA award for this building - which was also short-listed for a British Construction Industry award.

In 2006, the Cass Sculpture Foundation commissioned Craig Downie to create its **Foundation Centre**. The centre provides new offices, a library, exhibition space and archives for a unique collection of 21st-century British sculpture. The greys and whites of the building's surfaces refer to the indigenous flint that is so specific to Sussex whilst providing a contrast between inside and out, and the hard and soft expression of the building and the landscape.

1993, Craig Downie studied architecture within the layered environment of fine art, sculpture, graphics and textiles at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art, Dundee. Following the success of his architectural practice, Downie has been included in The Architecture Foundation's **Britain's Best Young Architectural Practices** in both 1998 and 2001.

Awards include the Design Business Association's **Design Effectiveness Award for Interiors: Office and Commercial** and the British Construction Industry Award's **Judges' Special Award** for an inspirational building as a result of Downie's design for the Study Centre for the Royal Geographical Society.

From 1994 onwards Downie's work has involved creating interiors for the Ondaatje Theatre; the Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA); KPMG; Microsoft; government-funded outreach centres for the West London Training & Enterprise Council and offices for the French Treasury. His recent commissions include a new mixed-use gateway building as part of the King's Cross Development.

His work has been published throughout Europe, North America and Asia and in early 2007 the first monograph of Studiodownie's work was published.

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