

THE NEW FIRST PLACE NURSERY



# THE DESIGN CONCEPT

The brief is for a bespoke and more efficient building which will meet the future needs of children and staff alike.

The brief called for a building that would offer,

*'Simple and natural spaces and materials to promote open ended play. Warm, nurturing and peaceful.*

*Lots of natural light with windows to the floor for children to see out. Each nursery room opening to an outdoor area. Alcoves and quiet areas for resting and reading. Nursery rooms to have inter-connecting door to the next age group nursery room.*

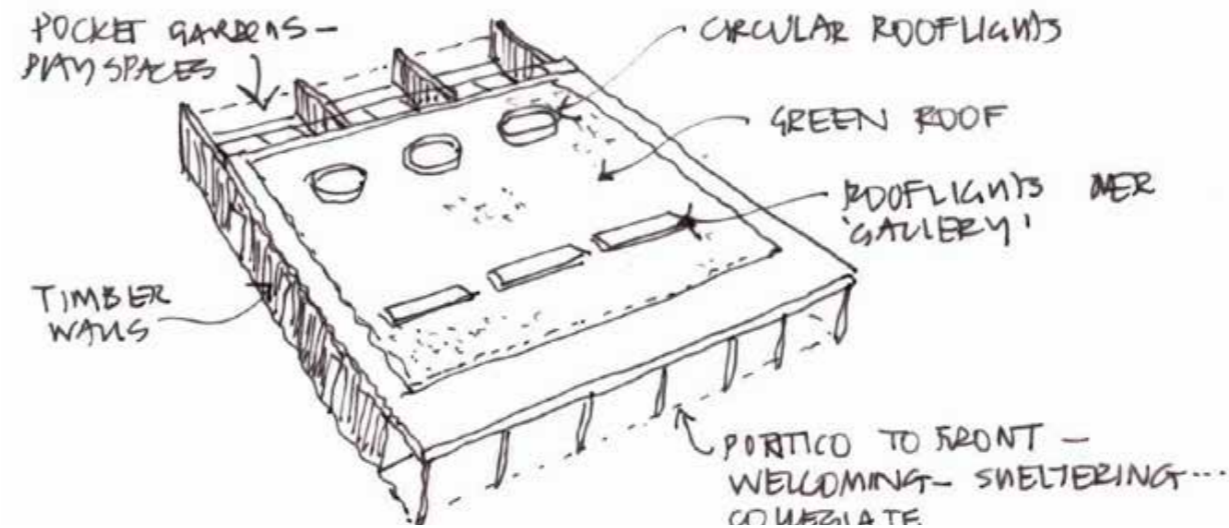
*Energy efficient.'*

The design begins with a single-storey plan. To the front, behind a sheltered portico entrance, lies a zone for adults - staff, visitors and small hall. Beyond this lies a full width 'gallery' - a place for benches, shoes, hanging coats, and children's art work - all top-lit by long rooflights.

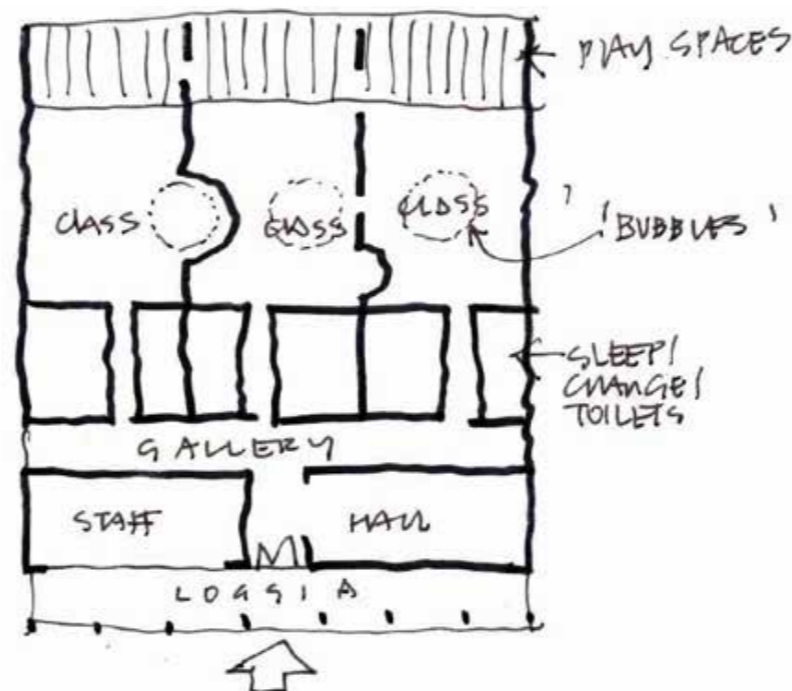
Three classrooms occupy the back of the plan and open out with full height glazing onto protected outdoor play spaces. The rooms themselves are made playful by use of concave/ convex bulges in the dividing walls, that break up the orthogonal geometry. This is then complemented by circular 'bubbles' in coloured circular areas on the floor, and by three giant rooflights above.

This is an idea inspired by a beautiful sculpture pavilion by Aldo van Eyck in Sonsbeek, Holland from 1966, that explored the spatial expression of curves upon a regular geometric plan.

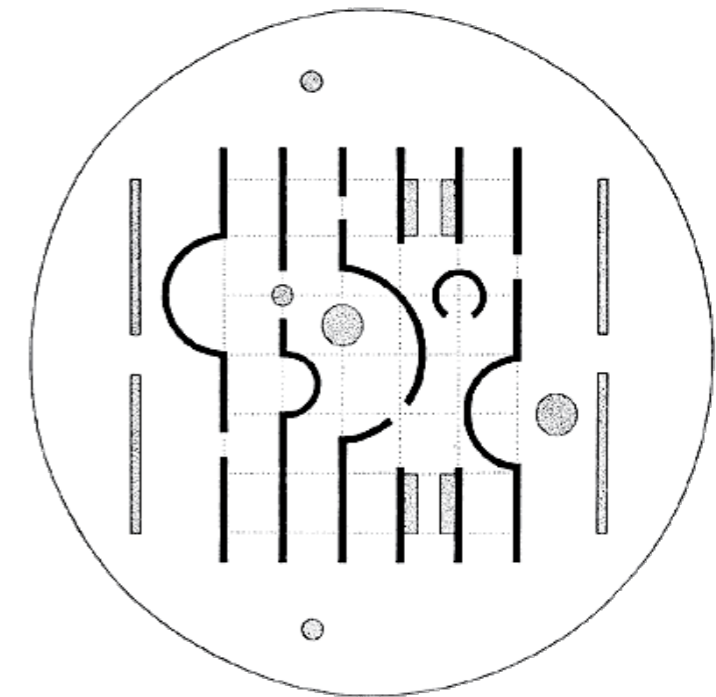
The building will be clad in vertical stained timber boarding, beneath a green roof.



Concept sketch



Sketch plan



Sonsbeek pavilion, Aldo van Eyck 1966

# THE NEW BUILDING

To rebuild the Nursery quickly, it is a steel-framed construction with a ribbed metal-deck roof, insulated with green roof.

Internally, underfloor heated floors are finished in linoleum, with inset circles of colour ('bubbles'). Simple white painted internal walls play against timber lined ceilings, with giant rooflights bringing daylight into the deep plan.

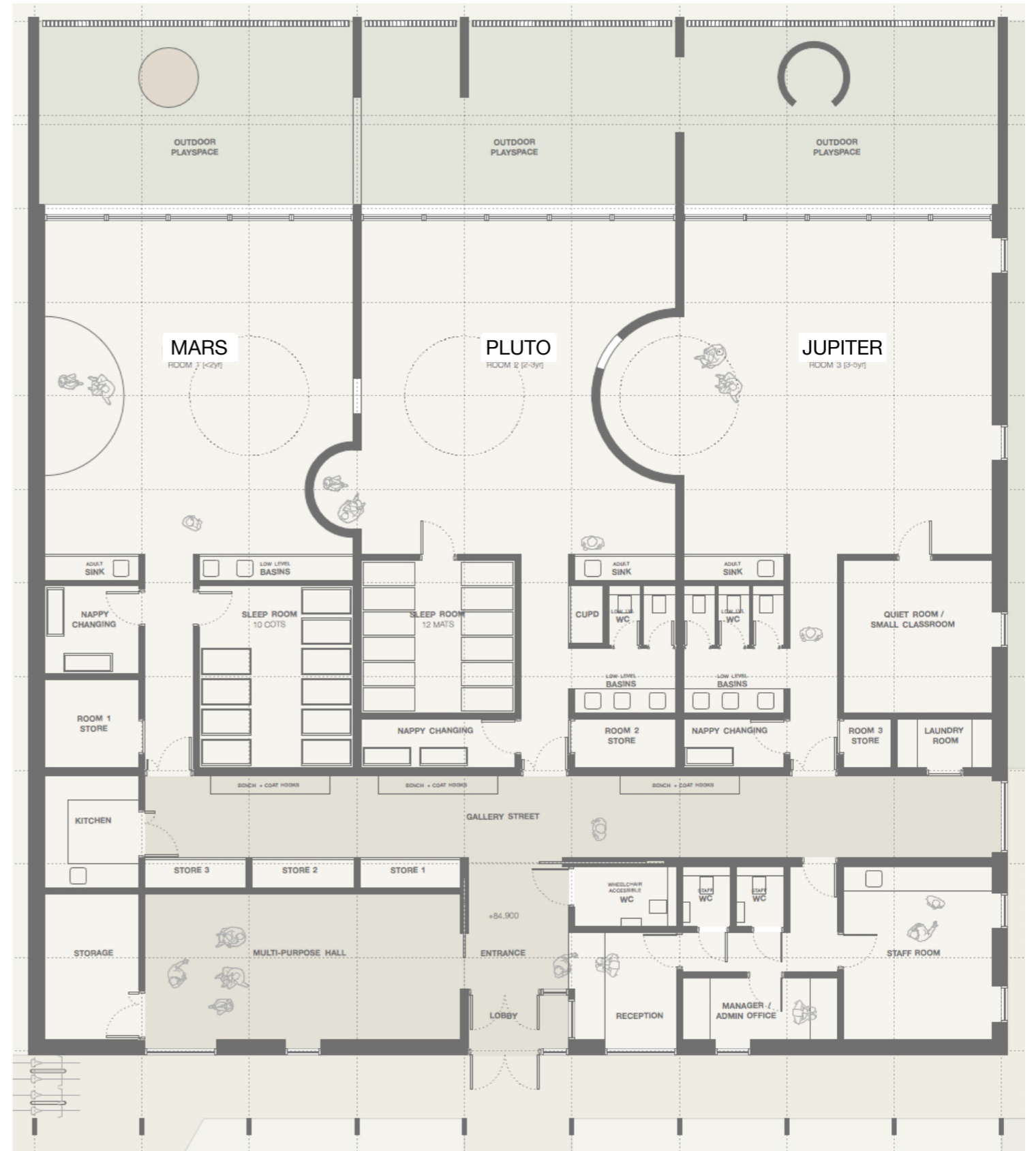
Full height glazing to the rear of classroom spaces open out onto a partially covered outdoor play spaces, enclosed by timber slatted screens.



Aerial view of nursery looking south



Aerial view of nursery looking east



Plan of nursery

VIEW OF A TYPICAL CLASSROOM

