



Transforming derelict farm buildings into a vibrant arts destination, combining sensitive conservation, bold structural engineering and immersive landscaping

Location: Bruton, Somerset

Value: £5m

Architect: b2 Architects

Contractor: Emery

Creative / Heritage / Structure / Landscape



Cultural & Site Vision

Set at Durslade Farm in Bruton, this project reimaged a cluster of Grade II listed farm structures into a world-class gallery and community arts centre. What was a derelict farmstead became a multi-purpose site featuring restored stables, barns and a farmhouse alongside new gallery wings, a restaurant, farm shop, gardens, and artist residency spaces. The landscaping enhances the connection between architecture, art and the rural setting.

Engineering & Design Challenges

The structural design demanded both preservation and innovation. Restoring the oak-framed listed buildings required detailed repair work that respected heritage while ensuring strength and longevity. Foundations for new buildings and for the Radić Pavilion were carefully engineered to integrate with the soft rural terrain. New farm shop buildings were designed in keeping with agricultural character, using exposed steel frames and structurally insulated panels. Drainage engineering involved soil testing, soakaway design, and careful management of surface water in gardens, car parks and around the restored structures.

Collaboration & Outcomes

Close coordination between teams was essential. The project exceeded visitor projections and has since become a major destination. The combination of restored historic fabric, striking new structures, and functional amenities demonstrates engineering precision that supports both aesthetics and utility. AWA's ongoing relationship includes engineering oversight for art installations.

