

# Leica Geosystems **TruStory**

## Leica Builder for the Gardener's College



**ASKHAM BRYAN COLLEGE**

### ■ Company

Askham Bryan College, York, England

### ■ Challenge

To set out and check an area of hard and soft landscaping for the world famous Chelsea Flower Show

### ■ Date

July 2010, but on going for future UK Skills and World Skills competitions

### ■ Location



### ■ Project Summary

Instruments

Leica Builder R100M Total Station

### ■ Field

Leica Builder R100M Total Station

### ■ Office

Leica Construction Data Manager Software to load the design before uploading into the instrument

**Askham Bryan College is one of the country's foremost landbased colleges and provides education and training at all levels, from introductory courses for school leavers, right up to honours degrees. The beautiful residential campus at York, is only four miles from the historical city centre. In a competition the Leica Builder proved to be the perfect instrument for the gardeners.**

UK Skills is an organisation which delivers competitions and awards that showcase the exceptional skills of Britain's finest, illuminating the difference pride, passion and performance can bring for individuals and businesses alike. A team of landscape gardeners under the College's horticulture lecturer,

Harry Turner, has been involved with UK Skills for a number of years and regularly competes within the UK as well as overseas in the associated World Skills competitions.

Each competition involves the construction of a predesigned hard and soft landscape area which is then judged to very exacting tolerances. Harry asked York Survey Supply Centre Ltd for advice on how to improve their current method of "tapes and spirit levels" to first set out and then check the accuracy of the work carried out.

Following discussions, a Leica Builder Total Station was purchased from York Survey Supply Centre Ltd. This instrument is ideally suited to the task, offering a highly cost-effective, yet accurate way of first setting



#### ■ Benefits

- Speed and ease of use, particularly when in a competition environment
- Easily adapted to the traditional line and offset methodology, previously used with tapes etc.
- Accuracy of positions and ability to check the design as built
- Ability to store all the key points on board the instrument for recall

out the area to be used and then checking the completed work to the judges' tolerances.

The team members although not from a traditional surveying or site engineering background, quickly appreciated the functions of the Leica Builder. Following the introduction of this new technology the team created a garden at the RHS Tatton Park Flower Show. This garden was of such a high standard that the team was then invited to create another garden at the highly prestigious Chelsea Flower Show in London.

The coordinates of the overall design were first entered into Leica Construction Manager software and then uploaded into the Leica Builder instrument, prior to the show. Once on site, the team were quickly able to establish all the key points within the design and later check they were within tolerance both in plan and

elevation. The finished garden was highly praised and was awarded a silver medal.

Although only an "entry-level total station" the Leica Builder is packed with features for both surveying and setting out and offers reflectorless ranges up to 80 metres. Each point within the design area can now be checked in seconds for position and height accuracy to within a few millimetres.

Building on these newly acquired skills, a team for the college will be competing at the next World Skills event which will be held at the London ExCel in October 2011, where they hope to improve on the bronze medal they won in Canada in 2009. This is the world's biggest skills competition involving over 1000 competitors from 51 countries in 45 skill categories, one of which is landscape gardening. Harry Turner concludes, "The use of the Leica Builder adds a further

level of professionalism to our students. This in turn gives them excellent skills to carry forward into their future careers, enhancing their prospects by having used "state of the art" equipment and techniques."

