

## **Best Community Project**

### **The Old Library by OMI Architects**

Studies have shown that Carnegie libraries, when sensitively restored, can achieve surprisingly good sustainability credentials. The Old Library refurbishment accepts and embraces the original design and all the benefits that it offers, while at the same time refreshing and revitalising the historic fabric. The building is at the heart of the community; driven, supported, and used by local residents, the combination of nursery, library, café, and event spaces caters for many different groups. The need to ensure disconnection between the controlled space of the nursery and the more ambiguous community spaces is achieved with deft clarity. The materials and language of the interventions are appropriate to, and yet distinct from, the historic building. In conclusion, the reinvented library works hard to effectively accommodate a large programme of activities – and there's even a slide!