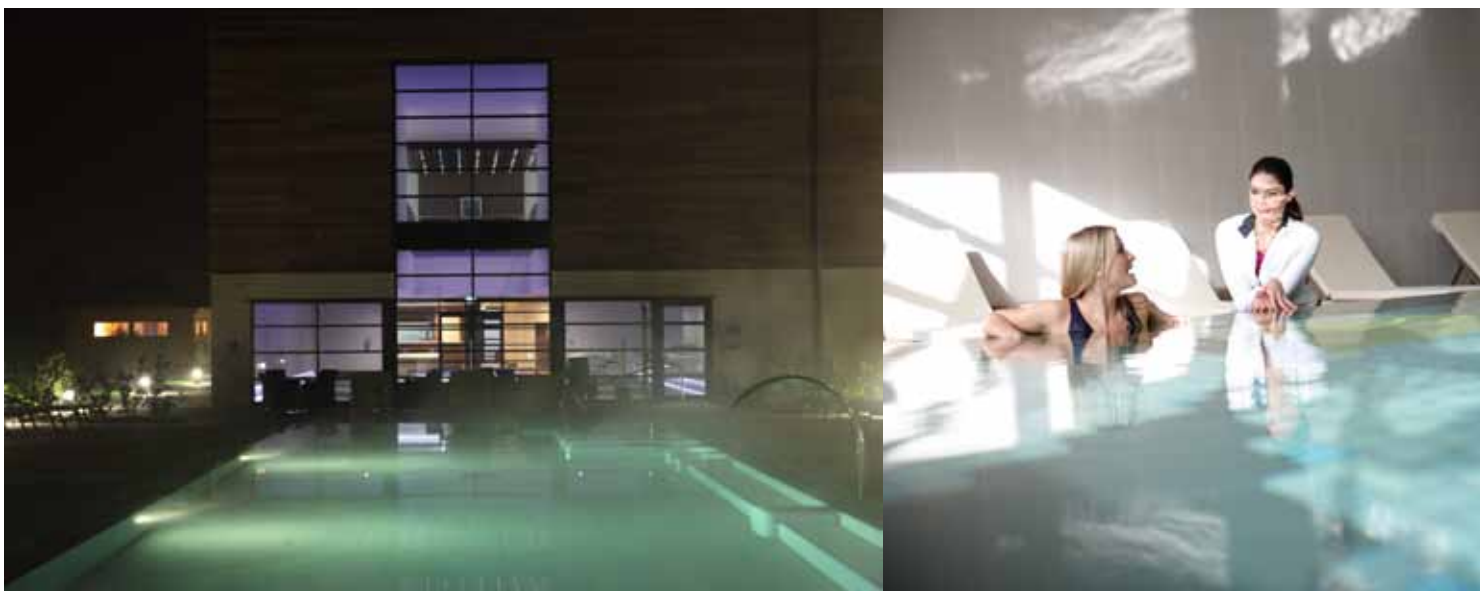


# A BLOSSOMING PARTNERSHIP



**It is testament to the quality and consistency of delivery that Pellikaan Construction is able to provide that 19 years after carrying out its first David Lloyd Leisure project it is currently working on its 12th UK site for the fitness operator. In addition, its clubs in The Netherlands and Belgium were designed and built by Pellikaan.**

"The David Lloyd club we are building at the moment is located next to the home of the Worcester Warriors rugby club," says Richard van Emmerik, Managing Director. "Last year we handed over a project in Farnham that is also worth mentioning because it included the largest spa that had ever been incorporated into a David Lloyd club.

"Over the years we have developed a strong working relationship with David Lloyd Leisure but despite this we have never grown complacent and have always ensured that our prices are as sharp as possible," explains Mr Van Emmerik. "Regardless of the relationship with David Lloyd Leisure and the number of their projects we have under our belt we are always conscious that we must remain competitive on price."

As well as being competitive from a price perspective Pellikaan's unique strengths as a business have enabled it to provide an extremely high level of service and flexibility. This involves providing the client with cost efficient advice and fit for purpose design proposals. It is also incorporating feedback from the leisure centres Pellikaan operates in the Netherlands. Its staff is multi-disciplined educated and trained as the company believes that a holistic approach is fundamental to each successful building process.

The company remains very much a family business after being established in the Netherlands in 1947, with operations in Belgium and Germany being added in 1967 and 1972 respectively. Trends and technical developments in other countries will be incorporated in the UK and vice versa.

The UK division was set up in 1984 and since then its core business has been leisure developments with over 1,000 sports facilities being built across Europe including sports halls, swimming pools, spa facilities and multi-functional leisure centres. The UK operation differs from the businesses in mainland Europe as nearly 100 per cent of the developments it currently designs and builds are within leisure. This differs from the divisions in the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany where typically around 50 per cent of its activities are within the leisure sector with the remainder being made up of schools, universities, and commercial buildings.

"In the UK we have been able to focus on the leisure sector, which has

enabled us to develop a strong specialism within the industry," adds Mr van Emmerik. "In addition to our work within the private sector we have also operated within the public sector in conjunction with a number of councils, local authorities such as councils in Sunderland, Watford and Horley.

"We are also currently involved in a local authority leisure centre project that is being built for Barratt Homes, the developer of Lewisham's Renaissance development that also includes the construction of nearly 800 apartments. The leisure centre is situated on the ground floor of the building and houses 8,000 sq m of sports facilities including two pools, fitness and dance studios, a restaurant area, a crèche, treatment rooms, wet changing facilities and movable floor in the pool. It really is a landmark building featuring many top of the range products. Work commenced in July 2011 and the project is due to be completed by next January, which gives an indication of the scale of the operation.

"In the future we are further looking to break into the UK education sector. Our vast experience in the design and construction of schools and universities in the Netherlands and Germany will help us to introduce ourselves in this specific sector."

This European influence also contributed to with Pellikaan Construction's approach to sustainability in the UK. This was recently in evidence on the development of Horley Leisure Centre for Reigate and Banstead Council, which was named a winner in this year's Green Apple Awards for the Built Environment & Architectural Heritage in the local authority building project category. This is the second Pellikaan design & build project to win this prestigious prize after its development of the Watford Leisure Centre Woodside, which features a wide variety of sustainable features such ground source heat pumps, heat recovery and solar panelling, won the award in 2009. It has also built a facility in Sunderland that has a strong BREEAM rating.

"Looking forward we are working on several tenders but I can't really divulge too much information about them at the current time. I can say that there are some fantastic projects potentially coming up in the pipeline and whilst we will have to fight for every single contract because competition is so fierce I have no doubt that we have plenty of reasons to be optimistic," concludes Mr Van Emmerik.

Given the reputation that it has built up within the UK and its excellent track record within the leisure sector, this confidence is certainly well founded and Pellikaan Construction looks set to continue being a strong presence within the leisure sector.