Winner: Home Award - schemes over £250k

the Rooflight Company

Wychfield Student Residences, Cambridge
Client: Trinity Hall
Architect: RH Partnership Architects
Project Value: £11.2m
Photographer: RH Partnership Architects

"A Garden for Living In"
R H Partnership Architects won an invited design competition for new student housing and flats for Trinity Hall, Cambridge. The resulting buildings provide 136 student rooms, 11 flats and a range of ancillary accommodation.

The design creates a college community set within new landscape spaces linked by paths across the gardens to existing college student housing. The new housing is built in terraces, with clusters of student rooms arranged around a traditional stair case layout.

Environmental and sustainability strategies are incorporated into the fabric of the buildings rather than treated as add-on elements. Efficiencies include economy of wall to plan ratios, higher than Building Regulation standards of insulation and a background ventilation system with heat recovery plant in the roof spaces. Chimney stacks provide air intakes, extracts and flues leaving the steeply pitched plain tile roofs clear of services protrusions. The scheme collects rainwater which is stored underground for irrigation of the extensive gardens.

Parallel terraces of student houses are set either side of a Green Lane leading from Storey's Way. The open arrangement of the buildings allows long views into the site from the street down the garden to the mature trees.

The buildings are constructed of brick with oak cladding and clay plain tile roof and projecting zinc clad bays and stair towers. These traditional, durable materials are crisply detailed to create informal elevations in contrast to the formality of the plan.

The overall result is a high density urban development set within a conservation area which respects the surrounding context and creates housing within landscape gardens for students and academics to enjoy.

A very well thought out modern interpretation of collegiate living with slightly eclectic flavouring set in beautiful gardens.

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Winner: Home Award - schemes under £250k

90 High Street, Barton
Client: Clemens and Gabi Kaminski
Architect: Bobby Open Architect
Project Value: £197,000
Photographer: Bobby Open

Bobby Open Architect has recently completed the remodelling of a detached 1950's house in the village of Barton just outside of Cambridge. The project has transformed the house through the creation of a large open plan ground floor living area, and the formation of an additional bedroom and bathroom on the upper floor. Contemporary detailing and materials, and expanses of glass, have created a spacious and bright house for the 21st Century.

Working closely with the clients, the design progressed through a number of iterations, resulting in a built scheme that effectively removed the entire rear of the house and replaced it with a contemporary composition in cedar and glass. Two new timber framed dormers increase the space at first floor level, enabling the conversion of the space below to form the new bedroom and en-suite shower room. The original kitchen extension has been clad in cedar to match the upper dormers and the old conservatory has been replaced by a fully glazed steel framed combined living/dining room.

The design incorporates passive solar shading techniques including a large cantilevered canopy at ground floor and external cedar Venetian blinds to the dormers. A scattering of pebbles over the flat roof of the ground floor also helps to bring the verdant rear garden all the way to the glazing line of the bedrooms. In the event, no room remained untouched, and clever use of new rooflights has transformed the entrance hall and family bathroom into light airy spaces.

Interesting and consistent remodelling of a bungalow handled with flair.

Winner: Architecture for Business Award

cyril sweett
global knowhow

The Long Barn Studio, Maulden
Client: Nicolas Tye Architects
Architect: Nicolas Tye Architects
Project Value: £250,000
Photographer: Philip Bier

Nicolas Tye Architects began to out-grow an existing studio space within the director's home and the brief was to create a new-build studio space which could provide a comfortable and inspiring environment for up to 12 staff, whilst respecting and enhancing the existing barn.

The existing barn provided the main planning constraint as it was essential that the new studio did not detract from the barn. After various negotiations with both the neighbours and the local planning authority the design was unanimously approved.

The studio is set down within the surrounding open landscape, and the subtle materials which are used in a simple way reflect this harmony. The design is based around an elegant glass, rectilinear box which is enclosed at both ends with larch clad 'book-ends'. The frameless glass panels allow high levels of natural daylight into the studio and allow wide views of the surrounding landscape. Along the southern elevation larch clad timber pods also punctuate the glass facades, which remove issues with overheating. Cor-ten steel detailing is also used throughout to reflect the original agricultural nature of the site. A continuous limestone floor enhances the main axis, and the space is broken up through a series of wenge 'pods' which contain ancillary elements.

All external walls are built from 200mm solid block work, externally insulated and clad in larch, all the internal walls are blockwork. This principle of thermal mass prevents the studio from rapidly heating up and cooling down. Various sustainable technologies are also incorporated, including a wind turbine, rainwater harvesting, low energy centrally controlled lighting and underfloor heating system.

This idiosyncratic and bold glass pavilion set in a wild flower meadow is worth an Award in the Business category for verve and innovation.

WSP

Winner: Education and Healthcare Award

St Joseph's Junior School, Ipswich
Client: St Joseph's College
Architect: Wincer Kievenaar LLP
Project Value: £3.5m
Photographer: Paul Hammond

St Joseph's unique natural environment creates a green oasis within the built environment of Ipswich. Our aspirations were to expressly link the new school with both the natural environment and the existing context of the campus, creating a sense of '**place**' and '**belonging**'.

The school has been designed to provide four Class Bases incorporating two classrooms, shared activity spaces and toilet accommodation. The four Class Bases were coloured to create a sense of identity between year groups. The sinuous spine of the building created a link between the class bases and meandered through the shared areas allowing the whole school to experience the work of their fellow students.

The curve of the building and corner windows to the classrooms crucially allow a visual link across the whole school. The building acts as a mediator between the built form and the natural environment. The teaching spaces are positioned on the cusp of this interaction where the sense of enclosure is eroded with glazed walls providing access onto open verandas and external teaching spaces.

The environmental credentials of the school are clearly expressed by the Natural Passive Ventilation strategy. The Ventilation Towers provide both ventilation and light to the internal spaces and have raised a number of humorous descriptions with pupils calling them "daleks, shuttlecocks and sparkplugs" to name but a few.

A surprising result of the design has been the increased time that parents spend in the environs of the school. Instead of waiting outside for pupils to enter or exit they wander in and socialize within the new Hub. This increased interaction with the school has truly fostered a sense of belonging.

The architect dreamt of what forms would stimulate his young clients and then produced not only a design but a completed building with total conviction.

Winner: Heritage Award
Winner: Sustainability Award

Fosters, Hartest, Suffolk
Client: Jane Lloyd
Architect: Modece Architects
Project Value: £110,000
Photographer: Modece Architects

The barn was converted from a party space into an architect's office. Its frame appeared to be generally in good condition, and it had a new roof which was retained despite there being no sarking paper. It had survived numerous high winds and was watertight so there was no need to removed and retile. When work started, the extent of rot in the external walls became apparent, and the plinth was found to be in a poor state. Extensive repair had to be carried out.

The building has been converted using a less conventional pattern of fenestration to maximise light in the working area, and the spectacular long views across to the west.

The building retains its original rugged aesthetic, and stands proudly in the landscape.

Sustainability was high on the architect's agenda, and the project incorporates wood pellet boiler for heating and hot water, and rainwater storage for loo flushing. Very high levels of insulation have reduced the overall energy consumption to very low levels. Untreated timber has been used throughout. The floors and walls are timber, and fully insulated with hemp of various forms. All masonry is laid in lime mortar. All decorations have been carried out using high quality environmentally friendly materials, mainly sourced from continental Europe.

The brief was to create two office spaces with shared facilities, one in the large of the two halves of the barn and the other in the smaller upper area. A green solution was important to the tenants and they managed the entire project on behalf of the owners.

The principle of conversion was accepted by the planning authority but it took a further 18 months to negotiate an agreement to relocate the bats which had used the building occasionally. Conservation officers supported the general design philosophy, particularly the fenestration patterns, but were less than supportive of the wood fired heating, mainly because the flue would apparently detract from the building's simple aesthetic. A short meeting on site resolved this issue. Large open spaces, with minimal intervention have resulted in a building which is exceptional to work in.

Exceptional innovation in the use of space and natural daylight. Fosters demonstrates that sustainability does not have to be overly complicated.

Commendation

Community Architecture Award

St Nicholas Church of England Primary School

Client: Essex County Council

Architect: Stanley Bragg Partnership Ltd