

Guildford Design Awards

Winners 2023

GS SOCIETY
GUILDFORD



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Introduction

The Guildford Design Awards are awarded on a biennial basis by The Guildford Society and Guildford Borough Council.

Entries for the 2021-2023 awards were invited in the following categories;

- Commercial Buildings
- Public Buildings
- Individual Homes and Multiple Housing projects
- Conservation and Regeneration projects
- The Public Realm and Public Art



All entries had to be in the boundary of Guildford Borough entries had to be in the boundary of Guildford Borough

The Guildford Design Awards judging panel is made up from officers of Guildford Borough Council, a heritage consultant, representatives from local organisations and members of the Guildford Society. They bring a range of skills and experience in building projects, public art and local business.

To select the awards the panel of judges created a short list from the entries received. The Judging Panel then visited all the ‘short listed’ projects.

The ‘Guildford Design Award’ is given to projects which are well designed, successful and are also an exemplary project which bring a little ‘pixie dust’ to the borough.

The ‘short list’ projects were considered as whether they were of a quality to receive a ‘Winners Award’ or a ‘Commendation’ award.

See more about the Guildford Design Awards, and winners of previous years at <https://www.guildfordsociety.org.uk/IndexGDAs.html>

The Guildford Society as part of its commitment to raise the level of Design in Guildford also runs Annual Architecture Lectures these can be found as Videos via our website at

<https://www.guildfordsociety.org.uk/IndexArchitectureLectures.html>.

WWW.GUILDFORDSOCIETY.ORG.UK

COMMERCIAL BUILDING

PEMBROKE HOUSE - COMMENDATION

On a brownfield site previously occupied by an industrial building, this new-build, 2750 sq metre office building on 3 floors, is L-shaped in plan. It contains sustainable Grade A office accommodation with each floor giving views over the River Wey. The river elevation with terraces for use by office users, makes a positive addition to the riverside. The building is raised up to accommodate flooding.

Architects: Child Graddon Lewis

Client: Investra Properties



WHITE LION WALK **WINNER**



The existing shopping centre in the heart of Guildford, with a mall running between High Street and North Street, has been altered and refurbished to improve the legibility of the connection between these two prime streets and maximise the sites potential.

This included repurposing the first-floor space for office use due to changing trends in retail and demand for flexible workspaces in the town centre. Combined with this is the modernisation of the whole building and opening up of the mall between the two streets by removing the central lifts and escalators.

Architect: Corstorphine & Wright

Client: Redevco

Small Commercial Building:

BOATHOUSE WINNER



This new building has been constructed on a brownfield site, previously occupied by a boat hire business. The building, on three floors houses a community-led members' club focused on co-working spaces designed also for events. It contains a café for members and public. The building's design has been based upon a traditional Victorian boathouse with a series of tiled pitched roof gables and brick elevations with oak windows and balustrades. The buildings interiors have been designed to create a club atmosphere with varying size spaces with differing interior décor and furniture. In addition to workspaces there are meeting and event spaces. Being sited on the riverside allows users good views over the river.

Concept Architect: Martin Johnson

Executive Architect: Mitchel Evans

Client: Soulspace

New Shop and Hospitality Project

ASIAN IVY COMMENDATION

Set over two floors in the Tunsgate Quarter this new restaurant with windows looking out on Guildford Castle. has 118 covers. Its Asian inspired interiors include illuminated floors with pink and green, semi-precious stone, antique gold mirrored bar, luxurious Asian fabrics and brass top tables. Also it features Adam Ellis designed wall and ceiling coverings plus hand painted layered glass installations by Paul Clifford. A life size sumo by H Design also features.



Architect/Designer: Pump House Design

Client: Troia UK Restaurants Ltd
– The Ivy Asia

MEGHAN'S BY THE CASTLE COMMENDATION

This new restaurant occupies 3 floors of this grade 2 listed building in the High Street. Dining areas are on ground and first floors with kitchen and restrooms in the basement. The sensitive refurbishment, with Turkish themed interiors, retains and emphasises some of the building's original features and also its origins as a house with the separate 'rooms' individually themed.



Architect/Designer: Megans Inhouse Design Team

Client: Megans

INDIVIDUAL HOUSE

Town House

FORT ROAD COMMENDATION

This new sustainable two storey house is located on a sloping site into which it is built. The house presents a timber clad single storey appearance on the road, entrance frontage. It occupies a site of a previous bungalow and maximises the benefits of the site, with extensive views to the south over the Surrey Hills National Landscape. The lower ground floor of the house, facing the garden, is clad in Roman bricks emphasising the horizontal form of the house

Large glazing to living spaces on both floors maximise the views.

The height of the building is visually reduced by use of butterfly roof (pitching outwards).

Architect: Lytle Associates

Client: Mandy and Chris McAleese



DEVON BANK WINNER.



Located on a very constrained and sensitive urban site this L-shaped house wraps round and encloses a garden courtyard with a second courtyard creating the entrance space off the road. From this entering the house reveals an interesting and carefully designed sequence of interrelating spaces of differing scale each having contrasting views to outside. The client brief, successfully achieved, was for a low energy, sustainable and adaptable house with warmth communicated through texture and colour. The house has part single and part two storey sections with mono pitch roofs and brick and timber elevations.

Architect: Mark Hillier Architect

Client: Annabel and Chris Agace

Interior Consultant: Peter Waters

Suburban House

LEDGERS WINNER



Sitting in Surrey Hills facing the Sheepleas woodlands, this contemporary family house replaced a 1920's bungalow. Fundamental was integrating the house with the landscape; incorporating large windows to bring the outside to the inside; creating a continuous living space visually connected to the garden and fields beyond. The site constraints dictated a horizontal oriented spatial form; two longitudinal volumes define the public and the private wings of the house and are articulated by the entrance hall as the central axis with the staircase as a vertical element. Designed as an internal mini 'journey', the occupants are taken through a series of interlinked spaces where the layout and interplay of volumes provide an outward view from every room with a different perspective when moving from space to space.

Architect: Monica Heilpern

Client: Monica Heilpern

MULTIPLE HOUSING

Up to 30 Homes

Alvaston **WINNER**



Occupying a wedge-shaped site, originally containing a single house, the three-storey building with a recessed fourth floor contains 4 one-bedroom and 10 two-bedroom apartments with secure basement parking. The site lies adjacent to the railway in a cutting and borders a Conservation Area. Being on high ground the design maximises the benefits of the site with apartments main living spaces carefully located to provide views across Guildford. Its contemporary design adopts references from the materials and details reflected in the local architecture. Visual impact is reduced by a series of setbacks in the block, stepping and recessing floors, and using a variety of complementary materials.

Architect: SCd Architects

Client: Runneymede Homes

Multiple Housing 30 Homes and Over

RIVERSIDE HOUSE - COMENDATION

Unilife's Riverside House is purpose built, student accommodation with 99 studio rooms, half of which have views over the River Way which it borders. With a focus on sustainability the 6 storey building is built on a brownfield site using modular construction allowing rapid building on site with minimal waste. An embodied carbon assessment was undertaken throughout the project proving a 25% reduction in carbon compared to traditional construction.



Architect: Stelling Properties Ltd

Client: Unilife and Big Sur Properties

BANKSIDE STUDENT LIVING **WINNER**



The scheme contains 361 student dwellings and creates a distinctive new 'edge of town community' with four large pavilion buildings linked with landscape gardens. The scheme with 4,5 and 6 storey buildings, forms a strong urban edge to the town and road while creating openings and set backs to the more rural River Wey aspect to the east. The buildings have been conceived to be indigenous in materiality and in reference to former warehouse and working buildings typical in the town centre elsewhere on the River Wey navigation corridor.

Architect: 5Plus Architects

Client: Sladen Estates & Peveril Securities

CONSERVATION PROJECT

MAJOR CONSERVATION PROJECT

THE OLD LABORATORY WINNER



The Grade II-listed Old Laboratory building completed in 1916 is a familiar landmark at Wisley – the symbolic core of the Wisley landscape. In recent years the building no longer provided adequate facilities for modern scientific research and with the opening of the new Hilltop building, to accommodate gardening science and research, the Old Laboratory could be converted for a new use. The building is now open to visitors who can explore a sequence of theatrical, interactive and fully accessible exhibition spaces that bring to life stories of Wisley’s past and demonstrate how decades of research and experimentation have contributed to the way we garden. The interior of the building has been carefully and sympathetically refurbished, with the reinstatement of original architectural features including the sloped lecture theatre floor. The exterior of the building has been sensitively repaired and the new landscape to the front of the building forms an impressive vista as you arrive at Wisley.

Architect: Internal and External Fabric: Philip Hughes Associates

Internal exhibition design elements and furniture: Agenda Design

Client: The Royal Horticultural Society

SMALL CONSERVATION PROJECT

THE GUILDHALL **WINNER**



This project comprised the repair and redecoration of the front and rear façades of the Guildhall, a Grade 1 listed building, including the octagonal bell tower and the unique large clock that cantilevers out over the High Street. The building dates from the 16th and 17th centuries, with the front elevation having been rebuilt in 1683 when the clock was added.

The work comprised a mix of both typical and specialised repairs. The typical included decorations, leadwork and timber repairs, the specialised both resin repairs, splicing in of new timber, repairs to original leaded light windows and iron fixtures, and the re-application of gilding to the clock face numerals. The visible parts of the clock are the originals from 1683 but the mechanism that drives the clock is now driven by an electric motor which was serviced.

Designer and Project Manager: GBC Assets and Property Team

Client: Guildford Borough Council

SPECIAL CONSERVATION PROJECT

BOWES LYON PAVILION **WINNER**



In 1962, a design competition for a new garden pavilion for the Rose Garden was won by Derrick Lees ARIBA.

The significance of this garden pavilion lies in its position within the earliest- registered grade II* Registered Park and Garden and the unusual Modernist, almost machine-age design.

The unique contemporary design from its time, is a simple canopy structure, made up of octagonal sections that are reminiscent of parasols for 'shade and contemplation'. This is supported on slight and elegant columns that contribute to the airiness of the design, but also bring an aluminium aircraft inspired design, topped with pineapple decorative finials. The Perspex 'starburst' skylights completes the exuberance of the cedar clad soffits, pointing towards the sun and bringing light into the space. Remarkably, the steel and cedar furniture, stone floor scape and memorial stone all remain in place.

The programme of conservation of the complete structure and fabric has taken place in phases due to questions over the future of the building and to the availability of funds. The redesign of the Rose Garden by Robert Myers in 2011 was an impetus to enhancing the significance of the Pavilion to retain it as part of the history of the Society.

Conservation Surveyor: David Alexander

Client: Royal Horticultural Society

REGENERATION PROJECT

2 & 4 GENYN RD - COMMENDATION

A small commercial building has been converted into two 1 bed houses. The small footprint which presented many challenges, particularly as it had no outside space abutting the pavement to the front and surrounded by properties on all other sides.

The sloping site meant the original structure had limited ceiling height in parts of the ground floor and was also very dark on the first floor as it only had windows on the gable ends. The challenge was to find a design which allows the houses to have generous ceiling heights and to maximise light, making compact rooms feel more spacious, whilst making the houses look like separate residential dwellings.



Designer and Client: David Strudwick
Design and Build

NEW HOUSE ART SPACE FAYS PASSAGE - COMMENDATION

New House Art Space was converted from a disused warehouse more recently a vacant four storey office block, to create a community hub for the visual arts. The first, second and third floors are studios for individual artists and creative business, and the ground floor contains a gallery and two accessible studio spaces. There is a social space within the reception that can be multi-use - a coffee bar during the daytime for the studios' users and public, and area for events such as exhibition launch nights. Individual studios are a key design feature, as opposed to an open plan space, so that artists would have their own secure space in which to work, and have 24/7 access to the building.



Designer and Client: Newhouse Art

FOUNDERS STUDIO MILLBROOK GUILDFORD - COMMENDATION

This town centre, 1960s building, previously a dance studio, has been skilfully completely refurbished to create new contemporary community centre facilities for this Community Church including, on the first floor, a 162 seat capacity, flexible hall. This space has been created by opening up this floor including exposing the roof's portal frame giving a sense of space and adding rooflights to maximise daylight.

Planning Architect: Chrysalis Designs
Interior Design: Ra Ra Designs

Client: Emmaus Road Community Church



CATHEDRAL HILL INDUSTRIAL ESTATE **WINNER**



The Estate comprises 13 light industrial units totalling 8700sqm on a 4.9 acre site.

Developed in the 1970s some of the buildings were in poor condition. The good basic structure of the estate provided the opportunity to upgrade with a focus on sustainability for current and future occupiers.

The refurbishment programme minimised construction carbon emissions. The design brief sought to modernise the look and feel of the Estate through a combination of new cladding and a simple but effective raised parapet detail to the front elevations. Internal improvements were made to entranceways, toilets and common areas.

The importance of energy security and operational cost savings from renewable power were an important component of future proofing. Gas supply has been removed to all refurbished units reducing the estate's reliance on fossil fuels. Solar panels have been added to all new roofs in combination with Tesla Battery Storage Systems.

External areas now include EV charging points, secure cycle storage, better lit, safer pedestrian walkways and new native urban trees.

Ecology and biodiversity betterment was achieved with the inclusion of bird and bat boxes. Adjacent to the railway line, a wildflower meadow habitat has been created to encourage insects and wildlife.

Designer: Savills Building and Project Consultancy Team

Client: Corporate Pension Fund

PUBLIC REALM

NEW GARDEN SPACE OLD LABORATORY RHS WISLEY COMMENDATION

The removal of the original main entrance from the front of the Old Laboratory has created the opportunity to form a new landscape to the front of the building. The once hidden Old Laboratory's striking front façade is now framed by wildflower lawns and a series of topiary hedges inspired by Wisley's original garden design. This area has large areas of gravel surface creating a sense of space, contrasting with the gravel area feature areas of light brick paving.

Landscape Architect: Bradley-Hole
Schoenach

Client: RHS Wisley



WALNUT TREE BRIDGE **WINNER**



The Footbridge across the River Wey improves east-west connection within the town, creating increased capacity for pedestrians and cyclists between the railway station and the town centre. Access to the previous bridge from Walnut Tree Close was not obvious, creating a potential security hazard at night. The new bridge offers greater visibility and an improved experience for all users.

The design of the 20m span of the new bridge uses a modern aesthetic developed to contrast with that of the historic neighbouring 19th century Billings printworks buildings. It is aligned to promote clear wayfinding across the river and designed to maximise headroom below.

It has a 4m-wide shared use deck, with steps down to the towpath at its West end. The bridge is designed to also enhance the user experience below it, and to address key views along the river corridor. As the river is a sensitive ecological corridor, light spill from the bridge and wider site is minimised.

The eastern access has granite paving combining steps, seats, and planters along the ramp sides, with tall lighting totems and carefully co-ordinated brickwork giving users access .

Architect: Knight Architects

Client: Guildford Borough Council

PUBLIC ART

ART INSTALLATION

ABBOT'S HOSPITAL CERAMIC PANELS COMMENDATION

Commissioned by Abbot's Hospital in Guildford to celebrate the 400th Anniversary of the founding of Abbot's Hospital by George Abbot, Archbishop of Canterbury. Formed of four ceramic panels made up of a total of just over 700 handmade, hand modelled and hand painted tiles that commemorate George Abbot and the life in the Alms House. Each panel depicts 100 years of history in dream-like scenes of the Abbot's Hospital lifetime.. On a compositional level, the four panels share the same structural pattern, consisting of the use of Fibonacci's spiral, as the internal framework that holds and guides the eye through the imagery..

Artists: Aluna Ceramics – Carlos Espana & Liliana Montoya

Client: Abbots Hospital



'HOST' INSTALLATION GUILDFORD STATION **WINNER**



This public art installation is placed in the subway under the platforms at Guildford Railway Station. The digital collage on aluminium references places, people and events of the town, past and present, celebrating its unique heritage, successful industry and diverse culture.

Realising early on that the installation will always be viewed on the move in passing, the artist's aim for the composition was to lead viewers from one reference to another from both directions. The aim is to continue a rhythm from the trains and to make some of the references discoverable over time; the idea of the more you look the more you see each time you pass appealed.

References in the artworks include: Guildford Cathedral, Surrey University Arboretum, The Duke of Kent Building, The Golden Angel, Physical Energy – George Watts, The River Wey, St Mary's Church, Golden Flowers, Guildford Clock, Tunsgate Arches, Surrey Space Center, Lewis Carroll, Guildford Castle, John Russell, Alan Turing, The Guildford Dragon, The Friary, The Spectrum, The Dennis Brothers, Guildford Bridge, Pewley Downs, Surrey Hills.

Artist: Julie Hoyle

Client: Network Rail, Arts Society Guildford, Guildford Arts

ENVIRONMENTAL ART

HABITAT PROJECT UNIVERSITY OF SURREY **WINNER**



Community eco space was an experimental pilot project aiming to address our biodiversity crisis through art. A built-up space at the University of Surrey was chosen and four selected artists developed new inhabitable sculptures with guidance from Surrey Wildlife Trust.

Livia Spinolo's artwork 'Vertical Undergrowth' is a tower of repurposed concrete slabs planted with natural elements such as soil, moss, and native plants. Situated in a shady location, it will attract invertebrates and will provide ledges for birds.

'Benjes Ark' by Russell Jakubowski provides a hiding place and a micro-climate. He has created two brightly coloured 'arks'. Their densely packed enclosures also act as a refuge for reptiles such as toads, lizards and hedgehogs.

Artist Amy Haigh created a 'Reconfigured Cycle Rack'. She cut a disused cycle rack into 600 pieces and reassembled it to create a dome structure with a log pile at its centre. Focused on slow worms and stag beetles as protected species present in the area. Decaying logs are fundamental for stag beetles as a food source and by planting them deep in the ground, the beetle larvae are able to migrate between the soil and wood.

'HexB' by Will Nash utilises his fascination with natural geometry and sequences to develop new sculptural ideas for solitary bee architecture using 3D printing, silicone moulding, and cast Jesmonite.

This built up area on campus was also replanted with meadow grass to further attract wildlife and is being monitored by the University's ecology students.

Over 400 people from the local community engaged in practical creative workshops with the artists making their own mini habitat sculptures.

Artists: Russell Jakubowski, Amy Haigh, Livia Spinolo, Will Nash

Client: Surrey Hills Arts

WINNER GUILDFORD'S FAVOURITE BUILDING

GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL



In 2023 we ran a public poll to discover what was considered the public's Favourite Guildford Building.

At the initial stage we asked the public to nominate their favourite buildings. 26 buildings were nominated including historic buildings, the Abbot's Hospital, The Castle, Watts Chapel, the original Grammar School building, West Horsley Place, St Mary's and St Martha's churches and some more recent buildings including Yvonne Arnaud, Barclays Bank in North Street, G Live.

The three buildings that received the most nominations were The Cathedral, The Guildhall and the existing Debenham's building were then voted upon. The public voted for their Guildford Favourite Building from these three and the winner is Guildford Cathedral.

Architect: Edwin Maufe

Client: Diocese of Guildford

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The Guildford Society is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

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