

Guildford Design Awards 2021

SHORT LIST OF ENTRIES

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1.1 COMMERCIAL BUILDING : 255 Guildford High Street, Guildford

Architect: dn-a architecture

The project successfully re-engineers and reinvigorates a worn and dated 1960s building with addition of 2 new floors to create much needed Grade 'A' office space. A sustainable solution reusing structure of original building, rationalising the floor layouts provides 21st century workspace to have a positive impact on wellbeing and by default, business performance, staff attraction, retention and productivity. The building makes a positive contribution as a gateway and is complementary to its neighbours and heritage context.

Note as this project satisfies the criteria for inclusion in both Commercial & Regeneration categories it is included in both.



2.1 NEW PUBLIC BUILDING: Sports Hall, Guildford County School, Guildford,

Architect: Lytle Associates

The new full-size Sports Hall is a last part of the school's original masterplan. G C S occupies a tight urban site close to the town centre so integrating the new building was extremely complex. To achieve the internal height required by Sport England of 7.5m, but minimise impact on neighbouring residential properties, the building has a 4m deep basement, keeping the roof height of the new building in line with the adjacent and original buildings. The curved roof profile and timber cladding also work to soften the external appearance.



2.2 NEW PUBLIC BUILDING: Hilltop New Science Centre, RHS Wisley,

Architect: Wilkinson Eyre

The centre for Horticultural Science and Learning is a major addition to the RHS's new Science Strategy, providing high quality new scientific research and sharing best practices through public engagement in Horticultural Sciences. The new facility provides the appropriate environmental conditions to keep RHS' internationally important Scientific collections (living, herbarium, entomology, pathology) secure so that they are made available to everyone for the purposes of study and to maintain the integrity, quality and value of the collections as important scientific resources.

Hilltop forms a new visitor destination for the RHS at Wisley, that includes a public engagement space, a multi-purpose events and activity space, cafe, public access and research libraries, classrooms, laboratories, a herbarium, staff offices, staff hub / canteen and viewing terrace.

The predominantly 2 storey, Y-shaped building is designed to sensitively integrate into the existing landscape; its shape follows the contours of the existing landscape while the height is appropriate to the scale and context of the surrounding trees, woods and adjacent gardens.

The Y-shaped plan integrates with, and provides visual and actual access to the 3 new gardens which reflect the scientific and educational purposes of the centre. These are the Well Being Garden, World Foods Garden and the Wildlife Garden.



2.3 NEW PUBLIC BUILDING: Millmead Baptist Centre, Milmead, Guildford,

Architect: Re-Format

The new Millmead Baptist Centre was based on the original 'tired' 1960s church totally transformed through 4 distinct phases of work over a 14 year period from inception to completion. The objective of the project has been to provide a catalyst for 'opening-up' the church to the wider community. This has been successfully achieved by the design providing a new openness and accessibility and through creation on many multipurpose areas. Much interest is created internally by the diversity of interior spaces and uses. The new building has almost doubled the amount of accommodation. This has been achieved skillfully whilst maintaining the relatively low scale of the building in its sensitive context.

The building is contemporary in design and use of materials yet has been designed to sit comfortably within its location in the heart of Guildford's historic centre and conservation area.



3.1 INDIVIDUAL HOUSE: Abbot Road, Guildford,

Architect: WW Studio

The house is a home for life for the clients, built on a plot that previously contained a small, unremarkable 1950s brick house. It is a contemporary family dwelling that aims to be a sustainable, flexible, and adaptable family home. It is designed to take full advantage of a range of relationships between inside and outside spaces, and to make the most of the spectacular views over adjacent parkland and across the Wey Valley to Guildford Cathedral and beyond. Entering via the front door takes the visitor straight into the first floor *piano nobile* living room with kitchen and dining areas, a high-ceilinged space which is richly daylit, with expansive views out over the landscape and access to a large terrace.

The house has been carefully designed to exceed sustainability requirements and follows the Passivhaus principles on a range of fronts. The house is a highly insulated prefabricated timber frame construction, using Baunit render to give a crisp Modern exterior.



3.2 INDIVIDUAL HOUSE: Holly Blue House, Guildford,

Architect: Peter Huf

The house is located on the crest of The Mount with views over Guildford vicinity. It is a south facing sloping site and was the garden of the client's original house. The central position of the house within the plot was influenced by requirement to retain the existing swimming pool and to maximise the fall of the slope by introducing a basement which with the two other floors could be fully glazed with views over the pool and garden and towards the south. The house features two clearly defined wings which give the structure a sculpted quality. The introduction of two mono pitched roofs separated by a flat roof emphasises the two wings and contributes to the house's striking statement within this powerful natural setting.

The house was built using off site fabrication with a timber frame and extensive triple glazed window system. The house has many sustainability measures including an air source heat pump and heat recovery system.



4.1 MULTIPLE HOUSING UP TO 30: Down Road, Guildford,

Architect: Felix Lewis Architects

The existing school building structure was retained and sensitively refurbished internally and externally to reflect the local listing status of the building. The internal layouts were altered to suit residential needs. A new floor was added to the main hall to maximise the floor space.

A new street-facing, two storey dwelling was added in the existing playground. The new house has been positioned to align with the existing Victorian building and continues the current architectural language of the street in both form and proportion with some patterned brick detailing. Externally the street facing facade mirrors the strong architectural language of the bay windows from existing houses on the street. The expressed brickwork compliments the equally detailed brickwork of the existing Victorian school building. The position of glazing and modest window proportions also respects the surrounding neighbouring properties.



4.2 MULTIPLE HOUSING UP TO 30: Law Meadows, Pirbright,

Architect: OSP Architecture

The Law Meadows six acre development of 9 homes replaced a bungalow and a range of equestrian buildings. The concept for the totally new development is to reflect the historic evolution of a small country estate with an original manor house, now divided into a pair of semi-detached homes, a collection of period cottages that line the drive, a classical Georgian coach house and an oak framed barn now converted into a family home.

Although the homes are designed to look as if they have stood for centuries, the buildings are constructed using modern methods of construction. Structural Insulated Panels (SIPS) form the internal shells offering high insulation values and largely offsite construction. The site itself sits in part on a flood plain and the engineering effort to ensure all flood risk is mitigated was significant. Cleverly, these defences were incorporated into the overall design. Either hidden from view or in the case of the attenuation area, designed to appear as an old medieval fishpond now sitting dry in all but the wettest of weather.



5.1 MULTIPLE HOUSING OVER 30: Scape Student Living , Walnut Tree Close, Guildford

Architect: Stephen Marshall (Urbanism)

The project is in two parts situated on a gently sloping site between Walnut Tree Close and the railway line. The lower profile building (Co-living) on the street, with the taller Scape Student Living building set back into the site. It was important to adopt a townscape concept that would maintain the smaller scale of buildings on Walnut Tree Close, placing the larger building behind, to an extent out of sight in the closer views.

The two buildings are formed around a central garden that allows for many sitting/study areas in the fresh air. Both the Scape student accommodation and Co-living space have their own shared facilities, gym, lounge, communal kitchen/dining, etc. and these spaces open out onto the central courtyard garden.

There are 398-bed spaces in the student accommodation set out as studios and cluster flats. The Co-living building is set out as 113 studios, each with their own kitchenette facilities, shower room, etc. These units are targeted towards typically 20 – 35 year old who wish to continue communal living in the Guildford area, before deciding on more permanent living locations.

Architecturally the two schemes are intentionally different although they share many details. This was done to reduce the impact that one architectural expression might have created and treats the new buildings as part of the larger Walnut Tree Close group.



6.1 CONSERVATION PROJECT: Borehole Project, University of Surrey

Engineer: B.A Hydro Solutions Ltd – Tim Baker

The project has equipped the University's existing 132m deep borehole (located under the visitor carpark next to the Lake on the Stag Hill Campus) with a means of abstracting potable drinking water. The project is now providing over 80% of the total annual water consumption of the Stag Hill campus with the new system capable of extracting over 1,000,000 litres of potable water a day.

The project contributes to the University's efforts to conserve water (in line with UN Sustainable Development Goal 6) by reducing reliance on the local distribution network and associated ageing pipework. The transition also reduces energy and resulting carbon emissions (by an estimated 15tCO₂e per annum) associated with pumping water to the Stag Hill campus whilst increasing resilience of supply, reducing cost, and providing on-site teaching and research opportunities.



6.2 CONSERVATION PROJECT: Sayers, Shere

Architect: Lytle Associates

Sayers is a Grade II listed, mid eighteenth century Georgian 'L-Shaped' house on the River Tillingbourne, in the heart of the historic North Downs village of Shere, Surrey. The house sits within a walled garden with a brick vault at basement level adjacent to the Grade 1 listed St James Church at the centre of the village. The property is located within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Great Landscape Value and the East Clandon Conservation Area.

The project involved conversion of the existing basement, full restoration and repair of the listed main house including structural improvements, timber decay treatments, basement waterproof tanking, external brickwork repointing, roof repairs and new mechanical and electrical servicing throughout. Also was removal of a 1960s extension and replacement with a new extension in keeping with the original house but built over the carefully preserved vaulted basement.



6.3 CONSERVATION PROJECT: Place Farm Barn, West Horsley Place

Architect: Goddard Partnership Limited with David Lloyd Jones Associates

The grade II listed buildings of Place Farm Barn form an integral part of West Horsley Place, having supported the function of the main house, with a very fine stables building and a collection of agricultural buildings clustered around a central open courtyard. As the nature of farming changed, their suitability for modern farm methods diminished to the point that they had become redundant for agriculture, and they were used until very recently as a workshop for the restoration of classic cars. The eighteenth century core of building was in a particularly poor condition having suffered from no investment for many years.

At the time the Mary Roxburghe Trust (a precursor to the West Horsley Place Trust) was established, the core charitable purpose was to secure the future of the buildings, and their contents and to provide access to the public for the promotion and engagement with the arts. The buildings at Place Farm complement the main house, in providing a large flexible space which has been designed for performance, education, exhibitions, weddings and other public events.

The plan form and arrangement of the existing buildings are typical of a nineteenth century farm. This was an important consideration in the planning of the design, which should remain evident, with as few changes made to the external envelope and the setting as possible. The design of the new spaces would allow their previous functions to remain clear, while carefully integrating the very extensive levels of sound proofing to be introduced to meet the exacting requirements to reduce the levels of sound. This was a significant challenge, to allow the existing timber frame to remain on view, and where the existing roof trusses were strengthened using discrete metal plates to support the additional loadings of the heavy sound insulating boards. In each instance the principles guiding the change was to retain historic fabric, and to allow the existing structure to remain on view.



6.4 CONSERVATION PROJECT: North West Restrooms, West Horsley Place

Architect: Goddard Partnership Limited with David Lloyd Jones Associates

West Horsley Place is a very significant Grade I listed building of national importance. The current building on has been dated by dendrochronology to 1425, with further extensions added in 1428, and a first floor over the hall in around 1500. During the C17th the house underwent significant alterations, with the earlier timber framed structure being re-faced in brick. During the nineteenth and twentieth centuries alterations were completed in a number of areas including the north west end of the house, with the original principal high status spaces being sub-divided to form stores, a servants room and a carpentry workshop. At the time the Mary Roxburghe Trust (a precursor to the West Horsley Place Trust) was established, the core charitable purpose was to secure the future of the buildings, and their contents and to provide access to the public for the promotion and engagement with the arts. As part of the process of improving access for the the general public, wash room facilities were required over and above the original bathroom spaces, which had once served the original house. The north west corner of the building was identified as a suitable location for the new work due to the limited historic value of the modern interventions.

The design philosophy for the project was for the new washrooms to be inserted into the building with minimal interventions into the historic fabric. The new cubicles, and vanity units would be carefully placed into the existing spaces, as if they are items of furniture which could be removed in the future if the need were to change, and with the historic fabric untouched.



7.1 SMALL REGENERATION PROJECT : Thorner Cottage, Pirbright

Architect: Atelierdb Architects

The owners bought this Grade II Listed detached house in 2018. The kitchen arrangement and associated spaces didn't provide a light and well connected space to the South facing garden, feeling low and enclosed. The design solution opened up this important family area, adding a higher ceiling by expanding out to the East, with structural glass roof bringing in sky to the space, as well as creating a new direct link to the garden and terrace by the provision of French doors and a contemporary oriel window.



8.1 LARGE REGENERATION PROJECT : 255 Guildford High Street, Guildford

Architect: dn-a architecture

The project successfully re-engineers and reinvigorates a worn and dated 1960s building with addition of 2 new floors to create much needed Grade 'A' office space. A sustainable solution reusing structure of original building, rationalising the floor layouts provides 21st century workspace to have a positive impact on wellbeing and by default, business performance, staff attraction, retention and productivity. The building makes a positive contribution as a gateway and is complementary to its neighbours and heritage context.

Note as this project satisfies the criteria for inclusion in both Commercial & Regeneration categories it is included in both.



9.1 PUBLIC REALM: Three Garden Spaces, Hilltop Science Centre RHS, Wisley

Architect: Wilkinson Eyre

Landscape /Garden designers: Matt Keightley, Rosebank Landscapes - Well Being Garden & Ann- Marie Powell Gardens - World Food and Wildlife Gardens

The public realm to the new Centre for Horticultural Science and Learning is made up from three distinct gardens located around the building. All three gardens enhance the setting of the Hilltop Science Centre and complement the contemporary building.

Wellbeing Garden

This garden brings together for the first time the collaboration of garden designers, historians and scientists to create a series of thought provoking public engagement spaces and experiences to facilitate the positive impact of gardening and green space on mental health and emotional wellbeing. Behaviour data from those using the garden is collected and used to inform evidence- based data to assist the design of future gardens and urban green spaces.



Wildlife Garden

This garden aims to inspire and reconnect visitors with nature through scientific discovery. The garden demonstrates 'best practices' that the public can easily do at home to attract and support wildlife into their own gardens. The garden includes native and non- native plants for pollinators and a diversity of ecosystems to show how trees, hedges and water features benefit wildlife.



World Food Garden

This garden includes a variety of spaces to explore the diversity of food grown around the world. It shows the connection between growing, cooking and eating and the benefits that these activities have on physical and mental health. Fruit, vegetables and herbs are grown in a united fashion rather than in individual areas. The garden includes a café and seating area to emphasis the relationship between the plants and food. Outdoor cooking and juicing areas are provided to demonstrate 'plot to plate' activities. The garden has a contemporary feel and avoids being a traditional kitchen garden.

This garden includes an array of crops to include; exotic and tender edibles, vegetables used in local and global cuisine, trained fruit, herbs and flowers.



10.1 PUBLIC ART: Optohedron, Newlands Corner

Sculptor: Will Nash

The Optohedron sculpture was inspired by the act of viewing, thinking about seeing as the fundamental interface between the person and the world.

The Optohedron is constructed from weathering steel which forms a protective layer of rust on its surface. The steel structure is packed with Hazel logs coppiced from the surrounding woodland, the spaces between the logs are small gaps for creatures to inhabit. Concealed within the packed logs are three kaleidoscopes, each one orientated to view a different element of the surrounding nature. The Kaleidoscope's consist of reflective surfaces arranged to create a tapering tube, the viewer can look through the tubes from either end to see objects and views repeated as a regular symmetrical pattern. Due to repeated reflection and the angle of the reflective surfaces the view from the larger end creates the illusion of a jewel-like spherical object inside the tube.

The Optohedron is part of the Inspiring Views programme to reveal lost views and engage those who do not normally access the countryside.



10.2 PUBLIC ART: Swift Tower, Shalford

Sculptor: Will Nash

Swift Tower is a habitable sculpture and combines an organic form with an ecological function, providing a nesting environment for a species of bird which is in decline. At the same time, it performs a placemaking role for the local community, creating a focal point for people to gather and learn more about swifts. The project is a mix of engineering, aesthetics and functionality, which works both as a sculpture and on a practical and ecological level.

The ten-metre high tower is made up of 45 individual wooden nest boxes elevated from the ground on a six-metre tall steel pole. The top wooden section, which is four-metres high, is made up of 8 habitable storeys constructed from birch plywood with a larch exterior. Larch is ideal because it is an oily wood that is resistant to rotting. The sawn timber has been left rough and each of the individual staves is tapered and lapped over its neighbour to make it weatherproof.



10.3 PUBLIC ART: The Surrey Stag, University of Surrey, Stag Hill Campus

Sculptor: Two Circles Design

The Stag idea originates from the historical use of the site as a deer park dating back to the 15th century. Two Circles created a metal sculpture using reclaimed materials to create the powerful natural representation of a stag. The metal finish has been allowed to naturally weather to form a russet colour of a red stag. The sculpture stands on stone taken from the Manor Park site and planting providing all season colour.

