

In conjunction with Radian, ArchitecturePLB won a competition to design and deliver innovative housing on a former allotment site in Andover, Hampshire. Owned by Test Valley Borough Council, the land was released for development as affordable housing.

Consisting of 17 houses (78 bed spaces) at a density of 40 dwellings per hectare, the development is composed of six different house types offering a good range of dwelling sizes to a diverse mix of potential residents and family groups. The winning design addressed the sensitivities of building on previously communal spaces surrounded by houses, with an arrangement to maintain views across the site whilst create privacy and minimise overlooking.

The houses combine green roof and timber clad pods to remain inkeeping with the allotments and sheds previously occupying the site. The accommodation, predominantly single storey, is arranged up against a perimeter wall that backs onto surrounding gardens to create internal, south facing courtyards. The use of south light is maximised this way by creating well lit living spaces that open onto sunny courtyard gardens. At upper level, windows are arranged so that their outlook is between the opposing dwellings.

Every house has been designed to Code for Sustainable Homes Level 4, comply with Lifetime Homes, and exceed the minimum HQI requirements for affordable housing.

To achieve CfSH 4, the houses have been designed to meet PassivHaus levels of thermal insulation and airtightness, supplemented by photovoltaic panels on the roofs. The advantage of this approach is that it requires very few lifestyle changes on behalf of the tenants; not only do the houses require very little heating, the PVs also feed electricity directly into the houses for use in normal domestic appliances.

Externally, materials have been selected which are natural, long lasting and unobtrusive. Sedum roofs at first floor help maintain a green outlook from the neighbouring houses, while assisting with water run-off, air quality and ecology.

Although the surroundings are predominantly red brick, a buff brick has been used to the ground floor for robustness, longevity, and to help lighten the scheme. The upper floors are timber clad, with a thermally treated softwood that will vastly extend its lifespan, but retain a natural warmth that will mellow and age with its surroundings.



01 House exterior with artwork commissioned from local artist  
02 Street frontage  
03 Positive feedback received from new residents

01



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Total Area : 1444sqm GIA  
Procurement Type : Design & Build  
Local Authority : Test Valley Borough Council

Extensive consultation was key in securing planning consent and gaining community approval for this innovative scheme. A bespoke fence commissioned from a local artist screens the front courtyard gardens, to ensure further privacy and security, whilst allowing for light to penetrate and for passive supervision of the public realm.

Residents are delighted with their new homes and the scheme has also been recognised both regionally and nationally.

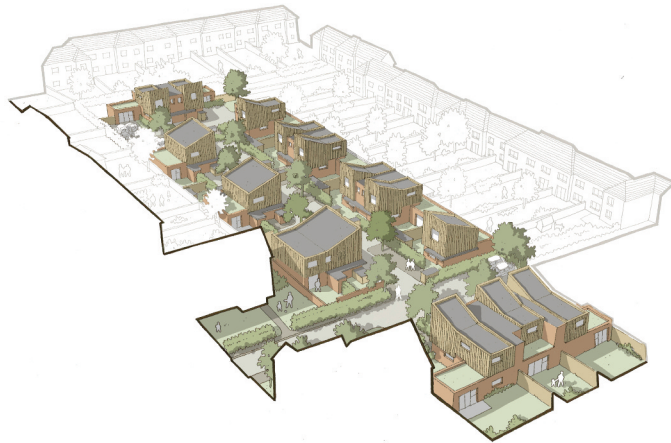
### Awards

Winner – 'Development of the Year' at the CIH UK Housing Award small schemes category

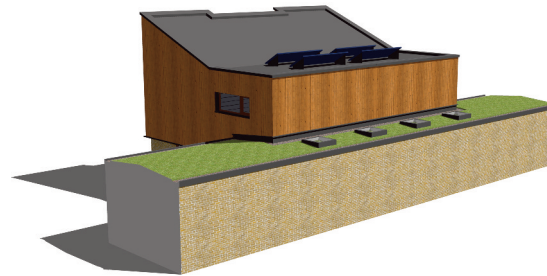
Winner – 'Best Small Development' at the Affordable Home Ownership Awards

Shortlisted – Solent Design Awards.

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- 01 View along Sunfield Close
- 02 Junior school pupil who won a competition to name the road
- 03 Visuals of individual houses
- 04 Sketch of entire scheme
- 05 Cross section