

BuildingFutures
AWARDS
2011

- Award Category:** Design Excellence
- Project:** Frobisher House, Bushey
- Client:** Peter and Judy Acornley
- Project Team:** Duggan Morris Architects Ltd



Frobisher House, a three bedroom residential dwelling, is the result of a long period of close collaboration between the client, design team and contractor. A testament to the endeavor, energy and commitment of all involved, the finished building is not only designed to allow enjoyment of the spaces within it, but also its connection to the landscape.

The site was previously occupied by the Marguerite Frobisher Arts Studio, a listed 'tin shed' building that was relocated to the local Bushey Museum grounds. The new house was positioned directly on the footprint of the old building to allow the historical associations between the site and its context to be maintained.

By situating the house at the back of the site a new, contemporary architectural language has been introduced, and one that does not 'jar' with the existing landscape. To reflect the brick Victorian terraces that typify the area, Frobisher House is wrapped in a homogenous brick skin. The facing bricks, sill bricks and pavers are selected from the same colour palette to maintain continuity and emphasise the sculptural form.

The scheme has been designed to take best advantage of sunlight, whilst ensuring it turns its view away from neighbouring properties. Whilst the building faces front and back in the conventional sense, the positioning of its windows and the way its facades crank, drop and turn provides a sense of privacy for the adjoining residents and the new house's occupants.

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The relationship of the building and internal spaces to the landscape has been crucial. Access from the street is via a discreet door set within a perimeter boundary wall, and the route leads one through a glade of trees, along a brick path which wraps down from the building.

Judges comments:

“This development has been a real partnership between all those involved. From inception through to build it has demonstrated a sympathetic understanding of its environment, ensuring that the design and build quality fit well with the existing landscape. Through careful design it has also made the most of the space available, ensuring privacy for the residents whilst also taking into account the needs of near neighbours.”