



Award Category: Outstanding Commitment to Adapt to a Changing Climate sponsored by Hertfordshire County Council

Project: Hide House. Hertford

Client: Hannah Morris & Glenn Graney

Project Team: Edward Cullinan Architects, Studio One Projects



Hide House is a 360sqm modern home which replaced a former commercial building nestled in the Hertford conservation area. The house is predominantly spread over one level with a basement lounge/plant room and first floor bedroom pod. The property is insulated and air tight and benefits from an air source heat pump and heat recovery system, sedum covered flat roof, thermally treated Platowood Frake

cladding, Sto-Render style coverings to building and garden, and high specification building materials and finishings throughout.

The scheme has sought to take advantage of the site's position and configuration within the conservation area. The contemporary design adds a new, visually inspiring element to enhance the variety of the building stock without undermining local distinctiveness and visual coherence of the conservation area.

The client has worked closely with the architect to create a visually appealing modern house that contrasts with, yet complements, the variety of surrounding properties.

The 'Platowood Frake' timber cladding is a thermally treated product requiring no maintenance and ages to a subtle silvery grey. The 'Jub' render system has the colour pigment impregnated throughout the material, eliminating the need for re-painting. The muted, warm grey, flat German bricks are of the highest quality. The overall effect is a flat, expanse of brickwork creating a contrast to the stark white of the render.

The aim was to 'future proof' the house with a choice of insulation, heating, and ventilation reflecting the need to adapt to an ever changing climate. Using the natural heat retention of

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a super insulated air tight property, the mechanical heat recovery system supplies cooling in the summer and a natural air flow during the winter. It also distributes heat evenly throughout the house, drawing heat from above the log burning stove.

Judges comments:

“Hide House is an interesting attempt to construct a low energy home at a reasonable cost. The owners have created a house which makes excellent use of daylight and provides very good use of the available land on a very constrained site. The owners should be congratulated for designing and building a very attractive home on a very difficult to exploit site.”