



**Award Categories:** Design Excellence – Housing Development sponsored by bcm

**Project:** Oak Tree Gardens, St Albans

**Client:** St Albans District Council

**Architect:** Mark Bell Architects



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## **BuildingFutures Awards | Case Study**

Oak Tree Gardens is the redevelopment of the former locally listed Museum of St Albans, to create six residential homes.

Careful consideration has been given to the importance of the original museum structure, maintaining the integrity of the main gallery internal space, to ensure it fits with the council's wider vision to develop a new cultural hub in St Albans' city centre.

New bricks were chosen to match the retained façade with 2000 original Victorian bricks reused from the old building. Bespoke timber windows, Flemish and English garden wall bond and tempest roof tiling all contribute to this 21<sup>st</sup> century development situated within a conservation area, which is flexible and sustainable, whilst paying homage to its Victorian roots.

### **Judges' Comments:**

"We considered this project to be a good celebration and reuse of former museum building. New elements have been well integrated into the retained fabric, along with characteristics from the existing buildings found in the new build elements."

"We like how this town centre site has been brought back into use offering an attractive frontage from the street along with the creation of a centrally overlooked space."