



Housing & Residential



The concept of 'home' has a powerful emotional resonance and understanding human needs is fundamental to the design of effective housing. This extends beyond the four walls to the external environment and the wider community. Sympathetic treatment is essential to synchronise the diverse elements required to create housing that contributes to the well-being of its inhabitants. People who live in environments which nurture them are better equipped to make positive contributions to society.



Housing & Residential Dunholm Rd, Dundee - Abertay Housing Assoc.



Superior energy efficiency has been achieved by insulating far beyond current minimum building standards. In addition, the design incorporates NuAire Sunwarm Solar panels into a low energy positive ventilation system, which pre-heats or pre-cools incoming air. The solar panels also help to provide domestic hot water. Care was taken to reduce lighting loads and heating demand which is satisfied with off-peak electricity.

Many of the features which benefit health promotion and the elimination of fuel poverty have the added advantage of having a positive impact on the environment. Ensuring that the houses are energy efficient considerably reduces the quantity of greenhouse gases produced on site. However, a farther reaching positive consequence is gained from the, largely unprocessed, natural non toxic palette of materials used in the construction.

Social Housing Project

Named 'Best Affordable Housing Project 2008' at the Dundee Institute of Architects (DIA) Design Awards, this social housing project, undertaken in partnership with Abertay Housing Association, is an outstanding example of successful urban renewal and regeneration. Utilising a recently cleared brownfield site in a deprived area of the city, the project has provided housing for a socially inclusive mix of people with differing needs.

The site includes fourteen semi-detached two storey houses to satisfy general needs, two bungalows dedicated for wheelchairs users and five cottages with both staff and smart technology support for clients with severe learning difficulties.

In designing for this site, respect and consideration was given to the style of housing in the surrounding area as well as ensuring that Dundee City Council's current housing density requirements were fulfilled.

In providing housing for often vulnerable individuals, health promotion and the elimination of fuel poverty are primary factors. A positive input ventilation system was installed to promote a healthy internal environment by regulating moisture and air, helping to eliminate draughts and supply pre-conditioned fresh air. The materials used in construction are natural and non toxic.

'The design transcends housing needs on so many levels.'

Ged Young, DIA President



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