

# St Albans Civic Society Awards 2015

Projects finished 01 Jan 2015 – 31 Dec 2015

## Joint winners



### Parkside View Flexicare Housing, Marshalswick

*Instigator:* North Hertfordshire Homes Limited - Hitchin

*Architect:* Kyle Smart Associates - Caddington

*Contractor:* Bouygues UK- London SE1

This bold, outward looking building with its numerous balconies, rooftop restaurant and terrace, with splendid countryside views, is the new face of sheltered housing. The non-institutional feel continues throughout the interior and is evident in all aspects of the project. A true delight. It is clearly a tonic for the residents.



### New House at 71/73 Hemel Hempstead Road, Redbourn

*Instigator:* Mr and Mrs Tim Hall - Redbourn

*Designer:* Tim Hall, Studio Forty Six - Redbourn

*Contractor:* Tim Hall - Redbourn. Timber Frame: Taylor Lane - Hereford

An ingenious, self-build house which makes delightful use of every corner of it, including the flexibility to incorporate the present independent first floor accommodation into the main house. Good quality materials and fittings are brought to excellent effect by careful detailing. An object lesson in domestic design on a tight site.

## Commendations



### Cotlandswick Leisure Centre, London Colney

*Instigator:* St Albans City and District Council

*Architect:* Pozzoni - London EC1

*Contractor:* Willmott Dixon - Hitchin

This adroitly sited, colourful building with its adjoining all-weather pitches and excellent facilities is a distinctive and excellent addition to the village. As well as being structurally efficient the asymmetrical curved roof with its high glazing makes for interesting, well-lit internal spaces. Finishes generally are simple but of high quality where use demands. A well designed facility meeting an essential need in the local community.



### Renovated House at 16 Homewood Road, Marshalswick

*Instigator:* Mr and Mrs J Poole - Marshalswick

*Architect:* Chris King, Ponsford King - Redbourn

*Contractor:* W.H.Allsop and Sons (Builders) Ltd – Caddington

The original red brick house was too small, dark and inefficient. By adapting and extending the original structural core, adding external insulation, rendering, re-roofing, replacing all windows and external doors, new life has been injected into the building. This now provides well planned, light, energy efficient accommodation making full use of its generous site and attractive garden. An excellent example of how good design can transform the most apparently unpromising material.



### Renovation of Alban House, St Peter's Street

*Instigator:* Jenny Muir,

HomefromHolme - St Albans

*Architect:* Nick Carroll Architects - Worcester

*Contractor:* RPL Construction Limited - Luton

This splendid, locally listed, house by architect Percival Blow was in such a neglected state when acquired that the interior and rear of the house needed to be completely rebuilt. Happily the front, side walls, main roof and staircase were able to be retained and fully renovated, with the back extended and skilfully reconstructed in sympathy with the original. The interior has been refitted with serviced apartments in an appropriate modern style, to a high standard. It is a pleasure to see the revitalisation of this important house in St Peter's Street. A fine initiative.



### New House at 56a Spencer Street

*Instigator:* Mr Jack Pia - St Albans

*Architect:* Roy Darby - St Albans

*Contractor:* TSS Construction Limited - Hemel Hempstead

Handsome new gates, in the street's high wall, are the only clue to the presence of this small, modern, single storey house. It replaces a large, decrepit, two storey barn in the verdant grounds of the larger original house. Built as a wheelchair accessible, one bedroom dwelling, to enable the owner and his late wife to move out of the main house, its simple, but well organised plan and good quality materials and fittings ensures that it is convenient in use. The small courtyard works particularly well in relation to the main living area and bedroom, whose window catches the morning sun. A real joy.

# Trevelyan Prize 2015

Projects finished 01 Jan 2015 – 31 Dec 2015

## Winner



### Tuck Pointing to St Stephen's House, Watling Street

*Instigator:* Mr and Mrs Matthew Wallis - St Albans  
*Contractor:* Point Builders Limited - St Albans

This interesting, Grade 2 Listed Georgian house, opposite St Stephen's church, has recently been restored by its new owners. The most remarkable item in the extensive work undertaken in the renovation has been the painstaking reinstatement of the tuck pointing to the front façade of the house – a key historic feature, and a specialist, very

time-consuming exercise to create the appearance of distinctive, very thin, joints between the bricks. It is consequently a craft now rarely used and the owners and their contractor are to be strongly commended for their commitment here.

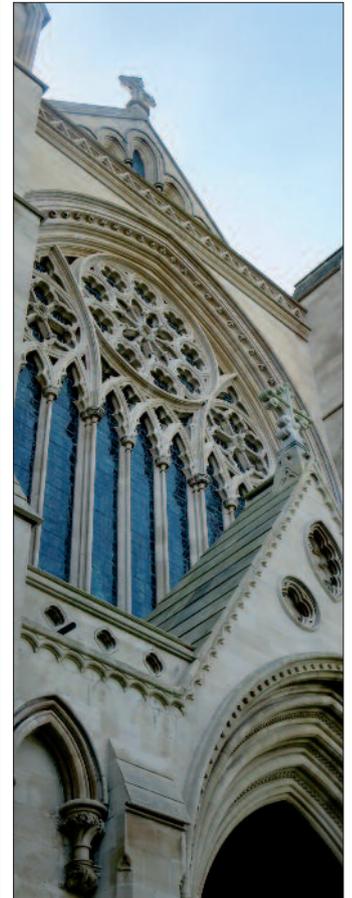
#### Tuck pointing

*Tuck pointing was a refinement carried out in Georgian times to make the joints in brickwork appear much thinner. The mortar was coloured to match the brick, finished flush and then, while damp, a narrow groove was scored into the*



*centre of the joint and filled with white chalk-lime putty. Such an operation, over a complete façade, demands great skill and patience.*

## Commendation



### Cleaning and restoration of the Cathedral West Front, St Albans

*Instigator:* The Cathedral and Abbey Church of Saint Alban  
*Architect:* Richard Griffiths, Richard Griffiths Architects Limited - London SE1  
*Contractor:* Clivedon Conservation - Taplow

The late Victorian rebuilding of the west front of the Cathedral, while renovating this part of the Norman and mediaeval structure, brought other problems in its wake, owing to the architectural detail and materials used in its construction. In the recent cleaning of the façade the opportunity was taken to repair, repaint and minimise the inherent deficiencies in the Victorian fabric. This has been done with the care and skill appropriate to this most important building at the heart of our city. We welcome that the ongoing maintenance of our precious heritage has been properly recognised in the work.

## Commendation

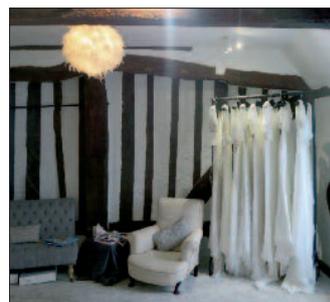
### Cerimonia shop, George Street

*Instigator:* Andrew Masi and Helen Searle - St Albans  
*Designer:* Andrew Masi and Helen Searle - St Albans  
*Contractor:* Andrew Masi and Helen Searle - St Albans

This male outfitters and wedding dress shop replaces the former antique emporium. In the process of adaption the owners have undertaken an exemplary restoration of the battered mediaeval heart of the



building. It has been revitalised and fitted out with flair, adding many clever touches of their own design while retaining and respecting the historic core,



including a most interesting renovation of the central staircase. Overall the Panel considered it a fine example of creative restoration.