

**St Albans Civic Society Awards Evening
30 October 2018 at the Abbey Theatre**

The St Albans Civic Society held its 2017 annual awards evening at the Abbey Theatre on 30 October 2018. Work completed in the 2017 calendar year are considered.

For its **Awards**, the Society looks for projects that contribute to the preservation and enhancement of the character of St Albans, and achieve the highest standards of architecture, planning, landscaping and civic design. This year, two projects were given the Society's Annual Award and plaque, and two projects were commended.

The **Trevelyan Prize** recognises projects that achieve the finest quality in terms of conservation / restoration. This year, one project was awarded the Trevelyan Prize; one project was commended.

Certificates and plaques were presented by Cllr Brian Gibbard, Deputy Mayor of the City and District of St Albans, who said:

"St Albans is an attractive City with many beautiful and historic buildings so it is important to ensure that high design standards are maintained when it comes to development projects, however big or small. By acting as a City watchdog and commenting on these, St Albans Civic Society plays an important role in helping to preserve the character of our City and its architecturally-significant buildings. Its coveted awards also help reinforce high design standards by rewarding architecture and building projects that enhance our wonderful City."

A text Summary, and Details of the Award winners, the Trevelyan Prize winner, and commended projects are given below. High resolution photographs of the five projects can be provided on request.

PRESS RELEASE – No Embargo

- Photographs of the Winners with the Deputy Mayor -

AWARDS:

London House - London Road



L to R:
Tim Boatswain (Chair Civic Society)
Jamie Aherne (EDIT Residential)
Shane Aherne (EDIT Residential)
Cllr Brian Gibbard (Deputy Mayor of
the City and District of St Albans)

House Rebuild/Extension -
Gainsborough Avenue, Clarence Park



L to R:
Tim Boatswain (Chair Civic Society)
Jon Walmsley
Christine Martin
Francesca Weal (WEAL Architects)
Cllr Brian Gibbard (Deputy Mayor of
the City and District of St Albans)

TREVELYAN PRIZE 2017

Renovation - The Crow, Fishpool
Street



L to R:
Tim Boatswain (Chair Civic Society)
Greg Binstead (Lime interiors)
Cary Grant (Lime interiors)
Cllr Brian Gibbard (Deputy Mayor of
the City and District of St Albans)

- Summary -

AWARDS:

London House - London Road - This sensitive modern development of ten apartments on three floors, with one penthouse apartment above, on a narrow site in London Road is a welcome contrast to its very conventional and stolid recent neighbours. A most welcome addition to the new architecture on this main entrance road into our city.

House Rebuild/Extension - Gainsborough Avenue, Clarence Park - The client wanted an energy efficient, family home with a first floor living room, facilities to work from home and built to a green agenda. All of which has been achieved with distinction in the scheme as realised.

TREVELYAN PRIZE 2017

Renovation - The Crow, Fishpool Street - This fine, late 16th century building has seen many changes in its lifetime, and in recent times by considerable deterioration in its external fabric. It has been renovated and converted to create two houses and two apartments. A worthy exemplar for those restoring historic buildings and adapting them for modern use.

Commendations:

Reconstructed House - Folly Lane - A resourceful adaption of a conventional house, by a husband and wife architect duo for their own family use. The entire core of the original house has been retained and adapted, the new construction built around and above it. A resource friendly, economic and energy efficient solution.

House Renovation/Extension - Seymour Road, Bernards Heath - With judicious structural changes internally, carefully integrated extensions to the rear of the property and to the roof, the quality of this house has been transformed. An object lesson in achieving architectural quality in a small domestic extension.

commendation – Trevelyan prize

Extension to Lower School, St Michaels - Seamless construction work and design have produced this small extension that appears to be part of the original Victorian Primary School building. A resounding result and a worthy addition this historic village school and St Michael's Street.

The Society's Award 2017:

London House - London Road



Instigator: EDIT Residential
Architect: SADA Architecture
Contractor: EDIT Construction

This sensitive modern development of ten apartments on three floors, with one penthouse apartment above, on a narrow site in London Road is a welcome contrast to its very conventional and stolid recent neighbours. Its varied profile and carefully detailed London stock brick, aluminium and glass facades with timber accents and playful variations in balcony design makes a discrete and refreshing addition to the street scene here. Internally the entrance areas are interestingly detailed, light and welcoming, a product of the variety of external form which also ensures that every apartment has a different floor plan from its neighbour.

The scheme is also notable for its careful attention to the landscaping and design of the external spaces both to front and back of the building. To the front the fine existing mature trees, gates and the necessary ancillary structures are carefully integrated into the overall layout while the spacious garden to the rear convincingly incorporates a barbeque, individual vegetable plots and garden stores into the design to frame the main area laid to lawn. Carefully designed steps, planting and individual sitting areas add further variety to the layout here. A most welcome addition to the new architecture on this main entrance road into our city.

The Society's Award 2017:

House Rebuild/Extension - Gainsborough Avenue, Clarence Park



Instigator : Christine Martin and Jon Walmsley

Architect : WEAL Architects

Contractor : Braid Construction and Interiors Limited

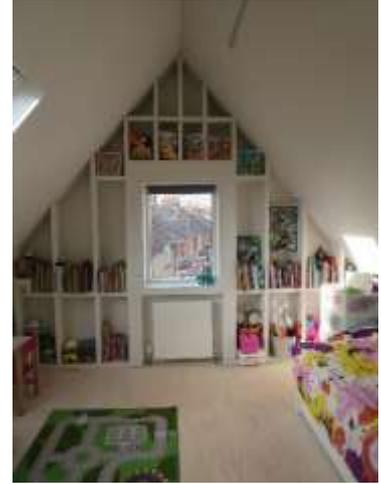
This interesting house replaces a much altered, pre-war bungalow on the site. The client wanted an energy efficient, family home with a first floor living room, facilities to work from home and built to a green agenda. All of which has been achieved with distinction in the scheme as realised.

The design uses the principles of passive solar design, the ground floor office, guest bedroom and two first floor bathrooms facing north, the main family areas: kitchen/dining/snug on the ground floor and the living room on the first floor facing south with solar panels on the roof above. Construction is of thick Hemcrete panels, a mixture of hydraulic lime and hemp, in a timber frame, faced externally with hydraulic lime render on patent boarding and flint facing to the projecting entrance porch. Internal lining is plasterboard on battens. Windows have been carefully scaled in relation to their orientation, with more extensive areas to the south, garden side, of the house. The combination of these diligent design measures enables the house to achieve impressive energy efficiency while providing an inspiring and eminently liveable family home.

While respecting its context and providing vital continuity in the streetscape this house also has the virtue of raising the bar in architectural quality, so providing a worthy model for future plot housing.

Commendation

Reconstructed House - Folly Lane



Instigator: Mike and Sarah Shaw
Architect: Mike and Sarah Shaw
Contractor: Ohms and Watts Services

A remarkable transformation of a dreary, detached post-war house, on this busy street just west of the city centre, by a husband and wife architect duo for their own family use. So effective is the change that it is now hard to realise that the entire core of the original house has been retained and adapted, the new construction built around and above it. A resource friendly, economic and energy efficient solution.

The simple, well proportioned, but low key, dark brick, street elevation belies an ingenious and very efficient plan which, in contrast to the original house, moves the entrance to the side, below a projection for the new bathroom, which also serves as a canopy over the front door. This central entrance and the compact staircase minimise circulation, enabling prime living areas to be located to the front and back: on the ground floor a living room to the front, and to the back a snug adjoining the delightful dining kitchen overlooking the garden. On the two upper floors bedrooms are located front and back of the central core and bathroom, those to the topmost floor fully exploiting the space under the pitch of the roof to provide two characterful rooms for the children

High quality materials, windows and other components, sensitively detailed have been used throughout. A resourceful adaption of a conventional house, the architects are to be congratulated.

Commendation

House Renovation/Extension - Seymour Road, Bernards Heath



Instigator: Mr and Mrs Charlesworth

Architect: Roy Darby

Contractor: J. Schreiber

From the road there is little, apart from the new tiles and the two rooflights, to indicate anything to distinguish this thirties semi-detached house from others in the road. In fact by judicious structural changes internally, with carefully integrated extensions to the rear of the property and to the roof, the quality of this house has been transformed.

The former side access-way through to the garage at the end of the garden has been partially built over to create a long utility room, linking to an extensive new living room across the back of the house, with sliding-folding doors overlooking the garden. The kitchen behind this has been re-modelled to provide spacious accommodation, with open access to the existing dining room, under its hipped, glazed roof, and to the new living room. Carefully placed rooflights to the utility and living rooms ensure good distribution of natural light to the new areas.

On the topmost floor the hipped tile roof has been extended to a gable and a large dormer added to the garden elevation to enable a delightful bedroom, with en-suite bathroom, to be provided here, all accessed by an ingenious stair tucked in under the slope of the roof.

An object lesson in achieving architectural quality in a small domestic extension.

Trevelyan Prize 2017

Renovation - The Crow, Fishpool Street



Instigator: Fishpool Conservation Specialists Ltd

Designer: Lime Interiors

Contractor: Lime Interiors

This fine, late 16th century building has seen many changes in its lifetime, from having the carriageway driven through it to give access to the rear courtyard in the 17th, a large fire resulting in substantial rebuilding in the late 19th and many varied alterations in the 20th converting it from a single dwelling to three separate ones. In addition it has at various times provided accommodation for a smithy, a bakery, which is thought to have caused the fire, and a pub, from where it derives its present name. The many changes over the years have left their mark on the building and these were exacerbated in recent times by considerable deterioration in its external fabric.

In carrying out the present renovation and conversion from three houses, to two houses and two apartments, commendable effort has been made carefully to restore the construction to a sustainable state, while retaining and restoring the historic fabric to a high standard, removing recent extraneous additions, both internally and externally, reconfiguring entrances and stairs and adding judicious modern elements, such as well equipped kitchens and bathrooms and the conservatories to the south and west of the two houses. All of which has turned a somewhat jaded historic relic into a rejuvenated presence in this important street in the very heart of the central conservation area. A worthy exemplar for those restoring

Trevelyan Prize – Commendation

Extension to Lower School, St Michaels

PRESS RELEASE – No Embargo



Instigator: St Michaels C of E Voluntary Aided Primary School

Architect: Synergy Construction

Contractor: Claridge and Hall Brothers Ltd

So seamless is the construction work and design here that even a close inspection would lead one to believe that this small extension is simply part of the original Victorian Primary School building. In fact, by careful re-use of materials salvaged from the alterations needed to the original building and prudent selection of new material to ensure consistency with those already in place, a most successful result has been achieved, perhaps most notably in the stone mullioned front window, which is a clever assembly of parts from the window in the original gable of the school.

Though relatively small, this extension to the original building nevertheless has achieved a most significant improvement for the pupils by providing a dining room, with modern facilities for the youngest classes, who at lunchtime formerly had to traverse the narrow and hazardous length of St Michael's Street to dine at the Upper School. Another minor, but useful result of the work involved in the extension is that the bell, in the charmingly spired cupola on the roof of the school, is now able to be rung after many years of inaction.

A resounding result and a worthy addition this historic village school and St Michael's Street.