

SELF BUILD

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& DESIGN



30 AMAZING HOUSES

- * RIBA House of the Year
- * Passivhaus Awards

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RIBA 2016 AWARD *House of the Year*

THE CONTENDERS

The longlist for the 2016 RIBA House of the Year to be announced later this year, comprises 20 architect-designed homes. The list includes a contemporary part-house, part-gallery on the beach in Brighton & Hove, a Japanese inspired terraced house extension, a new family home in Jersey rising from the huge granite walls of an earlier building, and a stunning beach house in Dungeness that echoes the area's former fishing huts.

Here's what the judges thought...



Ansty Plum
RIBA region: South West & Wessex
Architect: Coppin Dockray
Location: Wiltshire
Contract value: £235,000.00
Internal area: 165.00 sqm
Contractor: J&C Symonds Ltd

“Ansty Plum is a very special 20th century house, resurrected for viable modern living without damaging the spirit or the fabric of the original.”

What has been taken away, and what has not been added is as important as what has been rescued or retained. The building is now perhaps as close to its original form as at any time in its development and the removal of limited but unhappy accruals such as an en-suite shower room on the first-floor platform were essential in re-setting the balance of the space.

Careful thought has led to a building that is discretely and successfully heated, lit, insulated and serviced leaving the classic period interior intact and the house's future assured. The use of stock paving slabs surface-ground down

to the aggregate (for the floor) is a clever and pleasing intervention that sits well in context.

The stone shell of the dilapidated Smithson designed studio adjacent to the house was inhabited to provide an accommodation annexe featuring bedroom, shower room and storage sub-space, sitting above a garage and store on the steeply sloping site.

The apparent collapsed state of the building could perhaps have led to a slightly bolder, that is a less reverent, architecture but the rebuild is fastidiously faithful to the spirit of the original. This is a gem of a space which complements the initiatives undertaken in the main house, as a skilfully crafted small project.



Edge Hill
RIBA region: North East
Architectural practice: Sutherland Hussey Harris
Location: Darras Hall
Internal area: 360 sqm
Contractor: David Sparham Ltd

“A daring design for an area where the land is managed.”

The footprint for this new family home on a private leafy estate has been pulled back from the street edge, to respect the estate's bylaws. A timber slatted screen wraps around a rectilinear concrete base to create a triple-height space along the entire length of the house, which is brought to life with light, shadows and beautiful materials.

On the ground floor the entrance lobby leads to a snug and onto a generous hallway which opens out to breathtaking views of the garden and beyond, framed by large expanses of glazing.

On the upper levels are a complex series of bedrooms, bathrooms, terraces and an office. The result is an uncluttered, spacious and serene home.

The judges were particularly impressed with the vision, determination and hands-on approach of the client. Having worked with the contractor previously, he meticulously worked through details himself with precision and care, resolving difficult junctions, even testing the weathering of the timbers. Nothing has been left to chance, with side tables, beds and furniture being made bespoke.



PHOTOS: KATIE LOCK & RACHAEL SMITH

PHOTOS: SUTHERLAND HUSSEY HARRIS



House 1109
 RIBA region: North West
 Architect: GA Studio Architects
 Location: Cheshire
 Floor area: 200 sqm
 Contractor: Dales Contracts
 and Halls Builders

“This building gives hope to those who are not fabulously wealthy.”

Designed for a young family in Cheshire this new four-bedroom house had a strong brief from the outset – to not only design to Passivhaus standards but to create an interesting and comfortable modern home. A modest budget and tightly constrained site did not restrict the architect but instead provided some of the key drivers to delivering something special for a client that had a clear vision of wanting something that worked for their family, rather than a standard solution.

The spaces are not over-designed and the logical flow of space extends to the outside areas where despite the close proximities to the boundaries the careful framing of views and maximisation of space gives the impression of a much larger plot.

This building is above all award winning because the modest budget and typical context gives hope to those who are not fabulously wealthy or in elite neighbourhoods that excellent architect-led design is within reach.



PHOTOS: CHARLIE COLEMAN

“The reference to Napoleonic Martello towers and WWII fortifications is unavoidable, and indeed intentional.”

Set within the retained walls of an earlier building, Le Petit Fort occupies the site of an earlier farmstead. This was constructed in the early 20th century and enclosed within massive granite walls, which have been retained and restored and now offer much needed shelter from the elements of the unforgiving Jersey shoreline.

The reference to Napoleonic Martello towers and WWII fortifications is unavoidable, and indeed intentional; so much so that this large house could be mistaken as part of that military collection from a distance. In fact, the house was conceived to complete the concept of the ‘fort’ by building the missing fourth wall of the enclosure and creating a central element representing a ‘keep’. This three-storey entrance block, like the perimeter walls, is constructed from Jersey granite, reclaimed from the earlier building.

Designed as a pair of accommodation wings rotated around a helical stair, the house is contained by the granite walls which wrap around the whole complex.

La Petit Fort

RIBA region: South East
 Architect: Hudson Architects
 Location: Jersey
 Floor area: 471.7 sqm
 Contractor: Mitchell
 Construction Group



PHOTO: EDMUND SUMNER