

## **RIBA East Midlands Innovation in Housing Sustainability - Identifying exemplar case studies**

With an emphasis on the journey to Net Zero Carbon, RIBA East Midlands is seeking to celebrate innovation in housing sustainability by identifying exemplars of good design for new housing in the region.

It is open to any single dwelling or housing development which fulfils the following criteria:

- A project located in the East Midlands (Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Northamptonshire Leicestershire and Rutland)
- Completed between 1 January 2019 and 31 August 2021 and be in occupation
- Comprising any element, or wholistic design, which shows innovation and practical applicability in sustainability of housing, and which adds to the design aesthetic of the buildings or place
- Any built form of housing accommodation, of any tenure or tenure mix, newbuild or refurbishment

Case studies may be submitted by any RIBA Chartered Practice or Chartered Member, or any developer, housebuilder, local authority, housing association or other clients where a scheme involves a chartered architect (to at least reserved matter stage) who must endorse the submission.

- An Expert Group comprising an architect member of the RIBA East Midlands Housing Group, a lay person, a landscape architect and an architect from outside the Region, will review the case studies and make recommendations for recognition
- Expert Group members may not submit entries of their own schemes.
- The Expert Group will reserve the right to identify any number of exemplars and, if two or more, to identify the best exemplar
- The Expert Group will reserve the right to identify any number of exemplars
- Submissions should be sent as an attachment in PDF format by 5pm on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021, to [riba.eastmidlands@riba.org](mailto:riba.eastmidlands@riba.org) with each case study comprising the following to be completed on this template: (hyperlink to template)
  - Project name
  - Local Planning Authority reference for full consent
  - Developer/Client name and their consent for entry
  - A maximum of five images, including an example front elevation and one illustrating the context or place setting
  - A design statement, maximum 100 words
- An initial review will take place in early September by members of the Housing and Planning Group who will make recommendations to the Expert Group.
- The recommended schemes will be visited by the Expert Group in September to produce a final list of schemes selected as exemplar developments.
- An exhibition of exemplar schemes will take place in October at the LCB Depot in Leicester including an opportunity for developers, clients and architects to present the selected schemes to an audience of representatives of developers, housebuilders, local authorities, and housing associations in the region.
- Further opportunities to recognise the selected case studies will be developed by the East Midlands Housing Group.

- The Expert Group's decisions will be final, and no feedback will be given on submissions not selected as exemplars.
- The selection criteria have been prepared by the Housing and Planning Group as follows - with acknowledgement to Vitruvius:

Firmitas - Firmness or physical strength securing the building's structural integrity

Positives:      Quality of materials, and detailing  
                       Ease and economy of maintenance  
                       Durable  
                       Honesty, as in being true to the building structure, circulation and materials

Utilitatis - Efficient arrangement of spaces and systems to meet the functional needs of its occupants

Positives:      Sense of space and proportion to internal volumes  
                       Good natural lighting  
                       Energy efficient and low carbon footprint  
                       Adaptable to meet needs of different household types, or even non-residential uses  
                       Efficient and sensitive use of land  
                       Meets, or exceeds, the expectations of the client

Venustas - Aesthetic quality, imparted style, proportion, and visual beauty

Positives:      Compliments or adds to the character of the setting (not "anywhere" housing)  
                       Elegant solutions to budget, design and layout constraints  
                       Provides delight and raises the spirits

### **Selection criteria**

The initial review and the expert panel will take into consideration in assessing the submissions the following elements of the innovation submitted:

- Ability of the innovation to be replicated
- Impact of the innovation on sustainability
- Quality of materials, and detailing
- Ease and economy of maintenance
- Durability and adaptability
- Sense of space and proportion
- Energy efficient and low carbon footprint
- Efficient and sensitive use of land
- Elegant solution to budget, design and layout constraints

As well as

- Meets, or exceeds, the expectations of the client
- Provides delight and raises the spirits

And

- Any outstanding attributes not covered by the above