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EDWARD WILLIAMS ARCHITECTS

Perhaps there are some positive things to come out of the pandemic: we think we are more aware of and responsive to our **environment** and its preservation. Key to protecting our environment is a drastic reduction in green house gas (GHG) emissions: our May newsletter focuses on how we have approached this in different ways in different projects. From the Chobham Road development with its engineered timber structure and edge-to-edge photovoltaic roofs, via the London University College Hospital with its triple façade, to a mews house fully electrically powered from sustainable sources and with optimised use of daylight, we explore multiple ways of reducing GHG emissions. We are also investigating and designing ground source heat pump use with renewable energy sources for five current projects, two are in Italy and three in the UK. In this newsletter we highlight one of the five: a Palazzo in Puglia, Italy.

Residential Development - Cross Laminated Timber structure completed



Cross Laminated Timber structure (mass timber) being installed on site

The Chobham Road residential development, in Stratford, East London, is built using off-site fabricated cross laminated timber construction (mass timber) which essentially fits together on site like a large jigsaw puzzle.

The main structure was completed in April with the other building components following on. The volume of the structure is approximately 400m³ of timber which means this project, by its structure alone, has captured 400,000 kg of CO₂ or 400 tonnes of CO₂ and removed this amount from atmosphere. To give this some scale a modern average petrol driven car emits about 22 tonnes of CO₂ over its life, so this is like removing 20 petrol cars from our roads permanently. Combined with on site generation from flush roof mounted photovoltaic panels and natural cross ventilation for all flats means this remarkable and sensitive insertion works hard and is succeeding to be a great neighbour.

The off-site fabrication has gone smoothly and allowed a fast and efficient site assembly surrounded by existing residents looking on, all amazed by the speed and near silence of construction and the beautiful results. The general contractor is reporting daily visits from people who want to rent or buy an apartment when the development is completed.

The urban regeneration and improvement is already apparent now that the structure is up. Two intimate mews-like courtyards have been formed in areas previously used for discarding objects, fly tipping and local drug transactions.

See more images [here](#).

Urban Hospital facade detail



Detail of the University College London Grafton Way Building facade

The University College London Grafton Way Building is nearing completion (it houses one of the UK's two NHS proton therapy treatment centres). The building consists of a series of elegant bays in elevation that relate directly to the roof-scape.

The use of horizontal rods for the external shading and screening elements, along with clear, un-tinted glass and user control of internal privacy and sun shades, creates an elegant and sophisticated composition that responds to the daily rhythm of the building's use.

An external shading strategy allowed us to maximise glazing for optimum daylighting to all rooms whilst providing suitable privacy and glare control. In addition this system allows for external access at all levels for cleaning and maintenance without compromising clinical areas internally (which would then require a deep clean which removes the room from clinical use) or requiring external access scaffolding.

The focus on natural light and ecology continues with the building wrapped around a central atrium and courtyard building to present an oasis of green for patients, visitors and residents alike.

Read more about the project [here](#).

Mews house transformed into light, energy efficient accommodation



The entrance of the new Mews residence, the last Mews with live horses

Located in a quiet mews with one of the last working riding stables in London, our project converts a dated mews building into a modern house with a striking series of permanent brick formed structural arches and dramatic full height voids and stair to bring light down to the new basement. The bespoke steel and timber roof tops off a light and spacious central London retreat.

Hidden behind the only façade that has windows, the design provides an innovative solution for the client by introducing top-lit lightwells that puncture the plan from roof to basement level, pulling light into the heart of the house. This, combined with a careful use of natural materials and expression of the structure, creates a welcoming, light and visually enticing home.

Our approach to design was to remove all greenhouse gas emissions during operation. The client will only use a sustainable green electricity supplier and no gas supply was installed in the house, electric boilers heat water for kitchen and bathroom use and for the underfloor heating system. The large amount of natural light within the property reduces the need for artificial lighting, which is enhanced by the choice of materiality including reflective off-white painted walls, glass balustrading and polished light grey concrete flooring.

Exposed brick work for the vaults (see images [here](#)) contrasts with the painted steelwork, timber flooring and polished concrete as an added level of richness while at the same time

provides thermal mass for the house to even out daily heating and cooling cycles and allowing for pre-cooling overnight in the summer months if required.

"You've helped us to create something really special. In times like these, that's particularly precious."

Client, October 2020

To read more and see images about this project click [here](#). The project is published on Architecture Today, read the article at this [link](#).

FX Magazine's Focus on surfaces - Profile Laura Carrara-Cagni



Laura on site with the site forman

In this FX Magazine issue Laura talks about research into natural materials and their aging as a measure of the worth of materials. She also shares her passion about researching colours and its use in architecture using scientific and objective parameters. She also explains the principles of materials and colour in use applied to projects completed by the practice.

Read the article at this [link](#), pages 43/44.

"We can make the changing office a better place to work" RIBA J PIP



Interior view of the main circulation space, in our award winning office project in Paddington, London.

Edward took part in an online webinar for the RIBA looking at the future of the office and this article from the November/December 2020 RIBA J PIP magazine picks up some of the highlight of the talk.

"Will we ever get back to the office? This has been a frequent question during the Covid lockdown. One person who is convinced that we will is Edward Williams, managing director of Edward Williams Architects. Speaking at the RIBA PiP webinar on office developments, Williams showed a small but delightful project that he has designed, repurposing an existing building in a mews in Paddington, London.

Even more interesting was his conviction that we must return to work in offices. 'Our own office has been 60-70% less efficient when working from home,' he said. And this was despite the fact that 'we are benefiting from the flywheel effect of having worked together in offices when working from home now.' He believes that 'we overestimate that when we think about what working from home means for the future.' ..."

You can download the pdf of the article [here](#).

Refurbishment of a Palazzo in Andria, Italy



View of the palazzo's grand stair and courtyard

We have been appointed to refurbish a beautiful palazzo in Andria, in Puglia, the heel of Italy.

Our client is seeking to enhance the character of the internal and external spaces while restoring this fabulous building, and allow it to function for modern life while resolving multiple material and fabric issues common to historic buildings.

The project is an opportunity to re-think the mechanical and electrical services including investigations of heat pump options, a rare domestic scale installation of this type in Italy. This is part of five projects, three in the UK, two in Italy, where the practice, in collaboration with cutting edge services consultant mstep, is investigating and designing renewable energy sources energy to service projects.

See more images for the palazzo [here](#).



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