

## EDWARD WILLIAMS ARCHITECTS

This month we are celebrating New Courtyard Housing being shortlisted for three awards. The residential multi-family scheme in East London has also been featured in a the NLA Housing Londoners report. In other project news, our COR-TEN steel house extension in Wandsworth is nearly complete, and we share below what we learned about grit-blasting the steel to prepare it for uniform rusting patination.

Also this summer we have been busy travelling, writing and speaking. Laura was a guest speaker at the Romanian Hospital Convention in Bucharest, we interviewed industry expert Chris Davidson on the future of heat pump technology, and the Financial Times published Edward's letter that gives another perspective on the debate about whether new build or retrofit is better in terms of reducing carbon emissions.

For our summer party this year the team chose to do a charity challenge. This resulted in us flying down a zip wire in front of our Midland Metropolitan University Hospital (opening in 2024) to raise money for Your Trust Charity. Then we went together to enjoy a relaxing day in the increasingly vibrant city of Birmingham. Please read below to find out more.

---

### Romanian Hospital Convention



Laura giving her conference opening talk

This September Laura opened the session at the Romanian Hospital Convention in Bucharest. She advocated strongly that new hospital buildings as large investments should, instead of only being medical technology fortresses, also regenerate the surrounding area adding a strong urban value and community connections.

It would appear that in Romania too many hospital projects are not yet taking full advantage of the available opportunities to create a better environment, ecosystem and add social value. The Chair, Șerban Țigănaș, was keen to raise awareness of Laura's message during the conference.

See more images [here](#).

---

# Multiple award shortlisting for the new homes in Stratford



Award logos and homes in Stratford view

Our New Courtyard residential multi-family scheme in Stratford, London, has been shortlisted for three awards this year: the Architect's Journal Awards - housing project up to £5M; the British Homes Awards in the Development of the Year - up to 20 Homes category award; and the Building Awards 2023 - small project of the year category.

We would like to thank our client Cliveden Land Ltd for entrusting us with this meaningful project and our project team, consultants, contractors, and subcontractors who worked tirelessly to make this vision a reality. We are very proud of what we have accomplished and could not have done it without the collaboration of so many talented professionals.

The project was also published in the Timber Development UK's "Designing Timber" Magazine, and our directors Edward Williams and Laura Carrara-Cagni were interviewed to tell the story of how the project transformed an underused brownfield infill site into a welcoming mews-style residential development, and the challenges that were overcome to make it a reality.

Download the full article PDF [here](#) or visit the magazine on TDUK's website [here](#).

---

In Conversation with Chris Davidson  
Leading Heat Pump Technology expert



Chris Davidson

Heat pumps are a relatively new technology for most people, and certainly for home owners, but are a really good technology in terms of using energy efficiently for heating (and cooling) our buildings. Most people tend to opt for Air Source Heat Pumps (ASHP) rather than Ground Source Heat Pumps (GSHP) for a variety of reasons. As part of our “In conversation with” series we explore some of the pros and cons of selecting ground source heat pumps with Chris Davidson, the Chairman and CTO of Genius Energy Lab.

Chris has worked in the heat pump industry since 2001. He has been involved in the design and implementation of over 750 MW of installed capacity in Europe and North America. He is responsible for some of the most innovative GSHP systems and ground collectors globally, including One New Change in London where he pioneered energy piles in the foundations coupled with open loop water wells to achieve maximum efficiency for the system.

Chris plays a key role in shaping UK energy policy via government access as an active member of the Association for Decentralised Energy and Chair of the Policy Development Committee at the Ground Source Heat Pump Association

Read the interview [here](#).

---

## New-built can compete with retrofit homes in carbon stakes

## Letter: New-builds can compete with retrofit homes in carbon stakes

From Edward M Williams, Edward Williams Architects, London W10, UK



Letter to the Financial Times published on the 4th of August 2023

Edward Williams's comment on Hugo Cox's "Rebuild or renovate: the embodied carbon conundrum" was published in the Financial Times on the 4th of August 2023.

He shared the outcome of our research that a high quality low embodied carbon new build design is largely similar to a significant retrofit in terms of embodied carbon on a unit area basis (559 KgCO<sub>2</sub>e/m<sup>2</sup> embodied carbon for the new buildings versus 460-560 KgCO<sub>2</sub>e/m<sup>2</sup> for the refurbishment projects). To us this was a surprising result given the received wisdom that renovation is always best, and raises important questions when considering future developments. One lesson is that different projects in different locations require careful thought and analysis to determine the best way forward because refurbishment of existing buildings may not always be best way to minimise embodied carbon. Another is that only very sustainable and efficient contemporary design can compete with retrofit. And lastly, when refurbishing existing buildings we cannot be complacent about carbon emissions in those projects because the emissions can still be significant.

Read the letter [here](#).

---

## Zip wire at the Midland Metropolitan University Hospital for charity



The Edward Williams Architects team that came down the zip wire.

We had so much fun this summer flying down a 220 metre zip wire at the Midland Metropolitan University Hospital in Birmingham. Thanks to Sandwell & West Birmingham NHS Trust and Johnny Shah, the head of the Midland Met Charity Foundation Trust, for organising this wonderful event. This challenge was to help raise charitable funds for Your Trust Charity run by Sandwell & West Birmingham NHS Trust.

We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has donated to this cause! The Trust is still accepting donations. If you wish to donate, click [here](#).

---

## Steel structure grit blasting in Wandsworth, London, UK



The new gallery roof after the grit blasting process.

We learned some interesting things about abrasive blasting when we visited our South West London project to watch Blastit Ltd grit-blasting our Corten steel extension. As you might expect, the site needed to be fully protected with scaffolding and sheeting, and the operators need to work in full overalls. Sand blasting is a thing of the past, outlawed for health reasons but we discovered that garnet can be used as an alternative. However gemstones are very expensive so only used in rare cases. Operators like Baslit use grit, which does the job well, but they can only use grit made of aluminium silica, i.e. "metal sand", which contains no more than 0.00002 of silica and breaks in contact with the surface, turning into a very fine powder.

Watch this space as this very special home refurbishment with this COR-TEN steel gallery extension is due to be completed before the end of the year!

---

## EDWARD WILLIAMS ARCHITECTS



Edward Williams Architects  
Grand Union Studios, 332 Ladbroke Grove,  
London, W10 5AD  
United Kingdom

enquiries@edwardwilliamsarchitects.com  
www.edwardwilliamsarchitects.com

---

*Copyright © 2023, All rights reserved.*

[unsubscribe from all emails](#) [update subscription preferences](#)