

ArchitecturePLB was appointed to develop proposals for a new Trainee Accommodation building as part of an extension to existing Residential Care facilities in Enham Alamein, a small village located two miles north of Andover town centre.

Enham is a one of only nine UK providers of specialist vocational training for disabled people. Trainees are referred to the charity by the Government's Residential Training Unit, usually after they have been failed by mainstream education provision. The care home is a first stepping stone in the pathway from an institutional environment to life in the community. It offers the residents, many of whom have dependents and need to continue to provide for their families, the opportunity to establish financial and social independence.

The new facility contains 10 semi-independent studio flats designed to accommodate Enham clients on 44-52 week vocational training courses. The building also contains communal facilities, a staff sleepover room and ancillary services. 24-hour care is provided for the many clients who still require care during the transitional period towards regaining their independence.

The village of Enham has mainly two storey housing, with open village greens defined by large mature trees and landscaping. The site sits at the entrance to the village and opposite several open spaces that provide the setting for a number of Listed Buildings and the local Church.

Part of the initial urban design brief was to minimise the impact of the building on this historic core, and to utilise the existing vegetation as much as possible to screen the building. Our design is appropriate to both the setting and the brief, providing inclusive, accessible accommodation that would foster a sense of community for both its residents and the wider village.

When considering the form and appearance of the building, we sought to create a modern response to the long, characterful almshouses which are evocative of what makes Enham unique. Typically made up of white render or red brick under tiled or thatched roofs with low eaves lines that are broken by dormer windows, we took on these basic forms and materials to create a building that developed the typology and married its contemporary aesthetic into the fabric of the village.

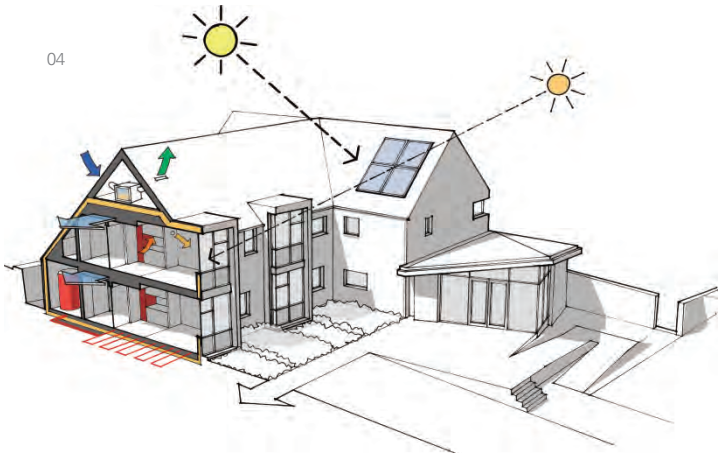


01 Main entrance exterior  
02 Brick exterior in-keeping with local vernacular  
03 Contemporary zinc detailing



Total Area : 670sqm GIA  
 Procurement Type : Design and Build  
 Local Authority : Test Valley Borough Council

The traditional brick and render form is supplemented by crisp detailing, modern zinc bays and composite aluminium windows, to develop a modern vernacular that is complimentary to its context.



Given the users of the building, inclusive design was at the forefront of the design process, but it was also vitally important that the building removed any links to the institutional background that clients have. To aid in this process, a number of user group meetings were held at key stages with both Enham staff and clients, resulting in a more successful and adaptable building.

Our approach has taken into account both the public and private aspects of the building; the private and communal rooms face a sunny courtyard garden, while the main entrance faces north and the rest of the village. This allows all the main private spaces to be visually connected and open out onto the garden, providing maximum daylight and views, while maintaining privacy for the residents. Careful positioning of the building on the slope takes advantage of the landscape, making the building accessible without the need for ramps or excavation works.



- 01 Section
- 02 Naturally-lit staircase
- 03 Light, airy meeting room
- 04 Sustainable principles diagram
- 05 Private rooms facing landscape