



Case Study Summary: Pennard House

Completed: 2009

Location: Gower, Swansea

Category: Housing

What we like about this project

The design of this single house and the speed at which it progressed through the planning system is testament to a design that responds sensitively to the context in which it is created, the client's expectations and the rigours of planning requirements for building in an AONB.

Project Details:

Client

Mr & Mrs
Sandbrook

Architect/ Designer

Hyde + Hyde

Planning Authority

Swansea City
Council

Consultant Team

Structural
Engineer - Clarke
Bond Structures,
Building Control -
Total Building
Control,
Quantity
Surveyor –
Mildred, Howells
& Co,
Energy
Consultant –
Melin Energy
Consultants,
Visualisation –
iCreate Ltd,
Land Surveyors
– John Vincent
Surveys Ltd,

Contractor

S.J. Bevan
Carpentry +
Joinery Ltd

Awards

Plaque of Merit -
2010 National
Eisteddfod of
Wales

The site

Local contextual forms inspired the simple metaphor of a traditional barn vernacular found throughout the immediate landscape. The low-sitting design minimises its impact on the landscape and public realm, expressing an air of humility whilst replicating the simple linear form and structure of Gower vernacular 'barn' typology.



Private inner courtyard (c) Hyde + Hyde



Main entrance door (c) Hyde + Hyde

The design process

The house reveals a strong directional orientation towards the setting sun, celebrated through various cantilevers that dramatise the external form, whilst providing shelter from the elements. A simple timber clad platonic box, strategically positioned hints at a more radical composition within the private courtyard hidden from view.

The evolution of the design came through a thorough understanding of the 'phenomenology of place' and critically, the client's individual lifestyle. The vision was to marry daily routines and social interaction with an architecture that allows freedom and versatility. Due to the impressive sunsets on the Gower, the client specifically requested a house that would address this. The internal courtyard accommodates our client's needs with regard to social interaction, while the bedroom wing acts as a sound barrier to the adjacent road.

Hyde + Hyde researched the traditional regional construction methods of historic barn typologies at St Fagans National History Museum, Cardiff. This inspired a post and beam language for the internal courtyard guest bedroom elevation, with a contemplative mono-pitch roof to the bedroom areas.

Natural materials were used wherever possible including sawn faced slate, with a strong emphasis on horizontal coursing to reduce the scale of the building and accentuate a relationship with the horizon. Modern material technology is utilised in the Glulam Beams, allowing an extension to the conventional limitations of a timber beam.

Sustainability credentials

This new home integrates passive solutions with developing technologies such as ground source heat pumps and future planned rainwater harvesting. Close consultation with an independent energy consultant ensured we could provide a highly insulated building envelope to reduce heat loss significantly, whilst also reducing any possibility of 'cold bridging'. Low ceiling heights were incorporated in key living spaces to reinforce a sense of human scale, whilst efficiently reducing the amount of internal volume requiring heat. Air tightness was another key factor that was monitored on site and through detailed specifications including 1:5 detail drawings. The identification of sustainable materials was another important factor such as the locally sourced 'Berwyn Slate' and heat treated timber from managed sources.

Project Images



Guest bedroom (c) Hyde + Hyde



Staircase (c) Hyde + Hyde



The lap pool (c) Hyde + Hyde



Master bedroom cantilever (c) Hyde + Hyde



View to master bedroom across pool (c) Hyde + Hyde



Circulation: dining, living, entrance (c) Hyde + Hyde



Guest wing & courtyard (c) Hyde + Hyde



Guest wing circulation (c) Hyde + Hyde



Dining room (c) Hyde + Hyde

For the full case study , please see details on our website www.dcfw.org

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