

WEST CAMBRIDGE RESIDENCES UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

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*South Residences
courtyards create a focus
for the community*



A £22m development of apartments for the University of Cambridge designed and built by MacCormac Jamieson Prichard (MJP) and AMEC has been a great success, and has set a new benchmark for collaborative working.

UNIVERSITY BRIEF:

The 206 apartments of one, two and three bedrooms are available exclusively for rent by staff, postgraduates and visiting academics. The flats are situated on the University's growing science and technology campus, and provide quality affordable medium-term accommodation in an over-subscribed Cambridge housing market.

Anne Campbell MP commented "I would like to congratulate Cambridge University on this imaginative and forward-looking development. House prices have risen so fast that many University staff are priced out of the market and we need more homes quickly to enable people to live close to where they work. This will enable University staff to live within cycling and walking distance of their place of work."

ACCOMMODATION:

An 88-place nursery for children of University staff and students is incorporated in the northern block of 62 two and three-bedroom apartments. The South building contains 144 one-bedroom apartments, each with a separate living space, kitchen and bathroom. Both groups of buildings are entered through generous shared stairwells off private landscaped courtyard, encouraging social interaction and a sense of ownership.

Liz Pride, the Director of the Education Group at MJP explained, "The buildings are designed around courtyard gardens which create a sense of community and integrate the projects into the wider site. The character of the South residences, clad in pre-patinated titanium zinc tiles, is robust and urban to suit their position next to bulky laboratory buildings. The North residences, overlooking the Veterinary School paddocks, use softer materials, with cedar boarding which will weather to a subtle silver grey and harmonise with the colours of the zinc. We paid a great deal of attention to the detail of the



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design. For example the texture and layering of elements in the facades give the buildings a lively and varied appearance even though they contain a large number of identical dwellings – this is a key factor in the final quality of the scheme.'

A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH:

Architects MacCormac Jamieson Prichard worked first with the University's Estate Management and Building Service (EMBS) and then directly for the main contractor, AMEC Capital Projects Ltd, in a close collaborative partnership. The successful 2 stage Develop & Construct procurement route promoted a close working relationship between Client, Contractor and Design Team.

WEST CAMBRIDGE MASTERPLAN

The buildings are situated in MJP's Masterplan for the westward expansion of the University. Development at West Cambridge is part of the University's strategy for providing modern accessible and sustainable research and teaching facilities in the 21st century. It allows departments currently housed in old buildings

in the city centre the space they need, with modern laboratories and other specialist facilities. West Cambridge is situated next to the green belt, with Masterplan guidelines regulating the density and height of the building as well as their compliance with landscape, materials, ecology and transport strategies.

www.mjparchitects.co.uk

1. The cedar boarding will weather to a subtle silver grey
2. Community facilities include a nursery for residents
3. The nursery interior has an exuberant use of colour
4. Texture and layering of materials have a lively and varied appearance

PROJECT TEAM:

Project Manager: EMBS, University of Cambridge

Main Contractor: AMEC Capital Project Ltd

Architect: MacCormac Jamieson Prichard

Structural Engineer: Price & Myers

Services Engineer: Faber Maunsell

Quantity Surveyor: Gardiner & Theobald