



Courtesy: Mellis Haward, Archio

Introduction to Housing Design

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- **Great housing design can seem deceptively simple, but a range of angles need to be properly considered.** It's helpful to understand the three key levels of design – how the development relates to the wider context; how the parts of the development work together and thirdly how the internal common and private spaces work.
- **Context includes a range of aspects including topography, built fabric, history, landscape, local amenities, connectivity, boundaries, scale and grain** – these need to be considered together to see the patterns and key features which emerge and how these will shape the design.
- **For the site level, great places will ensure privacy and the quality of private space while maximising active frontages and the quality of shared communal and circulation spaces, while keeping an eye on affordability** - particularly for complex and dense developments. Bins, bikes and cars should be carefully integrated and not allowed to dominate the space.
- **Inside areas should be designed with empathy – considering the end user experience, creating a comfortable home, fostering social interaction and allowing for adaptability** (as the pandemic has so starkly shown us all). And plan for the future, ensuring that homes will be durable for the longer term and cope with climate change and change of tenures and resident groups.
- **Achieving great design means understanding and responding to the resident perspective – what is it like to live in the building into the longer term and how can this work really well?** The government's National Design Guide and UDL's Design Companion each set out a number of key principles which when followed will help ensure you achieve great housing. The Housing Design Awards winners <https://hdawards.org/> showcase how these have been brought together successfully, together with the communities they serve, to create great places.

Speakers:

Susan May, Head of Housing Design, UDL
 Eleni Sathi, Associate, Hunt Thompson Associates
 David Birkbeck, Chief Executive, Design for Homes
 Mellis Haward, Director, Archio
 Mark McGechan, Director, RM_A Architects
 Chris Tapp, Director, RM_A Architects
 Paul O'Neill, Board Director, Bryden Wood Architects

Attendees: 62