



LOWER MILL ESTATE EARNS FURTHER AWARDS FOR ARCHITECTURAL INNOVATION

Lower Mill Estate in the Cotswolds is a unique vacation living location founded on principles of harmonising man, wildlife and ecology in a sustainable, architecturally exciting environment.

That commitment to architectural excitement was recently exemplified by the estate's decision to commission the building of Sarah Featherstone's extraordinary Orchid House. But other dwellings at Lower Mill have attracted equal plaudits and have won a number of prestigious national awards.

And now, a number of projects are up for more awards. Howells Mere, a collection of 160 2-5 bedroom homes which blend traditional Cotswold stone with a modernist taste for wide open glazed areas with panoramic outlooks, has been nominated in the proposed project category of the Housing Design Awards. These awards are organized by an array of august heritage, environmental and architectural organisations including the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, The NHBC, The Royal Institute of British Architects, the Royal Town Planning Institute in partnership with the Housing Corporation and English Partnerships.

Meanwhile, Urban Design (the journal of the Urban Design group) has just announced the shortlist for the inaugural Francis Tibbalds Prize. The prize seeks to honour excellence from practices and public sector offices in terms of their contribution to urban design thought and ideas. Richard Reid Associates, the practice whose work has been so central to much of Lower Mill, has received an Urban Design Journal Project Award for Clearwater Village on the estate. Having secured this recognition, the practice goes forward to the shortlist for the Francis Tibbalds Award.

For Jeremy Paxton, the man who's devoted a decade to the realisation of his unique architectural and environmental dream, these honours offer very welcome recognition of his efforts over the years. And for those lucky enough to have purchased some of these unique homes, the pleasure of owning such distinctive properties can only be enhanced by their status as award-winning examples of contemporary design.