

**13<sup>th</sup> October 2008**

**REDEHAM HOMES' ACCORDIA LIVING WINS THE 2008 RIBA STIRLING PRIZE**

Redeham Homes' Accordia Living development in Cambridge designed by architects Feilden Clegg Bradley, Alison Brooks Architects and Maccreanor Lavington, has made history by becoming the first ever residential scheme in the UK and Europe to have won the 2008 RIBA Stirling Prize. The development will now be recognised throughout Europe as the best building by a British architect due to its innovative architectural design.

Accordia Living was announced as the 13th RIBA Stirling Prize winner in association with The Architects' Journal on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October at the Arena and Convention Centre in Liverpool. The Cambridge development beat stiff competition from five other schemes including, Manchester Civil Justice System in Manchester, Royal Festival Hall in Southbank, Westminster Academy, Westminster, Bijlmer Station in Amsterdam and Nordpark Cable Railway in Austria to claim the £20,000 prize.

The RIBA Stirling Prize is the UK's most prestigious architectural award, regarded by many as the Architectural Oscars and is awarded annually to architects who have designed buildings, that have made the greatest contribution to architecture during the past year. Accordia Living by Redeham Homes began its RIBA journey by being shortlisted for the Stirling Prize following its win of the 2008 RIBA National Award in June, and was one of only six buildings to have been nominated from around the UK and Europe.

The award jury, who comprised architecture specialists and lay judges, commented on Accordia Living's success: "This is high density housing at its very best, demonstrating that volume house-builders can deliver high quality architecture – and that as a result they can improve their own bottom line. The whole scheme is about relationships: between architect and developer/contractor/client; between three very different firms of architects – Feilden Clegg Bradley, Maccreanor Lavington and Alison Brooks Architects; and between private and public external spaces, providing a new model for outside-inside life with interior rooftop spaces, internal courtyards and large semi-public community gardens."

Mark Bailey, Managing Director of Redeham Homes comments: "We are delighted that Accordia Living, in association with the architects, has won such a prestigious award as the Stirling Prize and it is fantastic that in today's competitive marketplace it is seen as a development that reflects cutting edge architecture. We are thrilled that Accordia Living has been acknowledged as the first ever residential development in the awards history, recognised for its innovative design which fuses together top quality layout, specification and landscaping to produce a variety of inspirational homes appealing to a wide range of people from investors and young-professionals to families."

Accordia Living is set in excess of eight acres of mature landscaping and has been designed with the focus of creating a close, cohesive community with green open spaces. The existing natural landscape combined with the 700 established trees onsite has dictated the design theme for Accordia Living – a layout themed around the idea of "living in a garden."

The development takes an innovative approach to external spaces and there is a strong landscape framework, with courtyards, roof terraces, large balconies, communal gardens and play areas scattered throughout the streets and squares - all designed as an integral part of the architecture.

Homes at Accordia Living feature striking modern facades incorporating contemporary finishings. As well as this the use of natural materials have been chosen for their ability to age gracefully such as Green Oak, Red Lauro timber, copper cladding, and granite walls, which are all prevalent in the Cambridge area and gives the city its unique character are utilised in the construction of the homes.

RIBA choose Accordia Living as the winner of the Stirling Prize as it demonstrates an innovative example of pioneering design and it is due to these design-led homes that 38% of the development has been sold to date. The scheme comprises stylishly designed townhouses and apartments which are light and spacious, featuring well-proportioned rooms with stunning views over Hobson Brook and the surrounding gardens. The outdoor spaces at the development are also a key part of the innovative design framework.

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