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AJ SMALL PROJECTS PART 2

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Part two of this year's shortlist:
Invisible Studio

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AJ SMALL PROJECTS

A concern for sustainability shines through in a greater number of submissions this year and, encouragingly, not just in temporary structures, writes *Hattie Hartman*



Paul Reed, sales and marketing director at Marley Eternit, comments: 'Marley Eternit is proud to sponsor the awards for the third consecutive year. AJ Small Projects is an excellent vehicle for architects to promote their practices. We want to support architectural practices, be it through technical support, offering sustainable solutions, or helping them promote their projects.'

LEFT: CHARLES HOSEA RIGHT: KILBURN NIGHTINGALE ARCHITECTS



This second AJ Small Projects issue presents 12 projects, the balance of the shortlist for this year's AJ Small Projects awards, supported by Marley Eternit. Also featured are three projects in the running for the Sustainability Award, now in its third year.

While ingenious temporary structures – Köbberling & Kaltwasser's Jellyfish Theatre and Nex's Times Eureka Pavilion at Kew – scooped this award in previous years, all three shortlisted projects this year are permanent buildings. Diverse in geographical location, they include an all-timber residence in Dorset commissioned by the Architectural Association, a reception building for a sculpture foundation in Uganda

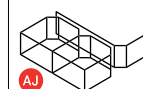


and an artist's studio in Norfolk. The Caretaker's House by Invisible Studio (concept design by AA students) is one of a series of experimental timber buildings at Hooke Parke, a 300-acre estate in Dorset, which is home to the AA's Design and Make postgraduate degree programme. The brief stipulated that all timber be sourced from the site and the architect deployed the limited stock of each species to its most appropriate use: Douglas fir for exposed ground beams and posts, spruce for studwork and protected cladding under the verandah, and cedar for exposed cladding. A remarkable airtightness level of 0.92 m³/hr/m² was achieved by detailing to accommodate movement in the unseasoned timber, methodically wrapping the building in a continuous



layer of insulation and taping every joint. Wood collected on site fuels the home's heating, hot water and cooking. Where resources are scarce, necessity dictates lean use of materials. Such thinking permeates Kilburn Nightingale's reception building for the Ruwenzori Sculpture Foundation in western Uganda. Eucalyptus framing and locally fired bricks make up the enclosure, which also incorporates flattened oil drums for roofing and a bright yellow shipping container (originally used to deliver foundry equipment to the site) which provides a secure area on the site. This marriage of natural and industrial materials results in an elegant simplicity, which could be more widely emulated in sustainable design in places where resources are less scarce. Threefold Architecture's Long

Above The three projects in the running for this year's Sustainability Award (from far left): Threefold Architects' Long Studio, Kilburn Nightingale's Ruwenzori visitor centre, and Invisible Studio's Caretaker's House



Images, Drawings, Data. Search for 'small projects' on AJBuildingsLibrary.co.uk

Studio in rural Norfolk is a response to the client's desire for a low-energy building that they could construct themselves. A linear building, orientated south by south-west, discretely incorporating a 10m² photovoltaic array and rainwater harvesting. Corrugated bitumen used on the long elevations and the roof is the dominant material, commonly used on agricultural buildings and made from recycled cellulose fibres and coloured with natural dyes. End elevations are clad in untreated cedar. The good news is that sustainability shines through in an increasing number of Small Projects this year. It's no longer about temporary structures or one-off prototypes. See ajfootprint.com for our pick of the 'best of the rest' Small Projects.



SUSTAINABILITY SHORTLIST INVISIBLE STUDIO CARETAKER'S HOUSE

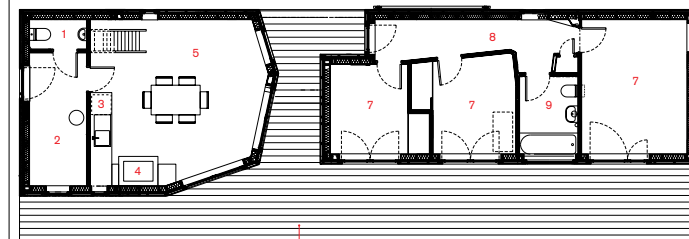
House, Hooke Park, Dorset
COST £170,000

The Caretaker's House at Hooke Park is a low-cost timber building using only green timber grown and felled on site. Invisible Studio was commissioned by the Architectural Association to develop a student concept design into a prototypical exemplar building. The building makes use of unseasoned larch, cedar, poplar,

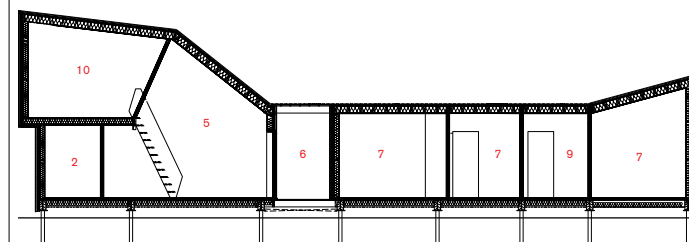
Douglas fir or spruce, as appropriate, and uses wood for heating as well as for insulation. It is insulated to Passivhaus standards, with Passivhaus airtightness. The construction process is super-efficient. There are no wet trades at all – the mini piles are steel and are the only non-timber structural items. The building has a 'heavy' north

wall to provide privacy and insulation, and is very open to the south, where there is a large verandah. Even the joinery that has been used was manufactured on site – the kitchen features chunky timber worktops and the stair uses an innovative jointing system that gains strength as the timber dries. AJBL.co.uk/projects/display/id/6463

ALL PHOTOGRAPHS VALERIE BENNETT



Ground floor plan



Long section



LEGEND

1. WC
2. Utility room
3. Kitchen
4. Rayburn
5. Dining area
6. Breezeway
7. Bedroom
8. Hallway
9. Bathroom
10. Living room/mezzanine

CREDITS

CLIENT Architectural Association
CONTRACTOR Greenheart Sustainable Construction
STRUCTURAL ENGINEER Buro Happold
GROSS INTERNAL AREA 120m²
PROCUREMENT JCT Intermediate