GUERNSEY
DESIGN AWARDS
2022

Category:
Residential New Build

CLIENT:
Sykes Family

ARCHITECTS:
Lovell Ozanne Architects
Island House,
Grande Rue,
St. Martin

CONTRACTOR:
Richard Ashplant Construction Limited

Shuruuq

Shuruuq is a bespoke new-build family home set near the cliffs in Guernsey. The key features of the design are how it integrates into the landscape and how the occupants experience the surrounding views and nature. Whilst refurbishment of the existing run-down bungalow was originally considered, it was not fit to salvage and re-purpose. It was demolished but elements were kept and re-used where possible. In addition to relevant Planning constraints, a restrictive covenant existed on the property's ridge height and footprint. The design needed to assimilate into its surroundings, providing a contemporary, functional home with a light-touch on the landscape.

Natural materials were selected such as western red cedar cladding and stone walling sourced from Purbeck. The materiality compliments the way that the building works with the sloping landscape and the split-level design. The lower floor principally utilises the existing footprint, set into the hillside with retaining structure and block work construction. It is clad in natural stone – a solid base rooted into the surrounding land. In contrast, the upper floors are principally timber frame construction with warm, tactile cedar cladding. The upper floor cranks out towards the sea and sunrise and sits lightly on the landscape. Internally, each aspect frames sea and rural views, with dramatic effect on the spaces within and their enjoyment. The interior is intended to imitate origami-style unfolding, with internal features angled towards key views to benefit from this unique site. As clients we adopted an inclusive and flexible approach to construction which allowed the project to continue through COVID-related disruptions.

Sustainable construction was considered from the outset and low CO2 cost materials and off-site manufactured elements have been used throughout where practicable. The building far exceeds current Part L requirements regarding air-tightness and a highly efficient air-source heat pump is the main source of heating. A south-facing roof slope has been designed to accommodate solar panels in the future. Connection is also provided for electric car charging points in the future. Accessibility and adaptability have been considered and the design carefully considers the potential life-cycle of a family home and how rooms can be adapted to accommodate this in the future.