



Fitzalan Road - Design Statement

"A garden to walk in and immensity to dream in--what more could he ask?
A few flowers at his feet and above him the stars."
Victor Hugo, Les Misérables

Fitzalan Road is a proposed new retirement development in West Sussex, nestled in the picturesque scenery within Arundel. The new development will provide residents with luxurious interiors and generous living space. The landscape will compliment a number of the apartments providing several private terraces. The landscape helps to anchor the architecture into the surrounding landscape with soft planting and evergreen structure.

In 2013, a study in the British Journal of Sports Medicine by Dr Mark Hamer on the topic of elderly exercise, produced a headline stating that people who exercise 2-3 times per week in old age, are 2.5 times less likely to suffer from long term health problems. In this study it expresses that the exercise does not need to be vigorous and constant, but simply gardening or walking and experiencing a landscape.

This helps to prove that creating an outdoor space for the residents to enjoy, is pivotal to life fulfilment and this concept has been at the centre of the design. As a continuation of this theme, the residents are the most important consideration within our overall philosophy for Fitzalan Road. The landscape provides space to socialise and interact as a close community.

Our central aim is to design a modern, relaxing and caring landscape that continues the theme of the proposed development, providing for the residents and complimenting the local vernacular. The new spaces encourage independence and opportunity by offering the residents a sense of community, safety and a sense of fulfilment.

The landscape combined the following three types of space:

- Communal Terrace
- Private Terraces
- Streetscene

Landscape Concept

The communal area has a direct link with the Owner's Lounge and is accessible to all. The generous contemporary terrace provides space for socialising and interaction. A number of the ground floor apartments have their own private terrace that offers personal space for relaxation, reading and enjoying a cup of tea. The green buffer of planting and trees separates the architecture from the street ensuring that the building is softened and integrated with the surrounding landscape.

*Garden Design Practice Of The Year 2016
Landscape Of The Year Award 2014
Best Urban Garden Award 2014*

VAT No: 930 3698 19
Company Registration Number: 07218034

These different areas are linked through the relationship between hard and soft materials, the shapes and the hierarchy of layered planting. The overall design gives major emphasis to creating a landscape that allows the residents to continue their lives in an environment alleviating any feelings of isolation. The garden allows for movement and socialisation in a safe and familiar manner. The range of private and social spaces can be used as the residents wish, helping with friendships and a lasting community atmosphere.

Communal Terrace

The Communal Terrace is an extension to the Owner's Lounge, softened with planting the space will blend softly into the surrounding landscape. This area is at the heart of the site providing a central hub for gathering - an essential in creating a community feel. Furnished with comfortable, sofa-type seating and water-proof cushions, maintenance will be low and simple. In addition to this, the tables have a dual purpose, providing a stable surface for crafts, games and activities but also for storing equipment and magazines. A raised planting bed softens the view across the car park.

Private Terraces

The private terraces are defined with a contemporary paving surrounded by structural evergreen hedging and ornamental mixed planting beds, allowing for visual privacy when seated. These areas provide seclusion and personal space while still allowing for neighbour interaction. Views across the landscape are highlighted with feature trees to provide seasonal interest. These spaces are valuable for individual activities such as reading and crafts, averting attention from the busy pace of the surrounding entrance and parking area.

Streetscene

In any new landscape, sympathy with the surroundings and cohesion with the local vernacular is vital. The green frontage along Fitzalan Road, softens the impact of the development on local residents and wider environment. In addition, this planting provides a strong vertical emphasis working with the building design to create a site identity. The planting surrounding the building helps to bring the garden closer to the residents and provide a year-round display. The selected plants provide seasonal interest and a range of fragrances further enhancing the atmosphere of the site.

Communal Roof Terrace

The Communal Terrace is situated on the first floor providing an open area for residents to relax and enjoy socialising or personal time. Open to the elements, provision for both sunny and shadier seating areas are provided for residents to sit and enjoy the elevated views and tranquility. Like the ground floor terrace the space is furnished with comfortable, sofa-type seating and water-proof cushions with tables providing opportunities for numerous activities. Raised planting beds and planters soften the space providing colour, texture and scent.