

Residential ~ Former Hospital Conversion

“ELD has provided a combination of excellent service, high quality design philosophy and meeting of tight deadlines, in a constantly professional and friendly manner, which has led to the success of the project.”
Matt Kennington, KLH Architects.

Walnuttree Hospital, Sudbury, Suffolk



Landscape Masterplan Option A.



Landscape Masterplan Option B.



Existing Courtyard.



Existing Cedar Tree to be Retained.



Medieval Gatehouse to be retained.

Project Description

This proposed residential development is located within the grounds of a former Hospital of historical significance in Sudbury, Suffolk. The landscape proposal was developed to gain outline planning permission prior to the sale of the site. The scheme includes the conversion of the main Hospital building into apartments & the addition of a number of contemporary or traditional terraced houses, as illustrated with Option A & Option B.

The design philosophy in relation to hard & soft landscape, is to retain the majority of the existing vegetation structure, whilst providing a number of interesting, contemporary courtyards, that contrast, yet respect the 13th Century building origins, within a majority Victorian hospital building. The six courtyards aim to provide a socially interactive & visually stimulating space; to be enjoyed from private balconies and terraces & from within individual apartments. Many courtyards are located at the top of steps or ramps with elevated views; some of which contain existing trees and hedges that are to be retained. The majority of courtyards are shaded by the building structure, thus careful plant species choice is essential to reflect these microclimatic requirements, providing a thriving green outlook.

Opposite the raised courtyards, the proposed, terraces will look over an area of communal open space, through a tree lined Mill Race to water meadows beyond. The traditional housing in Option A will have rear gardens, bounded by close board fences, each laid to grass & containing a pair of fastigate Hornbeam trees to create a vertical green focus between built forms, with small hard landscaped front terraces. The contemporary housing in Option B will have green Sedum roofs with generous, elevated front garden terraces bounded by hedges and railings and underground car parking.

Between the Mill Race & the terraces is a communal open space bordered by mature trees along the water's edge, which can also be seen from some of the raised hospital courtyards. It contains mown grass & woodland edge style, wild flower meadows & extensive bulb planting, with trees acting as a barrier to waterside access. Centrally, a small LAP is provided, with a contemporary bench for visitors, a colourful mushroom seat & table combined with a tactile panel for infants, set within a rubber, resin bound mulch.

ELD Requirements

- To work within the design team to produce a residential masterplan for the site.
- To produce attractive landscape proposals with outline specifications for a public consultation event.
- To adequately resolve site design issues prior to an outline planning application.

ELD Challenges

- Accommodating existing trees for proposed vehicular access without damaging tree roots.
- Incorporating multiple options.
- Rapid program of design & presentation delivery.
- Attendance at a public consultation event.

Project Particulars

Client: West Suffolk NHS Trust
 Architects: KLH Architects



Public consultation Exercise.