

Thursday, June 21, 2018

oxfordtimes.co.uk/homes



The extraordinary 5.5m single glass pane on the southern side of the house slides fully open

Special home picks up prestigious prize

Denise Barkley
news@nqo.com

A TEAM of architects pushed the boundaries to create a sensational new house at Boars Hill, which has just won the regional award for Best Individual New Home at the prestigious Local Authority Building Control (LABC) Awards.

Star of this fabulous house with panoramic views towards Abingdon is a 2.5m x 5.5m single glass pane on the south-facing façade, which slides fully open. The size of this moving panel was unprecedented for the glazing manufacturer and a bespoke frame was designed to cope with the sheer size and loading of it, plus a cutting edge track system and running gear to support the weight of the glass.

With 90 per cent of the

southern exterior being glass, the design by West Midlands-based Khoury Architects incorporates louvres and blinds which operate automatically depending on the internal temperature and external wind conditions. The considerable drop for the louvre system would usually require a lightweight steel frame but, in the pursuit of purity of view, the architects pushed for a bespoke cable system, resulting in the manufacturer producing its longest drop cable installation to date.

Innovation and excellent design combine super-effectively in this fabulous house, utilising the natural gradient of the site to create a single-storey entrance which opens out into a double-height lounge and suspended mezzanine office, making the most of the

panoramic views.

There is also a cantilevered master bedroom suite suspended over a swimming lake which is an integral part of the sustainable drainage system. With a budget of £1.5m, construction began in autumn 2014 and was completed on budget in 2017.

Heidi Alden, company secretary at Khoury Architects, said: "We are delighted with our win at the LABC awards as it recognises our ability to combine technical excellence with beautiful design."

"Our response to a challenging brief has resulted in a stunning family home with maximises the opportunities presented by an exceptional site and exceeds client expectations in all respects."

RPA Architects, of Upton, near Didcot, were highly

commended for Best Extension or Alteration to an Existing Home for its design of a house at Childrey, near Wantage, at the regional LABC Awards.

Described as a 'mini-masterpiece' by planners at the South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Council, architect Alice Gurney met the clients' brief and solved a recurring conundrum by taking a dilapidated 1960s building and turning it into something modern and distinctive which would sit well in a conservation area. ABS General Builders of Faringdon went on to construct a very special home.

The Boars Hill house is now in the running for the LABC National Awards in November and it has been entered for the *Sunday Times* British Homes Awards.

Andrew Khoury, MD of Khoury Architects and Heidi Alden, company secretary, both pictured centre, receive the LABC award for best individual new home from, left, Steven Ellis, area sales manager Actis Insulation, and, right, Chris Griffiths-Jones, LABC President



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