

North-West Cambridge Housing

5th Studio have recently completed work on the initial stage of design work for a major new residential development on the edge of Cambridge - as part of the University's North-West Cambridge masterplan. Working as part of a team with Fielden Clegg Bradley and Mole Architects, 5th Studio have been responsible for contributing to the overall masterplan, in addition to designing a total of 68 dwellings within the site.

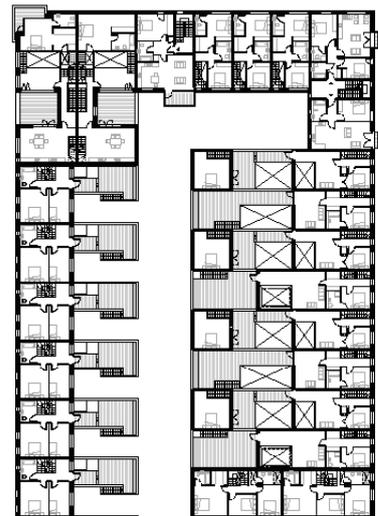
Our work included the design of two complete urban blocks - comprising a diverse mix of house and apartment types arranged around a rear mews lane. The garages within the mews are used as to structure a series of private external spaces within the interior of the block, working on multiple levels from ground to roof - small gardens, courtyards, patios and raised terraces. These are intimate private spaces - but they are also part of a bigger landscape, intended to help generate a sense of neighbourly communality.

The house types within the block were designed specifically to contribute and respond to this landscape - with strong connections between the interior rooms and external spaces. The diversity of house types is also used to generate a distinctive architectural language for the block - combining calmly ordered terraced streets with more distinctive buildings at the corner of the block.

'LONGPLOT' HOUSES

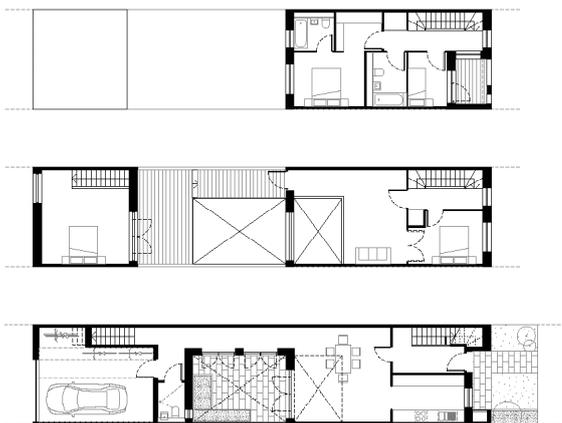
These 4-bed houses occupy narrow, deep plots facing south-east, presenting a consistent 'townhouse' elevation to the street. At the rear, each house has a garage which establishes a first floor terrace - with a second living space or gallery at first floor level opening directly onto this. Some of the houses also have ground level / courtyards.

The variety in these house types helps to establish a rich set of gardens and terraces at the rear which contribute to the overall character of the block interior.



Above - Isometric showing the overall configuration of the mews block and the landscape of gardens and terraces within the interior.

Right - First floor plan which shows the mix of typologies within the block.





'NOTCH' HOUSES

These are wide-frontage 3-bedroom houses which accommodate a private garden and garage across the width of the plot at the rear - resulting in a 'notched' plan form.

Below - View from living room towards the garden.

The garden faces south-east, allowing morning sunlight to penetrate along the garden and into the living room. The roof of the garage establishes a raised terrace at first floor level, which captures the afternoon sun and is linked to the garden via an external staircase. The kitchen benefits from a rooflight from the terrace above.

Above - View looking along the mews.

The gardens are open to the lane - bringing a rhythmic presence of garden and landscape which helps to give the mews a particular character.

