

800 Years at All Saints Church

The Design Group was pleased to support the celebrations marking 800 years of All Saints Church with a wonderful flower display created by Joyce Horkley.

For those who missed it, the display was inspired by St Barbara – one of the patron saints of architects.

The legend goes that Barbara was a beautiful maiden imprisoned in a high tower by her father Dioscorus for disobedience. Her imprisonment led to her association with towers, then the construction and maintenance of them...



Date For Your Diary

Talk & AGM

7:30pm Tuesday 15th March
Cottenham Community Centre
(Opposite the Co-Op)

March 2011

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

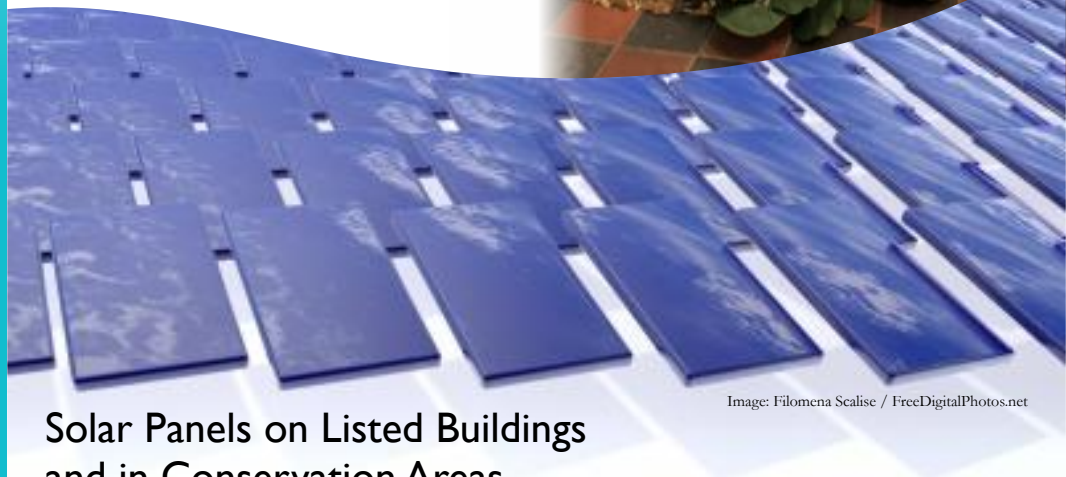


Image: Filomena Scalise / FreeDigitalPhotos.net

Solar Panels on Listed Buildings and in Conservation Areas

Harnessing solar energy sources upon our roofs through the use of photovoltaics has become very popular in recent times to provide renewable energy and save money. The Cottenham Village Design Group is hosting a presentation on the use of solar panels, with consideration of listed buildings and those located within a conservation area. First hand examples will be provided based on the experiences

of others who have installations undertaken as part of a local village energy project in Histon and Impington.

The talk will be held at the Cottenham Community Centre on 15th March at 7:30pm, and will be followed by the group's Annual General Meeting.

Entrance is free. Members and non-members welcome. Refreshments will be provided.



Accordia Cambridge, RIBA Stirling Prize Winner 2008

Described by the developers as “an urban rug on a carpet of landscape”, the Accordia development off of Brooklands Avenue, Cambridge, just had to be worth a visit. And so it was, on a chilly Saturday morning during October, that a team of Design Group members found ourselves on the corner of Brooklands and Aberdeen Avenues – the starting point for an “audio walk” prepared by Shape East (a charity that seeks to provide a positive influence on the quality of urban design and the built environment through supporting the professional community, engaging the public and facilitating debate and understanding between the two).

The tour involved a dozen or so “stops” where we were introduced to different buildings or different aspects of the development.

Highlights were:

- The Bronze Building – an unusual multi-faceted, metal-clad apartment building, placed at the crossroads of the site and surrounded by big trees.
- Villas – significant buildings with generous entrance areas, multi-level inside spaces and deep landscaped frontages, mirroring some of the historic villas in the area.
- Affordable Housing – sharing the same ethos, bold design and materials, rental and shared-ownership social homes make up 30% of the development.
- Timber Framed Apartments – large buildings with exposed green oak frames, generous exterior space in the form of balconies, some overlooking Hobson's Brook green space.

I found the site to be much larger than expected; it accommodated a range of housing types from villas and terraces through quite substantial apartment blocks to affordable housing units. Overall, the density was relatively high and although few conventional private gardens were provided, the extensive communal and non-private green space and mature landscaping gave the development a green and spacious feel.

A clue to the former ownership of the site (Ministry of Defence and other government departments) can be found in the SW corner, where a Cold War underground nuclear bunker can be seen. Recently Grade II listed, the building is currently fenced-off and unused and seems to face an uncertain future.

(continues on next page)



award winning homes at accordialiving



Cottenham Village Design Group

Newsletter Issue 11 - February 2011 (cont.)

The Accordia development has been nominated for and won many awards since work on-site commenced in 2003. By 2008, the completed phase 1 became the first housing development project to win the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) Stirling Prize – considered to be the most prestigious architecture award in the United Kingdom.

The site does have some issues though. There is poor connectivity – the development essentially forming a large but rectilinear cul-de-sac.



There are no on-site commercial facilities meaning that residents need to leave the development to shop or obtain everyday services (although one small commercial unit will shortly be available). There are also parking problems – although all private houses have either integral garages or individual, integral car courts, these do not seem to be widely used for parking. There is therefore considerable parking on pavements, to the detriment of pedestrians. The scheme has been designed with limited on street

parking and this has quickly become an issue for residents and visitors.

We completed the visit with an internal viewing of the only remaining show-house – a spacious terraced property arranged over four floors.



Although lavishly furnished, comfortable and reasonably roomy, the expensive price tag, parking and other limitations meant that we were happy to return to our more modest properties in Cottenham.

An excellent visit, enjoyed by all.

*Steven Poole
Committee Member*



Visit www.shape-east.org.uk/tours to view and download this audio tour. It is free to use and may be followed at any time.



Email membership@cvdg.org
Web www.cvdg.org

