

MCNEIL STREET RIVERSIDE, GLASGOW



LOCATION: GLASGOW, SCOTLAND
COMPLETION: JUNE 2012
VALUE: £4.8M
SIZE: 49 UNITS
SERVICE: ARCHITECTURE
SECTOR: RESIDENTIAL
CLIENT: NEW GORBALS HOUSING ASSOCIATION
CONTRACTOR: CCG SCOTLAND
SERVICES: URS SCOTT WILSON
COST CONSULTANT: ARMOUR CONSTRUCTION CONSULTANTS
SUSTAINABILITY CONSULTANTS: GAIA ARCHITECTS

NGHA commissioned Austin-Smith:Lord to design 49 'very sustainable homes' setting the challenge of developing an approach to energy efficient housing that was transferable and the housing association could apply in the future. Designs for the derelict brownfield site were developed in close consultation with the client and their tenant-led design committees and sought to reduce energy consumption and provide adaptable housing.



Working in collaboration with Gaia Architects, A-S:L's in-house sustainability accredited architects developed an 'eco-minimalist' design ethos in line with our long-standing, pragmatic approach to sustainable housing.

Breathable wall construction with excellent air-tightness characteristics and very high levels of insulation comfortably exceeded current Technical Standards and anticipated 2013 targets. This approach minimises energy consumption and avoids extraneous technology to achieve a low carbon approach that is robust and easily maintained.

The site has a wonderful riverside setting overlooking the Clyde and Glasgow Green. The urban block layout applies many of the established design characteristics of the New Gorbals area regeneration; a four storey perimeter block with a mix of flats and main door duplex housing around a communal garden court.

A shifting geometry maximises views to the river and Green from the flats. Bay windows, bespoke metalwork and subtle brick detailing enliven the principal street façades.

The block completes McNeil Street, framing the setting of the Victorian suspension footbridge to the Green. The McNeil Street terrace culminates in a striking 7 storey tower with dramatic corner balconies that command stunning panoramic views across Glasgow Green and the city.