

## *New Buildings* **HIGHLY COMMENDED**

### *Grey Lea House, Nightingale Road, Godalming*

Designed by Adams Associates  
Contractor: Alan Overton  
Owners: Andrew and Helen Berry  
Nominated by Trevor Adams



Grey Lea House is the replacement of an original 1950s dwelling on the same site. It was found to be more cost effective and environmentally more valuable to rebuild a replacement dwelling.

There are varying architectural styles in Nightingale Road, and so the owners and their architect decided on an Art Deco style. This became the central reference point from which the design developed internally and externally. Although the site is not within a conservation area, the Council's Historic buildings officer was consulted.

#### **Building Style - External Considerations**

The general design and proportions of the elevations were greatly influenced by the Art Deco period and in the spirit of this idea, a considerable amount of care and attention was given to detailing and proportioning, including parapet features, band courses, fenestration and the rendered external wall finishes. In addition, individual features were incorporated, such as the decorative, central 'wing' motif to the front elevation and the curved entrance lobby and door canopies.



Due to the main garden amenities, including views, being at the rear of the property, a slightly different approach to that of the front was adopted, which, while continuing in the spirit of Art Deco, allowed for larger glazed areas, enabling the occupants to enjoy a closer relationship with the garden and the picturesque views beyond.



### **Internal Layout and Detailing**

Although fundamentally of an Art Deco style externally, the interior spaces were designed primarily to accommodate a 21st century lifestyle. This approach was carried through from the 'open plan' style central core of the house in the kitchen/family area and into the building services themselves, which provide for environmental considerations such as a 'rain harvesting' system which collects rainwater, filters and purifies and then re-circulates back to the house for w.c.s, washing machine and external taps water use, solar panels to the roof, and a heat exchange/re-circulation system which utilises the cool and warm air produced in



different parts of the building and creates a balanced temperature at low power use, avoiding the need for mechanical extract, other than a dedicated cooker hood.

On the ground floor in particular, many internal design details follow the Art Deco theme, including the doors and door handles, the vaulted dining room ceiling, the kitchen cabinetry and the curved, glass brick wall features.

Upstairs and down, the bathrooms and shower rooms have been designed to evoke the glamorous side of Art Deco, with colourful wall tiling and simple, yet high quality installations, appearing very much of a past time, yet artfully disguising their 21st century technology.

### ***Judges Comments:***

*“Like the hard landscaping details that echo the design of the house”*

*“The front is art deco mid thirties while the rear is early 1930s modernist”*

*“an innovative design – brave and cheeky!”*

*“the lighting in the upstairs corridor is very good”*

*“great attention to detail, particularly like the double drops in the dining room ceiling and the staircase”*