

SCHÜCO resi|02²⁰¹⁷

The Schueco UK Trade Residential News Update



How to future-proof a home

Ensure that its architecture is clean and uncompromising; that its thermal performance is state-of-the-art; that its internal comfort is unsurpassed and that its specification includes sliding doors, windows and entrance doors from Schueco.

For German engineering made in Britain, there's only one name.

Inventive design provides solution for difficult north London site

The growing popularity of the annual **Schueco Excellence Awards** means that not all submissions that deserve recognition end up as winners. This case study of a development in north London is an example of how clever design can make **best use of a problematic space**.

Among the entries for the 2016 Schueco Excellence Awards was one that illustrates how architects are increasingly being asked to find solutions for sites which at one time would have been considered too difficult for commercial development.

Nutley Terrace is a recently completed new-build residential scheme designed by Belsize Architects that perfectly complements its Hampstead surroundings. A varied palette of glass, timber and stone creates an attractive and durable façade that incorporates a series of spacious private roof terraces and balconies, all accessed by Schueco sliding doors.

Originally occupied by a row of six single-storey garages, this north London brownfield site had previously defied attempts at development owing to such apparently intractable problems as multiple ownership, party-wall agreements and a lack of external construction space.



Top floor with access to balcony via Schueco ASS 50 lift-and-slide door

However, when approached by a private client in early 2013, Belsize Architects were confident that they could come up with a scheme that would be financially viable and that would also be a practical proposition in terms of the building logistics.

Their solution relied on maximising the new building envelope by building as close as possible to the adjacent six-storey, 1940s apartment block, using different levels and including a habitable basement running under the entire site.

After two years' work, the £3.4 million project – with B & G Construction as the main contractors – was successfully completed in April 2015. Instead of the former dilapidated garages, there are now two spacious contemporary townhouses.

Each house is light and airy with all the detailing – from timber staircases to vertical stone cladding – finished to a high specification. Living and entertaining areas are arranged on the upper storeys to make the most of the views over London, with bedrooms and other more private spaces underneath.

As is usual in much contemporary design, the glazing – much of which has been constructed using systems from Schueco UK – is crucial. On the front elevation, for example, Schueco FW 50* SG double-glazed curtain walling has been used for the full-height glazing with Schueco AWS 102 top-hung inserts with bonded vents.

Access to and from the top-floor balcony is by means of a Schueco ASS 50 lift-and-slide, thermally insulated sliding door. This level also has a Schueco ADS 65 swing door which, in addition to being an extremely economical entrance solution, also delivers exceptional 'U' values (down to U_d 1.56 W/m²K) and security up to EN 1627 WK2.

These impressive 'U' values contribute to the sustainability of the houses, both of which incorporate low-energy LED lighting and have heating systems that make use of high-efficiency heat exchangers.

Commenting on the decision to specify Schueco, Shahria Nasser of Belsize Architects says, 'Originally, we had been looking at one or two companies that do everything bespoke, but the price was quite high. In order to cut costs, we looked at different options that would still fulfil our design criteria in terms of a frameless window with an openable section, fire glass etc.'

'With the help of our glazing subcontractor, Northolt Glass Architectural, we decided that Schueco was the right choice as their systems offered both the high quality and the flexibility that we were looking for.'

Left: Front elevation of Nutley Terrace, Hampstead, London