

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Cannock Mill Cohousing Colchester wins 2023 Passivhaus Trust award



Cannock Mill Cohousing has won first prize for a Residential New Build in the 2023 Passivhaus Trust awards. The award recognises this outstanding project's success as a certified Passivhaus eco build. The award ceremony was held at the Museum of London and online on 5 July. Prizes were awarded in three categories for the best certified Passivhaus projects with monitoring data to prove how they are combating the cost-of-living crisis for occupants, striving towards zero carbon climate targets, and demonstrating solutions across several building typologies.

Anne Thorne, architect of the scheme and a Cannock Mill homeowner, said: "We have been here for nearly four years and really appreciate the benefits of living in our eco homes. Not only do the Passivhaus features save us money on energy bills but they also provide warm, peaceful, sun-filled spaces which are a joy to inhabit."

In these times of high energy prices Passivhaus buildings really come into their own - triple glazing, thick insulation using sustainable materials and a mechanical ventilation system with high levels of heat recovery all lead to exceptionally low energy bills.

Cannock Mill Cohousing is an intentional community in Colchester. The 30 members own their own homes and share two acres of land and a converted mill which is used as a 'common house' or hub for activities including cooking, sharing some meals and socialising to build a strong sense of community.

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Notes to editors:

1. Photographs available from Jane Ferguson (details above).
2. Further information on Cannock Mill is available at cannockmillcohousingcolchester.co.uk; a [short video about Cannock Mill](#) was filmed for the Passivhaus awards ceremony; technical information about the project is available on the [Passivhaus Trust website](#).
3. Cohousing is common in other European countries and in the USA but is a fairly new and growing concept in the UK. Further information on cohousing is available from the [UK Cohousing Network](#). Cannock Mill Cohousing is one of a handful of purpose-built cohousing communities in the UK, and a first for Essex.
4. Cannock Mill Cohousing was designed by [Anne Thorne Architects](#) an award-winning practice specialising in low energy sustainable design.
5. [The Passivhaus Trust](#) (PHT) is an independent industry leading organisation that promotes the adoption of Passivhaus in the UK. PHT is part of the global Passivhaus movement and the official UK affiliate of the International Passive House Association (iPHA).

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