



view west towards house



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Private House in the Countryside, Malvern Hills

A private lake on a smallholding in the Malvern Hills District provided an idyllic setting for a new private house in the open countryside. The proposals were subject to the scrutiny of the MADE design review process which assisted the planning application process. Planning consent was gained under NPPF Paragraph 55 in 2014. The house and outbuildings which support the smallholding have been constructed as a self-build project.

The MADE design review panel commented on the design proposals:

"An outstanding or innovative private house often begins with a strong vision about how the clients want to live their lives in their new home. That is certainly present here. The reworking of the idea of the traditional farmstead with the animals close to the living accommodation provides a compelling narrative and we now feel it has been expressed through an integrated design for the house and its surroundings. The house has three aspects: a luxurious lakeside residence, a working farmyard and a public point of arrival for visitors. We now feel that each of these is well expressed."


"The arrival point for visitors is now well expressed through the termination of the drive... The light and generous hallway with open stairway adjacent provides a proper sense of arrival for a grand house. We like the way the driveway down to the house has been configured to allow views of the lake to appear and disappear."

"Although it is not explicit in the NPPF we always interpret the requirement to be outstanding or innovative to include high ambitions in terms of sustainability. The approach that has been taken here, which prioritises materials, massing and design to achieve energy efficiency through passive means is commendable. The approach to ecology and biodiversity is also to be applauded."

"In conclusion we are pleased to say that we think that in their concept and application these proposals are both outstanding and innovative and therefore do reach the standard required by Paragraph 55."

Floor Area: 427sqm
Construction Cost: Not declared
Procurement: Client self-build
Planning Permission: November 2014





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