

ANNUAL REPORT: 2022 - 2023

ABOUT AINSLEY GOMMON ARCHITECTS

Ainsley Gommon is a leading Chartered Practice of Architects and Urban Designers with a extensive experience in all areas of housing, schools and colleges, healthcare and community projects, heritage buildings and regeneration. The practice promotes collaborative working, sustainability and environmental responsibility in the design, construction and operation of buildings and in our approach to placemaking.

Ainsley Gommon has operated across the United Kingdom from offices in England and Wales for 45 years meeting the demands of small, medium size and larger projects while calling on areas of design specialism such as churches, conservation, master-planning and designing for charities and individuals with particular or complex needs. We continue to grow our range of services and skill base which also includes the role of Client Advisor, Principal Designer, SAP and Energy Performance Assessor and RIBA Conservation Architect.

We work proactively with our clients, fellow consultants and contractors to produce buildings, places, reports and studies of high quality and to deliver projects on time and within budget. We are customer focused and regularly benchmark ourselves using RIBA Benchmarking as well as being independently audited in all areas of our activity and on the quality of our services on a wide range of projects.

We have always operated a fully transparent and inclusive management system and in March 2023 we completed our transition to an Employee Ownership Trust, to ensure a sustainable future for the practice and by doing so enhancing the opportunities for all employees to develop their careers with us and for senior staff to progress to be future leaders of the practice.

Continuous improvement, training and personal development are fundamental to Ainsley Gommon's principles and seen as essential to the future well being of our business. Our Investors in People 'Gold' accreditation supports our long term commitment to staff development.

Our commitment to Building Information Modelling (BIM) and IT enhances our collaborative working methods and the services we provide and helps us to support our clients and construction partners using the most up to date design and presentation tools.

Cover photo: Our Employee Ownership Trust celebration day took place in May 2023, when we visited the Grade I Listed landscape of Birkenhead Park. Sixteen staff from our Birkenhead and Hawarden offices met at Birkenhead office, before starting the day with a building visit to the award-winning Visitor Centre the practice designed in 2005. The day continued with an informal walk through the park exploring the gardens and structures designed by renown Landscape Gardener Joseph Paxton. The day forms part of our ongoing programme of continued professional development.

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Annual Review: 2022 - 2023

Achievements

- May 2023: AGA wins 3 awards at the LABC North Wales Building Excellence Awards: Crown buildings, Wrexham wins Best Large Commercial Project. Plas Farrar, Bangor wins Best Volume Housing Developer. Station Road, Bethesda wins Best Housing Developer for 10-20 Dwellings.
- Jun 2023: AGA were successfully approved onto the ForHousing Consultants Services Framework.
- Jul 2023: Successful Surveillance Audit of our Integrated Management System to maintain ISO 9001 2015 & ISO 14001 2015 certification.
- Oct 2023: 509-515 Lord Street, Southport wins two awards; Best Heritage Scheme and Best Overall Scheme at Sefton Council Awards.



People

- Mar 2023: Elliott Deevy joins AGa as Architectural Assistant and along with Georgia Taylor start training for their RIBA Part 3 Architects Exams.
- Apr 2023: AGA celebrate becoming an Employee Ownership Trust (EOT) in Birkenhead Park. Maurice Garnett is made Technical Director; Arwyn Lloyd becomes Associate Director; and Tom McEvoy and Rachel Johnston are made Associates.
- May 2023: AGA participate in Liverpool Townhouse Competition.
- Jun 2023: AGA attend the Chartered Institute of Housing Conference in Manchester.
- Sep 2023: Former director Mark French director retires after serving the practice for over 35 years.
- Oct 2023: Staff wore pink for Wear It Pink charity to help raise money and awareness for Breast Cancer.



Rachel and Tom became Associates



New Leadership Roles for Maurice and Arwyn



Practice celebrates transition to EOT

Projects: Over the last 12 months, we have worked on a wide range of projects. These are just some of those:

- 1 Frondeg, a new sheltered housing development for over 55's older person apartments in Pwllheli was handed over in November 2023. The 28 new homes for Adra are located on a tight urban site designed in keeping with the scale and mass of the former school building.
- 2 Frampton Road in Gorseinon, a new specialist housing in South Wales, is handed over in June 2023 for First Choice Housing. The semi-independent living village provides 4 bungalows and a shared home for 4 adults with care team, offices and communal facilities.
- 3 The Warren Drive scheme in Thornton-Cleveleys is completed in Spring 2023 for Lovell Partnership. The development offers 86 new homes, including affordable units and Help to buy options in the new community.
- 4 Completed in Autumn '23, 58 Hope Street involved the restoration of a Grade II listed building in Wrexham City Centre's Conservation Area, as part of the THI works. This involved restoring the Victorian shop front and converting upper floors into residential spaces.
- 5 Gladstone Library, a Grade I listed building in Hawarden requires essential works. A listed building application was submitted in Dec 2023. Works include repairs and remediation to the slate roof and front entrance porch.
- 6 In September 2023 planning approval was gained for Carr Lane East, a new residential scheme on brownfield land in Croxteth, on behalf of Cobalt Housing.
- 7 Works were completed in Autumn 2023 for the refurbishment and internal reordering of Castleway Primary School in Leasowe, Wirral. Spaces were reconfigured to accommodate a nursery and additional pupil numbers in classrooms.
- 8 Maes Bleddyn, Rachub near Bethesda for Adra was handed over in October 2023. The family housing scheme is one of 4 low energy projects forming the North Wales collaboration for the Innovative Housing Programme (IHP4) funded by Welsh Government.
- 9 Dec 2023: Planning Approval granted to convert listed Rydal School to 34 apartments and 34 family houses in Colwyn Bay for Castlegreen Homes included Heritage Statement and production of site wide CGI 3D visuals.
- 10 The Laureates in Cockermouth was completed this year on behalf of Lovell Partnership. The scheme provided 213 new homes of a number of phases, with AGa helping to design 18 new housetypes for the site.



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