



Scottish Housing Day

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Rowanbank Gardens, Edinburgh: a spectacular blueprint for post-Covid living with immaculate environmental credentials

Artisan Real Estate's new development at Rowanbank Gardens in Corstorphine, Edinburgh combines immaculate environmental credentials with a spectacular blueprint for post-Covid living. This niche development provides contemporary living space for 126 apartments, creating a unique green haven in a vibrant city centre environment whilst providing fossil fuel-free low carbon accommodation.

Homes have been designed around an internal courtyard garden filled with fruit trees, communal planting and growing beds, as well as a natural woodland area and formal lawns. A vast extent of former hard-landscaping is being transformed into green space - including 148 new trees, more than 500 metres of hedging and almost 700 sq metres of planting - plus a residents' courtyard for growing rosemary, mint, strawberries, fennel, oregano and sage.



Green space and community wellbeing

This extensive ecological enhancement creates not just seldomly seen green space in the local urban context, but also introduces new species into the site - including ten new tree types, six new hedge and 18 new planting species, plus more than 70 sq metres of climbing ivy. This emphasis on green space creates a strong sense of community wellbeing, with communal fruit tree orchards, raised allotment planters and even a community potting shed!

Green space and ecological improvement is not just limited to the ground level with the roof covering providing some 1160 sq metres of green roof. This has a dual function of not only enhancing the ecological value of the site, but also capturing surface water rainfall. This contributes to a wider climate change resilience strategy for the sewer infrastructure geared to tackle more extreme wet weather events.

Smart eco-focused apartment design

Within the apartments themselves, innovative air-source heat pump technology produces heating and hot water by using waste heat within the extract ventilation air stream. Each apartment has the ability to retain heat on average 20% better than current Scottish technical standards.

This produces low heat loads throughout the year, and with the apartments containing various sources of heat gains – such as cookers, people and TVs – there is a stream of warm energy which can easily be recycled. This is supported by larger than average solar gain, with well-positioned windows to maximise natural sunlight.

This approach of fabric-first demand reduction and heat recovery and energy recycling, coupled with innovative apartment concealed heat pumps, allows for traditional gas solutions to be abandoned altogether. The estimated annual fuel bill for a two-bedroom apartment is less than £450 per year. With these design strategies, the building will continue to emit less carbon dioxide year on year as the nationwide National Grid decarbonises. If current Scottish National Grid renewable contributions are taken into account, the development is practically zero carbon in operation as it stands.

Sustainable travel provision

Externally, 100% of the on-site car parking offering is fully equipped with electric vehicle infrastructure to allow all car owners to go green. The sustainable travel offering is further enhanced through the incorporation of almost 300 cycle storage points. With the development being located just a 15-minute cycle ride from Haymarket and Edinburgh city centre, the appeal of avoiding old modes of polluting travel couldn't be stronger.

For more information, visit www.rowanbankgardens.com