

RIBA Stirling Prize shortlist: NEO Bankside

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NEO Bankside (C) Edmund Sumner

UK Construction Media takes a closer look at NEO Bankside, the RIBA National Award winning residential blocks, shortlisted for the RIBA Stirling Prize.

Native Land and Grosvenor jointly developed the residential scheme located in the Bankside area of London, close to the River Thames. It was designed by Stirk Harbour + Partners and comprises 217 residential units in four buildings that range from 12 to 24 storeys.

Alasdair Nicholls, Chief Executive of Native Land, said: "To be shortlisted for this highly respected award is a great honour for our joint venture. It is great to see the hard work of our team recognised via this nomination. The coveted Stirling Prize is an endorsement of the highest standards of architecture, something we always aspire to deliver in our development projects."



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RIBA said of the NEO Bankside residential scheme: “Project-directed by partner Graham Stirk, an architect with a watch-maker’s precision, this is a tour de force: in its achievement of density, in its use of economical pre-fabricated elements, in its intricate weaving of public and private space. The form and positioning of the blocks with their counter-intuitively chamfered corners mean there are very few pinch points and little overlooking, allowing 360 degree views out. Coupled with the exo-skeletal structure and the nearly detached lift-towers, the floor plates have been freed up making the scheme more market-responsive.

“The articulation of the buildings, the expressed diagrid structure (argued for by the engineers, it was to have been hidden), the quality of the glazing systems and the external lifts make the scale feel almost cute. This is also due to the single-glazed large triangular winter gardens that dematerialise the ends of the blocks and the triple-height structural module which reduces their perceived height. The buildings retain a human scale at ground level due to their rich detailing and landscaped entrance gardens.

This is high-quality housing you would be unlikely to see elsewhere in the world in the inner city – and it is ungated. Overall the scheme has a scale and a richness that is appropriate to the practice and to this important part of London.”

The winner of the RIBA Stirling Prize will be announced in October.