ECS 2026 Awards Descriptions

Ealing Studios

The multi-million pound expansion of the studios includes a state-of-the-art 14,000 sq ft stage and the Balcon Building, both designed to be Net Zero Carbon and setting a new benchmark for the creative industries in the UK and beyond. The new buildings are an industry-first, achieving net-zero carbon status through on-site renewable technology, without reliance on carbon offset payments. This pioneering development delivers zero-emission operations powered entirely by renewable energy.

The expansion comprises Stage 1 and the Balcon Building, which together provide a 14,000 sq ft sound stage, two advanced workshops (7,000 sq ft total) and 25,000+ sq ft of modern office space. Awarded an EPC A+ rating (the highest standard of energy efficiency), the new development at Ealing Studios has been designed to a BREEAM Outstanding accreditation, a recognition achieved by fewer than 1% of buildings nationwide.

Alongside these new facilities, 10,000 sq ft of existing production space has been refurbished as part of the site's overall redevelopment, where Grade II-listed stages sit alongside sustainable innovation.

South Ealing Cemetery

Located adjacent to an estate with many issues of social deprivation, the cemetery was a large, under-utilised green space with a recent history of anti-social behaviour causing many residents to avoid it. At the same time the wildlife, diversity of tree species, unexplored local history and the impressive Gothic Revival architecture of the disused chapels all contributed to the view that the opportunity existed for the cemetery to become a very special place under the right stewardship.

Based on feedback from passers-by and local residents it was clear that the priority was to make the space feel safe and welcoming. Initial volunteer sessions concentrated in the Old Cemetery: improving sightlines along the Main Drive by cutting back overgrown foliage, crown lifting shrubs / trees and litter picking. The reaction received from visitors was immediate, as was the sharp fall-off in drug activity and drinking groups.

Through regular work parties Ealing Parks Foundation developed a reliable group of volunteers who carried out many works including relaying side paths with woodchip from recycled Ealing Christmas Trees, planting spring bulbs and wildflower seeds at key focal points around the entrance and roundabout, installing/cleaning out bird boxes, clearing tombstones of moss and ivy, cleaning and pigeon proofing the archway and installation of history information panels and a photo exhibition on the perimeter of the chapels for the benefit of casual visitors.

Through a series of open days and a regular pop-up market, new volunteers were recruited, visitors were welcomed on guided tours on several themes and UWL students were engaged in projects.

In summary, EPF have enhanced the environment/landscaping of the Old Cemetery by creating a clean, welcoming site; publicising the space and giving 'permission' to visit; increasing footfall, deterring anti-social behaviour and offering a diverse programme of activities.

North Acton Square

North Acton Square is a community-led public-space project beside North Acton Underground Station. The Republic - Community Projects took on a five-year licence from the London Borough of Ealing and, working with Ealing Council, OPDC and local partners, transformed an underused square into an active, welcoming place for local residents, workers, students and visitors.

The scheme introduced six adapted 20-foot shipping containers for small independent businesses and creative occupiers. Their glazed sliding doors animate the square and allow activity inside the units to remain visible from the public realm. A new community building,

known as the Village Hut, provides flexible space for meetings, classes, workshops and local groups. A gardeners' shed, yard and WC support volunteers caring for the surrounding planting and make sustained community use of the square practical.

Physical improvements were accompanied by renewed planting, removal of graffiti, deep cleaning and the opening up of views from Victoria Road. Community participation has continued after completion through regular volunteer gardening, public events, creative activity and affordable workspace. The square now supports a mix of enterprise, culture and informal gathering, with day-to-day occupation helping to create greater activity, care and natural surveillance.

Wyndham Road

Refurbishment and extension of an Edwardian terrace house.

The project concerned the remodelling and extension of the ground floor and conversion of the loft space with a dormer extension, to provide contemporary living spaces to suit a young and growing family. The existing property, whilst in reasonable structural condition, had a compromised spatial configuration, particularly at ground floor. By holistically appraising the entire spatial arrangement and introducing a clear sequence of new rooms and niches, the designs mediate between quiet space and lively family space. A structural column and carefully positioned internal and external openings distinguish notional spaces from one another, in an otherwise open plan. New openings dramatically vary in size throughout, overlooking a verdant garden characterised by a distinctive Mimosa tree.

Externally, brick is used at ground floor, with a subtle shift from the traditional yellow stock. Stacked, along with concrete elements, the modest rear extension takes on a proud character. At loft level, windows are set flush with cementitious panel cladding, to express a simple volume added to the roofscape.

Fallen Oak

Fallen Oak House is a low-carbon refurbishment of an Arts and Crafts house within Brentham Garden Suburb. An ailing conservatory disconnected the primary rooms from the garden, amplified by being two steps lower than the original house and overheating in summer and frosting in winter was causing damage to the original fabric.

The client’s brief was simple: create a greater garden connection, draw more light into their home, complement the existing character with contemporary elements, introduce more flexibility and storage, and spend their budget sparingly. Rather than remove the conservatory and go back to a blank canvas, the project sought to achieve as much as possible with as little intervention as possible. A precise audit of existing elements led to a strategy of retaining everything possible.

The original home, designed by G. Sutcliffe, served as the canvas and catalyst for the changes to come: rhythms of red brick and roughcast panels are echoed in the elevation of the solid oak sun room; mouldings, architraves and archival imagery inspiring new decorative elements throughout.

To the front, the dining room and living room inventions are light touch, with the most involved work being a light sand of the timber flooring. The kitchen and conservatory underwent more significant changes, combining the two in both plan and section. The door dividing them becomes a wider wall opening, and the kitchen floor is dropped to meet the sun room. A clay floor, inspired by the original red tiles of terraced homes within Brentham Garden Suburb, stitches the two together. A white-tiled ‘rug’ decoratively demarcates the new nook for pause and congregation.

A palette of reclaimed materials - procured locally, and from the site itself - feature throughout. The new garden room is constructed of timber from fallen West London trees. Offcuts from wall linings, floor finishes, and the extension itself are repurposed as architraves, stair risers and floor finishes in ancillary areas. Natural, bio-based materials were prioritised throughout:

solid timber, clay tile, stone counters, wool insulation. Alongside the policy of retention- and reclamation-first, the project prioritised procuring materials from England and Wales. Upgrading the exiting fabric, with internal insulation and triple-glazing, provides an environment that is now temperate throughout the year, finally marrying the home and the garden, a fitting ambition within a Garden Suburb.

UWL Entrance

The University of West London's transformation of the main entrance, reception and associated external areas at its St Mary's Road Campus represents a significant enhancement to the primary public facing gateway and its presence within the heart of Ealing.

The project has transformed the arrival experience for students, staff, visitors and members of the wider community, creating a contemporary, welcoming and accessible environment that provides a strong sense of identity on arrival at the University. A key feature of the refurbishment is the creation of a brighter, more open and inviting internal environment, with increased natural light and new seating areas. The inclusion of Coffee Union further strengthens the social function of the space, transforming what was once a transitional area into a vibrant destination.

Accessibility and inclusivity are integral to the renewed entrance. Step-free access, automatic entrance doors, ramped approaches with handrails and an accessible reception point ensure the facility can be used comfortably by all members of the University community and its visitors.

The external and landscaping works are equally important to the project's success enhancing the campus approach to the campus and strengthening its identity along St Mary's Road. Extensive new planting, including native and pollinator-friendly species, contributes to biodiversity, improves visual amenity and creates a greener, healthier setting for campus users and the wider community. The introduction of a green roof further enhances ecological value, improves thermal performance and assists in reducing urban heat island effects.

197 Pitshanger Lane

This two storey residential building with roof level accommodation provides 8 self-contained apartments, amenity space, refuse and cycle storage. The development seeks a sensitive densification of the under-utilised site located in a part of the Borough that is conveniently served by the local and regional transportation network and a local neighbourhood centre.

The prominent corner plot is diagonally opposite St Barnabas Church and the Brentham Estate Conservation Area. The architectural response has carefully consider the local context and other corner plots within the locality. Inspiration has been taken from St Barnabas Church in terms of the materiality, vertical proportions and the building entrance.

The building is finished in brick and stone with detailing to the heads and cills of the windows. The windows provide a vertical emphasis and chimneys have been incorporated to provide the building with a more traditional approach to the street scene.

Buckingham Avenue

A mixed tenure project delivering forty-one new homes for the London Borough of Ealing (LBE), comprising 25 affordable rental properties and 16 shared ownership homes across four residential blocks. The development transformed an exceptionally challenging site within a tired existing occupied estate, providing high-quality homes alongside significant improvements to the surrounding public realm.

The scheme incorporated a range of foundation solutions tailored to the site's varying and challenging ground conditions. This included vibrationless CFA piling, chosen to minimise

resident exposure to construction noise, to a depth of 20 metres for Block D. The remaining blocks were served via traditional more economic mass concrete foundations, representing an effective best value solution for the project which will stand the test of time. Constructed using a traditional brick and block build solution above ground with highly insulated cavity walls, the homes have very high levels of durability and energy efficiency. Through the superior insulation and airtight construction and Photovoltaic panels, carbon emissions are reduced and help the scheme deliver excellent new homes with lower running costs.

Alongside the residential accommodation, the project included extensive infrastructure and external works, including replacing redundant out of date garage forecourts with 137 permeable block-paved parking spaces, new street lighting, landscaping enhancements, balcony installations and associated site-wide improvements.

Sussex Crescent

A redevelopment of the former Northolt Park Social Club site, delivering 26 high-quality affordable rent apartments for the London Borough of Ealing (LBE). The scheme provides much-needed affordable housing within a carefully considered and designed four-storey residential building.

Designed in accordance with Passivhaus principles and in line with the GLA’s and Ealing Council's energy hierarchy of "Be Lean, Be Clean and Be Green", the development adopted a fabric-first approach to deliver exceptional comfort whilst maximising energy efficiency. Highly enhanced fabric performance was achieved through significant levels of insulation giving U-values which far surpass Building Regulations. This was further reinforced by measures to significantly reduce carbon emissions, heat loss, limit solar gain during warmer months and contribute to low energy consumption leading to reduced fuel bills for residents. These principles help deliver and create healthier, quieter, more resilient buildings. Photovoltaic panels further support the project's carbon reduction objectives and enhanced the environmental performance of the development.

Alongside the residential accommodation, the scheme includes disabled parking provision, secure cycle storage, refuse and recycling facilities, communal amenity space, dedicated play areas, and well detailed landscaping works. This has transformed the site, replacing existing hardstanding and underutilised green space with attractive outdoor areas which encourage community interaction and enhance biodiversity.