



*The award winning development*

Photograph courtesy of Great Homes Ltd

## **Daily Mail UK Property Award for developer Great Homes Ltd and Lee Evans Partnership's scheme - 09.11.07**

The winning development, Windsor Court, in Singleton, Ashford, Kent comprising of 46 one and two bedroomed high specification retirement apartments with state-of-the-art safety and security features was awarded Best Retirement Development in Kent in the Daily Mail UK Property Awards 2007.

Key to the success of winning the award was the design. Because of its size the development is a highly prominent feature of the semi-rural landscape and as such needed careful planning to ensure that its building mass did not overwhelm the surroundings. The three-storey building is simple in form. Two accommodation wings radiate out from a distinctive central 'hub' which houses the main entrance and reception area. The second floor of the development is concealed within the roof, which in turn is broken down by a series of traditional lead-lined dormer windows, hips and barn-end features. To reduce the impact of the roofline a central core punctuated with large lantern lights at regular intervals was introduced to flood light into the second floor corridor below. The mass of the timber-framed building is further diminished by the considered use of brick and weatherboard cladding, as well as a brick feature plinth at ground floor level.

The heritage of the area's rich local vernacular is echoed in the building's use of soft red and golden bricks which contrast with traditional white weatherboarding. The result is a very successful contemporary building which harmonises well with its surroundings.

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