

A House for Essex

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Client: Living Architecture

Main Contractor: Rose Builders

Architect: FAT

Package Value: £500K

Scope of Works:

A House for Essex represents a collaboration between artist Grayson Perry and FAT Architects for the social enterprise, Living Architecture. The exterior is entirely clad in faience tiles, 2300 units, custom-made by Shaws of Darwen and installed by Szerelmey. The largest of the tiles, which are a deep green, are 450 x 620 mm and feature a totemic-like design of a naked woman. These almost entirely cover the facade, interspersed with a pattern of smaller triangular shaped tiles, some green, some white, that feature a number of different designs such as safety pins,

cassettes, hearts, a decorative J, swirls and the Essex shield. All the tiles were individually hand fixed onto blockwork using stainless steel tie backs and expanding bolts. In addition to the cladding on the facades, Szerelmey also installed faience tiles to the complicated 2.5 m high chimney, fixing them to a metal substructure. The result is a highly sculptural, vaguely elliptical structure covered in a geometric pattern of green and white triangular tiles. The chimney alone accounts for 90 faience units.

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