



*Courtesy: Kruti Patel, Metropolitan Workshop*

## Introduction to Housing Design

28/04/2021

- **Great housing design can seem deceptively simple, but a range of angles need to be considered.** It's helpful to think of three key levels of design – how the development relates to the wider context; how the parts of the development work together and how the private spaces work.
- **The key characteristics of design are the underpinnings of good places.** Looking at the wider level includes a range of aspects including the connections to the wider area and city and ensuring a new place is rooted, while reaching forward to provide for current and future needs.
- **For the site level, great places will ensure privacy and the quality of private space while maximising active frontages and the quality of shared communal and circulation spaces.** Since the 1950s we have had a real struggle designing the ground floor spaces for flats well, this needs particular attention. Bins, bikes and cars should be carefully integrated and not allowed to dominate the space.
- **Inside areas should be designed with empathy** – considering the end user experience, creating a comfortable home, fostering social interaction and allowing for a community to flourish. We can't design homes in isolation - talk to people to ensure what you are building is relevant to them. Giving choice to homeowners allows them to personalise their home and give a sense of ownership and pride.
- **Consider varying ways of providing natural daylight but not at the expense of privacy.** Material choices are important to secure quality, provide character and ownership. Neighbourliness is key to harmonious environments and ensures the longevity of a place. And plan for the future, ensuring that homes will be durable and adaptable for the longer term.
- **Balance is important.** We need to make sure that what we deliver comes together to create the places that people want to live in - to create the conservation areas of the future.



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**Speakers:**

**Attendees: 67**

Kruti Patel, Metropolitan Workshop

Esther Kurland, Urban Design London

David Ogunmuyiwa, Architecture Doing Place

David Birkbeck, Design for Homes

David Dickerson, DK-Architects

Jamie Thompson, DK-Architect