COUNTRY HOUSE at WISWELL 2000

WINNING SCHEME

'This design scheme was unanimously placed first by the RIBA Assessors and the promoter Representatives and declared the competition winner.

'The scheme first stood out from the other entries because of an apparently eccentric siting of the house much deeper into the park than any of the assessors had anticipated. It was abundantly clear from the competitors' Written Report that the authors had familiarised themselves thoroughly with the topography of the site. The siting, setting, plan form, structure and design appearance arise directly from a well explained description of, and selection from, the existing terrain: the competition required a well integrated solution between building and landscape, and this has been achieved.

'In the Written Report, the authors claim that their approach to the choice of a position for the house was 'to try to build the site or, in other words, to reinforce the existing characteristics of the terrain.' They have succeeded, with a masterly hand.

John Tempest MBE RIBA MRTPI FRSA RIBA Assessor