

GRAHAM EVANS

Perry Barr (Commonwealth) Residential Scheme

It's as if *urban happiness* was the inspiration for the design of this new space.

Originally planned to house athletes for the successful 2022 Commonwealth games, COVID got in the way and the athletes had to put up with student accommodation.

Almost 1000 new homes have been built on the former Perry Barr campus site. It's got affordable and accessible housing, sports courts and wide smooth paving. Mature trees, large swathes of grass and a children's play area. They have even saved the old pub that is completely out of character with the modernity of the rest of the site. It's also got great access to public transport.

The square blocks are all of different heights, widths colours and design, so you know where you are on the development.

I couldn't get access to the site, but this worked out well as it meant I was able to capture some of the surrounding architecture which is in great contrast to these super sleek new builds. Can you spot them?

The building techniques used by the various contractors have taken advantage of modern methods, meaning the build finished in super-fast time. One example is the bathrooms that are factory built and just dropped into place reducing installation from days to hours.

The athletes might not have had the luxury of these places, but the people of Birmingham are definitely benefiting from the Commonwealth legacy.
