



## Southwark patchwork



Won in competition, Metaphorm's Library Street housing scheme is part of an initiative by the London Borough of Southwark to establish a new generation of mixed-tenure residential architecture that is affordable, light and flexible. Adopting a courtyard form, the development comprises forty units, ranging from large family flats to four-bedroom townhouses.

A stepped six-storey apartment block on the western side of the site combines generous loggias, terraces, balconies and winter gardens, with a landscaped roof garden. The living spaces are mostly orientated towards the south, east and west, maximising sunlight. All the upper floor windows are storey-high, providing good daylighting.

Enclosing a green open space to the

south, the six townhouses are planned around a first-floor piano nobile and feature high ceilings and full-width balconies.

In addition to scale and massing, materiality and detailing were viewed as key to integrating the building within its conservation area site. Making reference to the colour variation of the adjoining buildings, five different shades of brick were chosen for the external elevations. In contrast to the surrounding context, a slim-line brick was specified with a subtle hand-made appearance, laid in a random bond. The facades are articulated by projecting and receding, storey-high masonry panels in each of the five brick tones, together with white pre-cast concrete elements.

**Photos** Metaphorm (top), Dennis Gilbert (right).

