



A bespoke riverside home reimagines sloping terrain and views, blending timber, brick, and careful engineering into a striking sculptural architecture

Location: Alderbury, Wiltshire

Architect: AR Design Studio

Contractor: Matrod Frampton

Residential / Modern / Riverside / Award-winning



Design & Context

Ferry House, a replacement dwelling near Salisbury, sits above the River Avon with sweeping views towards Salisbury Cathedral. The home comprises three wings radiating from a central hub. From the approach, it reads as a single-storey pavilion; from the rear, a dramatic two-level façade is revealed. Clad in timber above a grey brick plinth, the structure harmonises with its wooded setting while celebrating craftsmanship and proportion.

Engineering & Sustainability

AWA provided full structural and civil design services, developing a geometrically complex steel frame to achieve the vaulted ceilings, expansive openings and slender rooflines of the three wings. Reinforced concrete retaining walls and substructures stabilised the steep terrain, while 3D Revit modelling ensured precision across intricate geometries. Sustainability was a key consideration, integrating passive solar design, natural ventilation, high levels of insulation and an air-source heat pump.

Collaboration & Achievement

AWA worked closely with the architect, contractor Matrod Frampton and the landscape architect to overcome restricted access, variable ground conditions and sensitive tree protection requirements. Ferry House received a 2025 RIBA South West & Wessex Award, showcasing engineering excellence and architectural ambition united within a truly exceptional home.

