

Developer of the Year

Gold partner



Student Accommodation is one of the five key industries for AO Business, the B2B division delivering all the benefits of online electricals retailer AO.com to business customers. We are committed to offering developers of student accommodation a new alternative way to purchase electrical appliances for their housing developments, with flexible delivery options and fantastic customer service. As a business, we want to do things differently for the student accommodation industry and support exceptional developers that share our commitment to community, innovation and challenging the status quo.

Winner



Béton House, Park Hill: a place like no other - Alumno Group

Béton House is the latest phase in the ongoing redevelopment the grade II-listed Park Hill estate in Sheffield. The project will rekindle the original social intentions of Park Hill, give a new lease of life to an abandoned part of the development and reinvigorate the student-housing sector for the 21st century. The judges praised Alumno for its innovative scheme and its impact in the long term, noting that the scheme is a critical example of how PBSA can positively contribute to regeneration. This scheme is not only about providing affordable student accommodation but also about transforming these abandoned buildings into liveable spaces again.

Highly Commended

Durham University - Mount Oswald project

As well as owning and operating 16,000 student beds, Equitix Investment Management's extensive portfolio is growing larger after executing a number of projects over the last 18 months. Notably, an Equitix-led consortium has overseen the construction, financing and operation of a 992-room in two new colleges on the Durham University campus.

Shortlist

Harrison Street Court, Birmingham, Uliving

Harrison Street Court emphasises student welfare and a high-quality modern design, all offered at a fair and competitive price. In 2018, Harrison Street Real Estate and Uliving formed a joint venture to develop a portfolio of PBSA schemes starting with Harrison Street Court, Birmingham. The scheme offers 435 student rooms with excellent amenity areas.

CityBlock: an enhanced student living experience

Established in 2002, CityBlock has developed a portfolio of schemes including its Gallows accommodation in Manchester. Gallows, which opened in 2019, offers a perfect mix of cluster flats, studios and large communal living areas. Those at Gallows have demonstrated impressive loyalty, with 40% of residents rebooking for the 2020-21 academic year, which is now fully booked.

McComb Property Company

McComb Property Company has worked closely with West Lancashire Borough Council to ensure that Ormskirk town centre remains an attractive destination for students. By converting vacant commercial space into hundreds of modern student rooms, it has then invested more than £10m of its collected student rental income back into Ormskirk town centre buildings.

MRP

Since entering the student accommodation sector in 2014, MRP has formed strong relationships and concluded projects with leading student housing providers and investors including AIG Global Real Estate and Curlew Capital. MRP's strategy has enabled it to deliver almost 5,000 beds within the last six years, representing a GDV in excess of £350m.

Student Cribz

As the largest single provider of second- and third-year student accommodation in the UK, Student Cribz now has 841 properties encompassing more than 3,700 bed spaces. Last summer alone, Student Cribz renovated more than 200 properties across the UK including converting a grade II-listed hostel in Liverpool into modern studio flats.

Watkin Jones

Watkin Jones has delivered several exceptional developments and will provide 2,600 PBSA beds across seven schemes by the end of 2020. The 32-storey Eleanor Rose PBSA facility for the University of London is a £100m scheme forward-funded by the University Partnerships Programme providing affordable accommodation with a range of modern amenities.