


PIERRE d'AVOINE

ARCHITECTS



Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London
City Hall
The Queen's Walk
London
SE1 2AA

15 December 2017

Dear *Sadiq Khan*

HOUSING CRISIS...

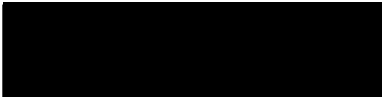
" I am using all of the powers at my disposal in my first draft London Plan to tackle the housing crisis head-on, removing ineffective constraints on homebuilders so that we can make the most of precious land in the capital to build more homes in areas with the best transport links".

As a Londoner, as an architect, I totally endorse and support your bold initiative. For thirty years I have focused on socially acceptable, innovative housing solutions including Slim House which won the competition for Concept House '99 and The Invisible House for building sustainably and sensitively in suburban London back gardens. I am deeply concerned with the state of British housing and the lack of opportunity for the smaller householder to 'make a difference' by utilising their land on which to build houses appropriately and sustainably. I am currently working on a commission to redevelop a site, at 280-282 Whitchurch Lane, Edgware, London Borough of Harrow to replace two run down inter-war detached villas with a contextually sensitive development of nine flats. I feel the project could be an exemplar of the Mayor's initiative to encourage new sustainable residential development in the suburbs that contribute positively to the enhancement of local neighbourhoods to the benefit of its inhabitants as wonderful places to live, work and play.

I attach articles we have referred to published in the Evening Standard and The Guardian together with my personal cv and an image of my book, with anthropologist Clare Melhuish, Housey Housey: A Pattern Book of Ideal Homes. I would welcome the opportunity to meet you and your colleagues to discuss your plans for new houses in London and how Pierre d'Avoine Architects may assist you in meeting the challenge to build 65,000 new homes a year.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



Pierre d'Avoine
Encs.

Cc: Ernest Sailor

Note:

I have in my capacity as principal of Pierre d'Avoine Architects and as an academic of international standing been working on innovative and sustainable ideas for housing over the last thirty years. In 1999 my practice won Concept House 99 (the house of the future) with a proposal Slim House, Model Terrace, Urban Pattern and built a prototype at The Ideal Home Show, Earl's Court, Our proposal The Invisible House was designed for semi-detached inter-war London suburbia with a view to densifying the suburb without loss of green space. In 2005 I published Housey Housey: A Pattern Book of Ideal Homes with anthropologist Clare Melhuish to much acclaim – the book sold out in eighteen months and has become a highly regarded text book in the UK and Europe. I was invited to be guest professor at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Art School of Architecture, Copenhagen in 2009 and exhibited our ideas on housing in Copenhagen in 2009 and at the important Ambika P3 Gallery, University of Westminster, London in 2010. My practice has continued its research into the densification of suburbia with projects such as Patchwork City and House+Garden+House which will be included in my new book Dwelling in the Future: Land Use, Housing and the Means of Contemporary Architectural Production due for publication in 2018.