



# Designs of the times

They are all fabulous in their own way - houses that chart 30 years in Guernsey's architectural history. **Shaun Shackleton** reports on a new exhibition showing some of the island's inspiring buildings - and explains how it will help the Les Bourgs Hospice rebuilding project



**M**ODEST title, isn't it?' laughed Andrew Dyke. He was referring to the Cresswell, Cattle and Dyke exhibition Fabulous Houses, which opened on Thursday in the atrium of the Royal Court. The proceeds from the 30th anniversary retrospective, which showcases some of the architects' most eye-catching work, will go to Les Bourgs Hospice's rebuilding project. 'It features 16 houses, information about building conservation and our work on some of Guernsey's most historic buildings, as well as a timeline of the company.' From its beginnings in The Grange in 1981, the company relocated to a 1782 farmhouse in Petit Bouet, which remains its headquarters today. 'It was derelict when we first saw it and was going to be demolished,' explained Andrew. 'But when we looked at the window

patterns at the front they were the window patterns of a farmhouse. 'I knocked off a piece of render and underneath there was beautiful granite. Inside there was an inglenook fireplace and a furze oven.' This attention to detail provided some of the inspiration behind the exhibition. 'We thought 30 years was a good time to celebrate. We've been fortunate enough to have had some fabulous projects with some fabulous clients and we wanted to show them off to the public. Some houses are never seen and you have only to look at all the property programmes on television to see that people love looking at other people's homes.' Included in the exhibition is the National Trust of Guernsey's renovated barn at Les Caches Farm, the now iconic 'snail house' at Le Bigard and Seapines at Village du Putron. 'It would be wrong to say that I had a favourite, I love them all,' said Andrew. He believes that during the last 10 or 12

years in Guernsey there has been a tremendous change in the way in which contemporary architecture has been approached. 'It has to be carefully designed. The thing that I find interesting is conservation work, because it informs new schemes. 'Take thatched homes. Once, virtually all Guernsey farmhouses were thatched. We've been keen to bring it back and started back in 1997 at Saint's Farm.' The technique has been used on many projects since. 'It's understanding how these old buildings were put together that informs our contemporary work.' Fabulous Houses was opened by Bailiff Sir Geoffrey Rowland at a private reception on Thursday and will serve as a platform to raise funds for another CCD project. The redevelopment of Les Bourgs Hospice is only two months from completion. Director and conservation surveyor Stuart Pearce explained that the

architect's model of the new hospice building will form part of the exhibition. 'There is also a stand of the latest images of the construction project. The model has a donation box beneath it and we hope that by not charging for entry, people will put something in the box for the hospice.'

