

# Bishop's Stortford Architectural Practice wins Harlow design award



Bishop's Stortford based **MARLIN Design Ltd** has been awarded the Harlow Civic Society Architectural Design award for the residential project 54 Old Road. Voted for by the residents of Harlow and confirmed by the judging panel Mark Wiffen, Director of **MARLIN Design Ltd**, collected the award, presented by Professor Glen O'Hara,

Professor of Modern and Contemporary History at Oxford Brookes University on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October at the presentation ceremony held at Harlow's new Cricket pavilion, which itself was one of the nominated projects, in the non-residential category.

**MARLIN Design Ltd** specialises in providing Architectural Design services to domestic clients in Bishop's Stortford and the Home Counties. Founded by Mark Wiffen, following a spate of redundancies before 2010 from roles within the Construction Sales Industry Mark went back to his qualifications and set the company up from the back bedroom of the family home in the town. The company has gone from strength to strength in the last 7 years and works on projects up to a value of £1million. In addition to his day to day work, Mark is also one of the Organists at Bishop's Stortford Methodist Church, in South Street.

The client lead project involved the extension and refurbishment of a 1980s built detached house in Old Road, Harlow. Built with a space available to the rear above a flat roof, the brief was to extend the first floor and reconfigure the interior to provide more space, and ensuite bathrooms. The ground floor Living room was opened up by removing a huge load bearing pier and replacing it with hidden steel work. Bi-folding doors opened up the rear of the house into the garden. The external envelope was then rendered and new aluminium fascias, soffits, rainwater good and windows were installed.

The judges' comments read '*This project shows how it is possible to enlarge an external envelope and yet retain the integrity of its original form. An updated and tasteful character has also been added through the colours and materials chosen for the refurbishment.*'



