

THE MODERN HOUSE



*Harpenden, Hertfordshire
Sold*

Ahm House

“Probably the best Modern house in the world” is how this incredible property was described in an article in *The Sunday Times* by the architecture critic Hugh Pearman. Designed in 1962 by Jorn Utzon, best known for his world-famous design of the Sydney Opera House, it is understandably one of the most admired residences of our age.

The six-bedroom house is located on a sought-after residential road in the popular Hertfordshire town of Harpenden. Internally it extends to almost 4,500 sq ft and enjoys extensive, secluded gardens.

It was originally designed by Utzon for his friend and fellow Dane, Povl Ahm, who was chairman of Arup, the celebrated firm of engineers. It was sympathetically extended in 1972 by Ulrick Plesner, an architect at Arup, and has also had a further discreet extension completed as part of an extensive and exacting refurbishment scheme carried out by the highly respected 800 Group. The attention to detail and quality of finished employed is of an exceptional standard.

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The house is entered via a car port into an entrance hall. From here steps lead up to a spectacular living room. With full length, floor to ceiling glass overlooking the gardens and exquisite concrete and timber detailing, this is surely one of the finest living rooms of any 20th century house anywhere in the country (or possibly, as Pearman would argue, the world). The living room is divided from the dining area by a minimal set of shallow steps. An enclosed kitchen overlooks the dining area. Also on this floor are four bedrooms, a bathroom, shower room and utility room.

Beyond the entrance hall on the ground floor is a library leading to further accommodation wing. This incorporates a fifth bedroom and an impressive master bedroom suite. The latter includes a large dressing room with bespoke wardrobes, a bathroom, sauna and the bedroom itself with double doors out onto the garden.

There is also an integral garage at the property as well as ample space for parking cars on the driveway. The gardens are extensive, forming an L-shape running to the side and rear of the house. The current owners have constructed a skateboarding facility and tree house at the far end, out of sight of the main house.

Historic England, who have described this as “a distinguished and beautifully detailed Modern house” granted it listed status (Grade II) in 1998. For more about the history of the house [click here](#).

West Common Way is a peaceful and leafy residential road made up mainly of large, detached houses. It is on the outskirts of Harpenden, an attractive and affluent town that offers a thriving high street, proximity to beautiful countryside and excellent transport links. Trains run from Harpenden station to London Kings Cross Thameslink in approximately 25 minutes, and the M1, A1M and M25 are all within a 5 to 20 minute drive. Luton airport is a short drive away. Harpenden is also renowned for its large areas of park and common. Well-regarded schools in the area include Aldwickbury, Beechwood, St. Albans High School for Girls, St. Albans Boys School, Haileybury and Haberdashers Askes.



*South-East England
Sold*

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About

The Modern House is an estate agency that helps people live in more thoughtful and beautiful ways. We believe in design as a powerful force for good. Inspired by the principles of modernism, we represent design-led homes across the UK which celebrate light, space and a truth to materials. Esquire credits The Modern House with “rewriting the rulebook on estate agency” and GQ voted us “one of the best things in the world”.