

1. Creating welcoming apartment entrances

Communal entrance areas should create a warm welcome for residents and visitors.

1. **Prominent within the elevation :** Facade design should highlight communal entrances. This can be achieved in many ways, including enhancing the height or scale of the entrance area, using a prominent feature canopy or porch, the use of feature materials or detailing around the entrance, or the locating of the entrance within a feature form/ architectural element within the facade
2. **Access:** The front entrance should provide step-free access from the pavement and parking space into the house, that is compliant with Building Regs M4 Part 2.
3. **Shelter:** A recessed entrance porch or roof canopy provides shelter from the elements, and can also articulate the entrance within the elevation. Any canopy / structure should be developed to complement the character narrative of the apartment block.
4. **Communal entrance lobbies** should be a complimentary extension to the design of the entrance, forming a sense of place that can engender a sense of ownership and pride for residents.
5. **Meeting point** The entrance lobby and external paving outside the entrance are often a place where neighbours may bump into each other, and these spaces should provide sufficient space for conversation without blocking the entrance route.
6. **Storage:** Communal entrance areas should consider how secure storage for post and packages can be integrated into the space, without blocking the entrance route. Post boxes should be secure large enough to accommodate an A4 package
6. **Lighting:** Considered, sensitive lighting should be incorporated into both the external entrance area and the lobby to create a welcoming ambience.
7. **Security:** Communal entrance doors should be fitted with fob operated locks with video entry system. Fob system should be extended to refuse, cycle and other communal doors .
6. **Defensible Planting:** Robust structural planting to a minimum height of 800mm within the entrance area can help to reinforce the perception of a defensible space around the front door.
7. Communal entrances should include a community notice board, well designed and lockable.

- Entrance lobby >
Design language of the entrance is brought into the lobby to create a characterful, light, clean and welcoming space. The generosity afforded by the extra width allows space for residents to informally meet and greet each other as they enter and exit their homes, contributing to a sense of community within the apartment block.



- ▲ Entrance lobby >
Entrance lobby for a large apartment block provides a generous space, using high quality materials and lighting to create character and inspire a sense of pride and care for the space.

▼ **Signpost the entrance** > A prefab feature canopy is used to emphasize the entrance area within the facade while providing shelter.



▼ **Distinctiveness** > opportunity to incorporate artwork into the lobby space to create a sense of arrival and a pride in the communal spaces.



▼ **Light and colour** > The use of glazing and colour helps to create an attractive point of arrival, and a memorable, distinctive 'front door' for the apartments.



Materials > The use of warm and tactile materials within the entrance lobby creates a welcoming place to engage with neighbours



◀ **Signpost the entrance** > The use of feature brickwork over the top of the entrance area help to enhance the scale and signpost the entrance.

◀ **Scale** > Lobby is given a double height space to signify presence on the streetscape, and provide a dramatic sense of arrival.