# EXCEL SIPS SYSTEM AT HEART OF LUXURY BARN DEVELOPMENT

A stunning private development of four luxury homes in rural Hertfordshire, designed and incorporated within a single superstructure, has been constructed using a SIPS (Structural Insulated Panels) off-site system.

## KEY FACTS

- Excel Package (Supplied & Installed) – SIPS (Structural Insulated Panels) superstructure, oak frame car port, windows, external doors & conservation rooflights.
- Architectural Design – Traditional barn style.
- Architects – TW-2 Architects
- Project Managers – Benet Consulting Ltd
- Main Contractors – Maxas Design & Build

EXCEL STRUCTURES

Supplied by Bedfordshire-based MMC specialists, Excel Structures, alongside the windows, external doors and conservation rooflights, the superstructure created for 'The Great Barn' development occupies the exact footprint of a former and dilapidated indoor dressage arena. Indeed, as its name suggests, a traditional architectural barn style design has been adopted and one that is befitting of its rural location.

Designed by TW-2 Architects of High Wycombe, the project also features a four-bay car port, abutted with an ancillary bin and bike store, that has been created from an oak frame also supplied by Excel Structures.

Commenting on the decision to adopt a SIPS off-site construction system for the development, Peter Knightley, Founder Director of TW-2 Architects said:

" The Great Barn was an unusual project in that the site was in close proximity to an active livery. This dictated the necessity to adopt a construction process with as little disruption as possible, making SIPS the ideal solution. In addition to benefitting from speed of build using precision built panels and components created in a controlled environment, SIPS also delivers exceptional air tightness and is heat efficient, both of which are proven by-products of an MMC system such as SIPS."

With the SIPS superstructure at its heart, The Great Barn's understated splendour emanates from its extensive roof elevations, finished in handmade clay tiles and punctuated with conservation rooflights, the butted eaves of which serve to offer protection to the black ship lapped timber cladding and dark stained windows and doors.

The external appearance of The Great Barn is further accentuated at all four elevations through the incorporation of protruding gables that are extensively glazed in floor to ceiling height units.

In terms of overall layout, The Great Barn is a development of two, two storey houses with three bedrooms that feature centrally within the superstructure, whilst the remaining two houses have been constructed over 2 ½ storeys and incorporate additional accommodation in the roof space. Constructed by main contractors, Maxas Design & Build Ltd, with project management being coordinated by Benet Consulting Limited, the ground floor layout of The Great Barn features a main lounge, living/dining room and spacious kitchen. Indeed not only did Maxas Design & Build initially instruct Excel Structures on the project, they were instrumental in providing contract design input into not only the superstructure, but the finishes and processes involved in delivering the project.

Commenting on behalf of Excel Structures, Managing Director, Jason Pritchard said:

" We are obviously delighted to have been involved in such a stunning development. The Great Barn is a perfect example of a fusion of a sympathetic, yet striking and timeless architectural style, with a modern and sustainable method of construction. The end result is befitting not only of its surroundings, but the vision of the developer and that of its architect."