Oxford Swift Tower Design Competition:

DESIGN “A”
SWIFT TOWER
Design A

Criteria

The main objective is to provide a suitable home for swifts. I have therefore made sure that the tower fits all the criteria to give swifts a natural and leisured home.

The tower will directly reference swifts by having drawings of them both round the base (for the human population) and up at box level. Swifts are sociable birds so seeing other swifts, especially the babies, will encourage them to nest there.

The tower needs to be sage. The steel base (up to forty meters) will provide a strong structure with a lower centre of gravity. It will also discourage climbers, both human and squirrel.

The main structure will be hollow, which keeps the cost and weight low, reducing the need for deep set foundations.

The steel will fit in with the surroundings, regenerating the ratings and bridges in the park.

As this is mostly a tree filled area the top half of the tower will be constructed of green wood. The natural shaping of the top half fits in with the surrounding trees.

A picture of a swift in flight

A swift climbing the tower

Two Swiffl hatchlings

The pictures that decorate the north side of the tower
I have decided to make the box's dimensions 34 x 14 cm externally, constructed from 10 mm thick exterior grade plywood, this will give the internal dimensions of 32 x 12 cm and a hole size of 65 mm x 25 mm. The first 4 metres of the tower are made of metal in a transition shown on the previous page where there is a metal overlap before turning solid wood. The beams, as previously stated, are to be made from external grade ply. The box possessings are shown in the diagrams above and to the side with position A relating to care. The tower is extremely weather resistant and is below the height over other trees in the area to prevent lightning. The tower can be paid for in well under £10,000. The base is a 100 cm concrete block attached at the bottom of the tower with 100 x 8 mm foundation screws.
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RSPB artist’s impression of how design “A” could look on site