

## News Release

5th September 2008, for immediate release

# RIBA East Announces Shortlists for RIBA Special Awards

The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) East has announced that two buildings in the East of England have been shortlisted for an RIBA Special Award 2008. In total, there are six special awards (1.) The shortlists were drawn from the 92 RIBA Award winning buildings announced earlier this year. These RIBA special awards honour the best buildings with specific emphasis on: sustainability, conservation; exemplary school design; public spaces and smaller, exceptional projects built on limited budgets. The winners of six of the special awards, including the Manser Medal, will be announced as part of the RIBA Stirling Prize Dinner in association with 'The Architects' Journal on Saturday 11 October, in Liverpool.

**The Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk by Levitt Bernstein Associates** has been shortlisted for **The Crown Estate Conservation Award**. The £5000 Crown Estate Conservation Award is presented to the best work of conservation that demonstrates the successful restoration and /or adaptation of an architecturally significant building. The award was judged by Richard Griffiths, Richard Griffiths Architects, Paul Velluet, HOK and Tony Chapman, RIBA Head of Awards.

This theatre is the sole remaining working theatre from the Regency period in the UK. Built in 1819, and Grade I listed, it was owned and designed by the nationally renowned architect William Wilkins. The project restores the auditorium, introducing original features and a decorative scheme based on extensive, detailed research.

Improvements, including comfort cooling, are incorporated in a manner consistent with its role as a public service theatre, hosting a great variety of medium sized productions. A new foyer extension on an adjoining garden gently touches the existing building and its shallow curved roof responds to the geometry of the theatre's plan.

**Thomas Deacon Academy, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire by Foster + Partners** has been shortlisted for **The RIBA/Sorrell Foundation Schools Award**. The RIBA/Sorrell Foundation Schools Award is a prize of £5,000 to the architects of the best RIBA Award-winning school (primary or secondary) with the aim of raising the standards of design in all new school building. The prize which was introduced last year, was judged by Lady Frances Sorrell; Sarah Davey, head teacher; Tony McGuirk, BDP; and Tony Chapman, RIBA Head of Awards.

The Thomas Deacon Academy was commissioned to house the amalgamation of three existing schools, making it potentially the single largest Academy in Britain. The building reconciles the contradictory concepts of majesty and intimacy, with ribbons of classrooms wrapping around a central concourse space, which is enclosed beneath a voluminous undulating roof. This central space is the academic and social heart of the academy, accommodating a sunken lecture theatre with multimedia research centre above. The classrooms form six subject based colleges, each is a 'V' in plan and tiered over three floors to create an inspiring range of spaces for pedagogic, pastoral, and social uses. The curved plan maximises opportunity for natural ventilation, light and external views to the mature surrounding trees.

Ends

#### Notes to editors

1. RIBA East is based at The Studio, High Green, Great Shelford, Cambridge CB22 5EG.
2. The six RIBA Special Awards are: **The Manser Medal**, sponsored by The Rooflight Company: The Manser Medal is given for the best one-off house or major extension designed by an architect in the UK. **The Crown Estate Conservation Award**: The £5000 Crown Estate Conservation Award is presented to the best work of conservation that demonstrates the successful restoration and /or adaptation of an architecturally significant building. The award was judged by Richard Griffiths, Richard Griffiths Architects, Paul

Velluet, HOK and Tony Chapman, RIBA Head of Awards; **RIBA/CABE Public Space Award:** The RIBA CABE Public Space Award celebrates publicly accessible external space. It may be green or grey, urban or rural, privately or publicly owned, designed or re-designed and re-furbished for public use. It might be a street, a square, a park or even a corner, as well what is more conventionally thought of a ‘space between buildings.’ The award includes a prize of £5,000 to be presented to the winning team. The Award was judged by Sarah Gaventa, Director CABE Space; Tony Edwards, architect and landscape architect, Place; and Tony Chapman, RIBA Head of Awards; **Stephen Lawrence Prize:** The Stephen Lawrence Prize is sponsored by the Marco Goldschmied Foundation and rewards the best examples of projects that have a construction budget of less than £1 million. The £5000 prize is intended to encourage fresh talent working with smaller budgets. The award is judged by a panel including architect and past President of the RIBA Marco Goldschmied and Doreen Lawrence OBE, mother of the teenager who was setting out on the road to becoming an architect when he was murdered in 1993; **The RIBA/Sorrell Foundation Schools Award:** The RIBA/Sorrell Foundation Schools Award is a prize of £5,000 to the architects of the best RIBA Award-winning school (primary or secondary) with the aim of raising the standards of design in all new school building. The prize which was introduced last year, was judged by Lady Frances Sorrell; Sarah Davey, head teacher; Tony McGuirk, BDP; and Tony Chapman, RIBA Head of Awards; **The RIBA/English Partnerships Sustainability Award:** The RIBA/English Partnerships Sustainability Award is made for the building that demonstrates most elegantly and durably the principles of sustainable architecture. The £5000 award is judged by a panel of experts comprising, Robin Nicholson CBE, Edward Cullinan Architects; Patrick Bellew, Principal Atelier Ten; and Kevin McGeough, English Partnerships who consider the environmental credentials of schemes as submitted by the architects and clients.

3. For further information please contact For further information or high resolution images, please contact Carri Crook, Carisma Communications on 01842 815910 or email [carri@carismacommunications.co.uk](mailto:carri@carismacommunications.co.uk).

4. The RIBA Stirling Prize in association with The Architects' Journal is the UK's most prestigious architectural prize and is awarded annually to the architects of the building which has made the greatest contribution to British architecture in the past year. The RIBA awards programme was re-organised in 2007 in a pyramid structure. The RIBA Awards are judged and presented locally and the RIBA National Awards are judged and presented nationally. The RIBA Stirling Prize shortlist is selected following further visits to winners of the RIBA National Awards and of RIBA European Awards for buildings in the rest of the EU.
5. From 2008 the RIBA Stirling Prize becomes a 'built or designed in Britain' prize, for which only buildings in the UK designed by RIBA chartered members and International Fellows, or buildings in the rest of the EU by practices whose principal office in the UK, will be eligible.
6. The winner of the RIBA Stirling Prize in association with The Architects' Journal will be announced at the BT Convention Centre in Liverpool on Saturday 11 October, televised on Channel 4 on Sunday 12 October. The 2008 shortlist is: Accordia, Cambridge by Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios/Alison Brooks Architects/Macreanor Lavington; Amsterdam Bijlmer Arena Station, Amsterdam, by Grimshaw/ARCADIS Architects; Manchester Civil Justice Centre, Manchester by Denton Corker Marshall; Nord Park Cable Railway, Austria by Zaha Hadid Architects; Royal Festival Hall, London by Allies and Morrison; Westminster Academy at the Naim Dangoor Centre, London, by Allford Hall Monaghan Morris.
7. The 2008 RIBA Stirling Prize jury comprises of Eva Jiricna architect, Eva Jiricna Architects; Gordon Murray – architect, Murray Dunlop Architects; Shelley McNamara – architect, Grafton Architects; Kieran Long – Editor, The Architects' Journal and Diarmuid Gavin – garden designer, Diarmuid Gavin Designs.
8. Established in 1895, The Architects' Journal has consistently been at the forefront of architectural publishing. Its weekly news coverage,

comprehensive building studies and in-depth technical and practice features make it essential reading for the profession, and its incisive commentary makes it a must-read for opinion formers. The AJ is the UK's leading independent architectural magazine, whose authoritative voice has informed generations of architects. For more information on the RIBA Awards programme visit the AJ website at [www.architectsjournal.co.uk](http://www.architectsjournal.co.uk)

9. All RIBA Award winners can be seen at [www.architecture.com/awards](http://www.architecture.com/awards).
  
10. The RIBA Awards, the RIBA National Awards, the RIBA European Awards and RIBA Stirling Prize are managed by the RIBA Trust. The RIBA Trust manages the cultural assets of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA), including the internationally recognised collections of the British Architectural Library. It is the UK's national architecture centre, delivering the RIBA awards programme; the Royal Gold Medal; International and Honorary Fellowships; a full programme of lectures, exhibitions, tours and other events; and an education programme.