



LABC Award Winner 2008 - Images from left to right: Cley Marshes Visitor Centre; Visitor Centre with marshes beyond and Interior of Cley Visitor Centre. All images credited to Richard Osbourne – blue pearl photographic. Copyright Designs and Patents Act 1988: Reproduction is permitted providing authorship is credited.

News Release

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For immediate release

LSI Architects Wins LABC ‘Best Sustainability Innovation’ Award for Cley Marshes Reserve Visitor Centre

London and Norwich based LSI Architects has announced that the Cley Marshes Nature Reserve Visitor Centre, for Norfolk Wildlife Trust, has won an LABC (Local Authority Building Control) East Anglia Region Built In Quality Award 2008, under the category ‘Best Sustainability Innovation’. The Centre, based on the North Norfolk Coast, was also finalist in the Best Public Community Project category. The Regional Built in Quality Awards recognise and reward the most forward looking people and organisations and the most innovative construction projects completed over the last year. The Awards are dedicated to showcasing the best the construction industry has to offer in East Anglia.

The £675k cutting-edge, sustainable Visitor Centre at Norfolk Wildlife Trust’s (NWT) Cley Marshes Nature Reserve utilises an extensive range of sustainable features and materials to minimise the environmental impact of the building on its surroundings. The new Centre provides Cley with a valuable community resource and visitors with an inspiring, ground-hugging building from which they can enjoy and learn about this unique and beautiful environment. The new development includes a reception, shop,

café, observation and interpretation space with new interactive and educational equipment.

The project consisted of the design and construction a new Visitor Centre and surrounding external works, together with the refurbishment of an existing timber and thatch visitor facility at the site. The car park capacity has also been increased, from 40 to 130 spaces.

Brendan Joyce, Director of Norfolk Wildlife Trust, said: “Responding to a long standing vision of Norfolk Wildlife Trust for a new Visitor Centre at NWT Cley Marshes, LSI Architects engaged in detailed consultation with the local community and local Planning and Countryside Officers in developing their proposals for the building. Cley’s new Visitor Centre is a ‘green’ building that has successfully introduced new technology into a protected environment. The new Visitor Centre is inspiring and has been designed by LSI Architects with great sensitivity to blend seamlessly into this unique and outstanding environment. The architects have also ensured that the new site eases disabled persons’ access to and from the nature reserve and have introduced a disabled person’s lift. We are delighted with the overall environmentally- and user-friendly outcome.”

David Thompson, a Principal Member of LSI Architects, commented: “The practice is delighted that this exemplary sustainable building has secured a prestigious LABC Regional Award. Matters of legislative compliance, and how they are addressed, can have a profound impact upon design. For this reason, I would like to thank not only our valued clients, Norfolk Wildlife Trust, the project team involved and our staff for all their hard work and collaboration on this scheme, but also the enormously helpful partners, CNC, in this project. To satisfy the budget and client brief for an ‘environmentally sound building’, we developed a suitable specification based upon locally sourced, readily available products that were familiar to the builder. Timber products are FSC certified throughout and natural paint finishes including mineral paint for the walls and natural hardwax, for wood and plywood surfaces, were opted for.”

Mr Thompson continued: “In terms of how efficient the renewable technology is, it is planned that the ground source heat pump (GSHP) and solar-thermal collectors will deliver a 70% improvement in terms of space heating and hot water provision respectively. The remaining 30% of the energy need, in each case, is made up by the wind turbine which, at peak output, supplies 84% of the building’s electricity

requirements. In total, the new Visitor Centre produces 10,967 kg less CO2 per annum when compared with a typical new building (built to current standards) of this size and type.”

LABC Regional Chairman Nick Seaton, commented, “We have seen some really exciting projects submitted this year, from all areas of the industry. All those who have worked on the winning developments can feel justifiably proud of their contribution to some of the finest examples of what the East Anglia construction industry has to offer.”

The Visitor Centre will now go through to the prestigious National LABC Awards in November.

Another finalist in the Regional LABC Awards, also designed by LSI Architects, was the University of East Anglia’s Student Residences for ‘Best Housing or Residential Project’. The Phase 2 (£28.5M) student accommodation commenced in 2004 and was completed some 3 years later through a Design & Build contract. The scheme provides a further 900 bedrooms in five blocks. The single study bedrooms all have ensuite facilities, communal kitchen / dining rooms, along with staff support accommodation, wheelchair accessible bedrooms and servicing facilities. This scheme follows Phase 1 comprising 400 high standard study bedrooms with ensuite facilities within two blocks, including six fully accessible rooms for students with disabilities.

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Notes to the Editor

1. For high resolution images, full project information on Cley Marshes Reserve Visitor Centre or an interview, please contact: Carri Crook, PR & Press Consultant, Carisma Communications on 01842 815910 or email carri@carismacommunications.co.uk
2. Use of images subject to LSI Architects LLP, 'Copyright Designs and Patents Act 1988'. Reproduction is permitted providing authorship is credited. Image also subject to copyright LSI Architects.
3. Norwich and London based LSI Architects is an ISO 9001 and 14001 accredited practice and has secured a wide range of prestigious design and business awards.
4. LSI Architects LLP is based at The Old Drill Hall, 23a Cattle Market Street, Norwich. NR1 3DY. Tel: 01603 660711, Fax: 01603 623213 and at 70 Cowcross Street, Clerkenwell London EC1M 6EJ. Telephone 020 7278 1739, Fax 020 7278 9114.
5. LSI Architects is amongst the most highly regarded design practices in Norfolk and the Eastern Region. It is known generally within the Industry for professionalism and design quality and sustainable design, and by its clients for quality of service and creative cost effective solutions. LSI Architects main clients are corporate and public bodies with major sectors being: the workplace, retail, education, health and master planning. LSI Architects is a practice of over 50 personnel, operating throughout the UK from its bases in Norwich and London. LSI Architects website: www.LSIarchitects.co.uk.

6. Norfolk Wildlife Trust was established in 1926 with the purchase of Cley Marshes. They care for 40 nature reserves and other protected sites around the county including ten kilometres of coastline, nine Norfolk broads, nine National Nature Reserves and five ancient woodlands and have a positive influence over a great deal of the Norfolk countryside through our planning and advisory functions.