

spirit of ingenuity ARCHITECTURAL AWARDS 2008

News Release

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for immediate release

Celebrating the Spirit of Ingenuity

RIBA East Spirit of Ingenuity Architectural Award Winners Announced

The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) East has announced that six buildings in the East of England have won the prestigious, RIBA East Spirit of Ingenuity Architectural Award 2008. One scheme received a Commendation.

The RIBA East Spirit of Ingenuity Awards is a regional awards scheme and an annual event recognising architectural design excellence in the counties of Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Suffolk, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Essex (excluding London Boroughs). They are open to RIBA chartered architects and practices based in the East of England for projects within the region.

The Regional Awards initiative was launched in April, calling upon architects as well as their domestic, commercial and public sector clients to enter buildings for the awards. The 14 shortlisted schemes were visited by an Awards Jury in July and the winners in each Award category will be presented their Awards at the official RIBA East Regional Awards Ceremony and Dinner this Friday, 26th September at Queens' College, Cambridge. Winners of the recent RIBA Awards and Student Awards will also receive their accolades at the Awards ceremony.

The Guest speaker at the Awards Ceremony this Friday, 26th September, is Ruth Reed, the RIBA's first female President, succeeding former President, Sunand Prasad, on 1 September 2009. Jonathan Manser will be presenting the RIBA Awards, followed by Steven Kearney, Chairman of RIBA East who will present the RIBA East Spirit of Ingenuity (Regional) Awards. This year's RIBA East Student Award Winners, Rebecca Roberts, from Mayfield East Sussex, who studied Architecture at St John's College, University of Cambridge, and Nicole Ahmed, from Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, who studied at Anglia Ruskin University, Chelmsford, will also receive their prizes at the ceremony.

The winners and commendation appear below under the award categories, which were judged by RIBA East and its supporting partners.

And the Winners are:

Community Architecture Award – supported by Inspire East

Commendation:

St Nicholas Church of England (VC) Primary School, Rayleigh, Essex

Architects: Stanley Bragg Partnership Ltd, Colchester

Education & Healthcare Award – supported by WSP Group plc

Winner:

St Joseph's Junior School, St Joseph's College, Belstead Road, Ipswich

Architects: Wincer Kievenaar LLP, Hadleigh Suffolk

Heritage Award – supported by English Heritage

Winner:

Fosters, Hartest, Suffolk

Architects: Modece Architects, Hartest, Suffolk

Home Award – schemes under £250k – supported by VELUX Company Ltd

Winner:

Private House, Barton, Cambridge

Architects: Bobby Open Architect, Cambridge

Home Award – schemes over £250k – supported by Rooflight Company

Winner:

Wychfield Student Residences, Trinity Hall, Cambridge

Architects: RH Partnership Architects, Cambridge

Sustainability Award – supported by the Environment Agency

Winner:

Fosters, Hartest, Suffolk

Architects: Modece Architects, Hartest, Suffolk

Architecture for Business Award – supported by Cyril Sweett

Winner:

The Long Barn Studio, Limbersey Lane, Maulden, Beds

Architects: Nicolas Tye Architects, Maulden, Beds

Louise Todd, Regional Director of RIBA East said: “We are delighted with the number of entries and quality of projects received this year from both architects and their domestic and commercial clients. We would like to thank all architects and their clients for submitting their schemes for the awards this year and I particularly thank our Award Sponsors and Jurors for their support and involvement.”

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QUOTES FROM THE SPONSORS OF THE RIBA EAST SPIRIT OF INGENUITY AWARDS 2008:

Cyril Sweett Ltd, Sponsor of the Architecture for Business Award

Stephen Pritchard, Associate Director of Cost Consultancy, Cyril Sweett Ltd, said “We are highly delighted to have become involved with the RIBA East Awards and to sponsor the Business Award. The wide range of innovative entries showed that creative architecture is very much thriving in the region. Nicholas Tye Architects have produced a highly impressive place of work fit for the 21st Century and are worthy winners of the award. The glazed exterior wrapped in beautiful weathered timber cladding combined excellently with an impressive modern interior furnished with state of the art fittings. A good selection of sustainable features were also incorporated such as the wind turbine and reed bed drainage system.”

The Environment Agency, Sponsor of the Sustainability Award

Geoff Brighty, Central Area Manager, Environment Agency, said: “We are delighted to be sponsoring RIBA’s Sustainability Award for another year. The winning architects Fosters, demonstrated that sustainability doesn't have to be overly complicated. Using existing materials where possible, is a good example of considering resource efficiency at the earliest stage of a building project and limiting waste to landfill. The architect's understanding of sustainability was prevalent in their environmentally responsible approach to designing this building. The rain water harvesting system, for example, was successful in terms of reducing water consumption, as was the wood chip boiler in terms of illustrating how small scale biomass systems can effectively increase energy efficiency.”

The Rooflight Company, Sponsor of the Home Award – schemes over £250k

Neil Liddell, Head of Sales, Rooflight Company, said: “A modern interpretation of collegiate living with slightly eclectic flavouring set in a north Cambridge Conservation Area. The scheme is very well thought out, detailed, constructed and set in beautifully landscaped gardens. It should weather and endure well. The client was very enthusiastic. Definitely worthy of an Award.”

VELUX Company Ltd, Sponsor of the Home Award – schemes under £250k

Kevin Brennan, Relevancy Manager for VELUX, said: “It's a rare thing to see good architecture in small domestic projects. But Bobby Open Architects have achieved this with apparent ease with their transformation of an anonymous bungalow in Barton. The home now boasts a delight of space, movement and natural daylight captured within the tranquil Cambridgeshire countryside. A true credit to the skill and perception of the designer.”

English Heritage, Sponsor of the Heritage Award

Greg Luton, Regional Director for English Heritage in the East of England, said: "The competition this year has been particularly exciting, with many projects offering a new look at traditional design issues. We were surprised at the variety and standards of the entries. The winning awards were much deserved."

WSP Group plc, Sponsor of the Education & Healthcare Award

Robert Ransom, Technical Director with WSP Buildings, said: "WSP is very pleased to continue its association with the RIBA East awards. We are encouraged by the increasing number of buildings within the education sector in particular that are embracing sustainable and low-energy principles within their design. The short-listed buildings show a varied and in some cases highly original response to these challenges."

Inspire East, Sponsor of the Community Architecture Award

Paul Burall, Chair of Inspire East, said: "In judging the Community category award, Inspire East looks for evidence of a high standard of consultation and hopes to see this reflected in the quality of the finished buildings. To date we have struggled to give Awards on this basis, with few projects demonstrating a strong enough community involvement in the brief. Stanley Bragg Architects went some way to achieving this with St Nicholas Church of England Primary School and should be applauded for their efforts. We believe, however, that great consultation can produce great buildings and great places and we invite the region's architects to show us what they can achieve by involving their community stakeholders more closely."

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Supported by:



Notes to the Editor

1. Media representatives are invited to attend the Awards Ceremony. Those wishing to attend or have an interview, are requested to contact, in advance, Carri Crook, Carisma Communications on 01842 815910 or email carri@carismacommunications.co.uk.
2. For media enquiries, images, interviews or project details of the schemes, please contact Carri Crook, Carisma Communications on 01842 815910 or email carri@carismacommunications.co.uk.
3. A total of 34 award entries were received in May this year.
4. There are eight award categories, seven of which are listed above. There was no winner or commendation in the category Public Realm Award – supported by SIKKENS.
5. Ruth Reed, BA, DipArch, MA, RIBA, is Course Director of the Postgraduate Diploma in Architectural Practice at the Birmingham School of Architecture and a Partner of Green Planning Solutions. She has also sat on the RIBA's Council, been Vice President of Membership, Chaired the RIBA's CPD Sub-committee and served as President of the Royal Society of Architects in Wales. For further information visit:
www.architecture.com/NewsAndPress/News/RIBANews/News/2008/RuthReedRIBAPresident.aspx.
6. Media representatives are requested to acknowledge the architects of these shortlisted schemes and photographic credits.
7. These awards have been designed to draw greater public awareness to the fine architecture we have within the region, and to the design skills of our architects. The awards are also intended to complement the National RIBA Awards, which, due to their national coverage, cannot adequately reward or recognise the creativity that exists within the East of England.
8. RIBA East is based at The Studio, High Green, Gt Shelford, Cambridge CB22 5EG. RIBA East consists of over 2000 registered architects and almost 400 registered practices.
9. For further information on the Regional Awards, please contact Louise Todd, Regional Director, RIBA East, on 01223 566285 or email louise.todd@inst.riba.org