



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

News Release

24th October 2008
For immediate release

LSI Architects Wins Global Design Prize for ‘Best Sustainable Development’ - Cley Marshes 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 Emirates Glass LEAF Award 2008, under the category ‘Best Sustainable Development’. The £675k cutting-edge, sustainable Visitor Centre at Norfolk Wildlife Trust’s (NWT) Cley Marshes Nature Reserve, based on the North Norfolk Coast, has beaten stiff worldwide competition to be chosen as a winner of the prestigious award, one of the highest accolades in the architecture and design sector worldwide. The project was selected from over 100 international submissions.

The award was presented last night at a black tie dinner at the Dorchester Hotel, London. The ceremony was hosted by renowned interior designer and TV celebrity Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen.

Last Friday, October 17, the Visitor Centre, designed by LSI Architects, also won a prestigious regional award, the Eastern Daily Press (EDP) Business Award, in the ‘Design & Development’ category. The EDP Business Awards recognise and reward successful companies in Norfolk, North Suffolk and East Cambridgeshire. (1.)

Now in their fifth year, the Emirates Glass LEAF Awards have rapidly become one of the most prestigious global architectural prizes, recognising excellence in the international architectural, design and build fields. With architects from all over the world eligible to enter, the awards have attracted entries from 26 countries worldwide.

Cley Marshes Nature Reserve Visitor Centre 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. The 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 development includes a reception, shop, café, observation and interpretation space with new interactive and educational equipment.

The scheme utilises an extensive range of renewable technology and sustainable features and materials to minimise the environmental impact of the building on its surroundings. 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.

David Thompson, a Principal Member of LSI Architects, commented: "The practice is delighted that this exemplary sustainable building has secured both an international design award against tough, worldwide competition as well as a regional business award. Norfolk Wildlife Trust placed an extraordinary level of confidence in the design team to come up with an original design, meeting the sustainability credentials required by the funding stakeholders. The structural engineers Hale Allen Jones, and building services engineers Mott Macdonald provided excellent input, under the ever-watchful eye of QS Stratton Castell. Matters of legislative compliance, and how they are addressed, can also have a profound impact upon design. For this reason, I would like to thank not only the project team involved, especially architect Tony Calcott, but also the help of our building control partners, CNC."

Mr Thompson continued: “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.”

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.”

Mr Joyce concluded: “Our new Visitor Centre at Cley Marshes is the result of a long-standing vision to develop our facilities at this historic and environmentally sensitive site. We are delighted that our efforts have paid off in a building that has attracted so much positive attention, both for its visual impact and environmental credentials. Both Awards are a resounding endorsement for the vision of Norfolk Wildlife Trust, and the skills of the project team.”

Albert Williamson Taylor, Chairman of the panel of judges for the Emirates Glass LEAF Awards said: “The architects have designed a building which uses everything it can for a sustainable project and the end result does indeed say ‘Look! We are doing everything we can!’ “

The judges believed this to be an “honest piece of architecture” in that the building uses proven technologies as well as elements taken from its surroundings. All of the judges were in agreement that “a lot of effort has been put into this project” – everything from the setting of the building right through to the materials and technologies.

This month, Cley Marshes Nature Reserve Visitor Centre also won the Eastern Daily Press Business Award in the ‘Design & Development’ category, sponsored by

Bidwells. The scheme has also won an LABC (Local Authority Building Control) East Anglia Region Built In Quality Award 2008, under the category 'Best Sustainability Innovation'. The Centre 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 Project Team

Client: Norfolk Wildlife Trust

Architect: LSI Architects LLP

Quantity Surveyor: Stratton Castell

Structural & Civil Engineer: Hale Allen Jones

Building Services Engineer: Mott Macdonald

Planning Supervisor: PFB Construction Limited

Main Contractor: H.Smith & Sons

Planning: North Norfolk District Council

Building Control: CNC Building Control

Mechanical Electrical Subcontractor: Kings and Barnham

Wind Turbine: Green Generation

Ground Source Heat Pump: Envirotherm NIBE/NIBE Energy Systems Limited

Solar Thermal: Solar Works

Roofing: T.H. Moss

Icopal: SureWeld TPO membrane under a sedum vegetation mat

Glazing: Drayton Windows Limited

Ends

Notes to the Editor

1. The EDP 'Design & Development' award category. Companies such as architects and developers who have helped create new, redeveloped or refurbished commercial building projects were sought for the Design and Development Award. Imaginative design qualities combined with practical and forward thinking ideas formed part of the judges' selection criteria. They also looked at how well the buildings harmonise with their surroundings and other environmental design aspects such as energy efficiency initiatives were taken into account. A well designed building can assist a business to move forward its own business and in turn often add to the local economy. The award entry also had to highlight the ways in which the building project has helped the business or local area.

2. 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

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. For further information on the Leaf Awards, please contact Alex Shephard or Chris Lewis at Emirates Glass LEAF Awards Press Office; Tel 020 7736 4022 or e-mail alexshephard@clareville.co.uk or chrislewis@clareville.co.uk.

9. The Best Sustainable Development – sponsored by German Timber Promotion Fund – was one of a total of 10 award categories. The schemes shortlisted under the 'Best Sustainable Development' category were:

- US Census Bureau Headquarters, Suitland, USA – Skidmore, Owings & Merrill
- New General Building of Council of Europe, Strasbourg, France – Art and Build Architect
- Limoges Concert Hall, Limoges, France – Bernard Tschumi
- Cley Marshes Visitor Centre, Cley, UK – LSI Architects LLP
- 16 Noel Street, London, UK – Morgan Lovell