



News Release

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BITC Awards for Excellence 2008

LSI Architects Wins Big Tick Award for Responsible Business Practice & Impact on Society

London and Norwich based LSI Architects has been announced a Big Tick Award Winner in the Business in the Community's Awards for Excellence 2008. Business in the Community's Awards for Excellence identify and celebrate companies having a positive impact on the community, environment, marketplace and workplace. Peer-assessed and independently assured, the Big Tick award is the most respected endorsement of responsible business practice. Now in their eleventh year, they are the UK's leading Awards for responsible business practice. LSI Architects' submission, 'Open Environment', won a Big Tick in the 'Impact on Society Award for Small Companies' category. LSI Architects' entry has also been shortlisted by the assessment panel to become the 2008 national Example of Excellence.

The Big Tick is awarded to companies able to demonstrate excellence in the way that they organise and integrate their responsible business practices and who can show a positive impact both on society and on the business.

The Impact on Society Award for a Small Company, in association with the Institute of Directors, (Small Company of the Year) – is for SMEs that, through leadership and integration of corporate responsibility, are improving their business and their overall impact on society - in the marketplace, the workplace, the environment and the community.

LSI Architects appears today in the list of Big Tick Winners published today in the Financial Times and the LSI team will collect their award at the Awards Gala at Audley End House on 17th June. As a big Tick winner, LSI Architects will be invited to the House of Commons on 15th July. The results of the judging for the national winner will be announced at the BITC Awards Gala at The Royal Albert Hall on 7th July.

David Thompson, a Principal Member of LSI Architects said: “As a member of Business in the Community (BITC), the LSI team has a strong and longstanding commitment to responsible business practice and is heavily involved in partnership and community activities. These awards help us to recognise the importance of exerting a positive impact on society and remind us to keep making improvements and working towards excellence as architects and as individuals engaged in our society. Behaving responsibly is as important and relevant for small businesses as it is for large companies, and means achieving commercial success in ways that respect people, communities and the environment. Regardless of size, all businesses are increasingly facing similar issues – the need to recruit, retain and motivate good staff; the need to provide customers and large clients with information on environmental or community issues; and a desire to ‘do the right thing’.”

Mr Thompson continued: “The various strands of our Corporate Responsibility activity fall under the umbrella title of ‘Open Environment’, and have been developed in conjunction with eight partners whom we would particularly like to thank for their support and collaboration. They are the Broads Authority, University of East Anglia, Norfolk Connexions, Norfolk ProHelp, RIBA, Easton College, the Scouts, and the EU Leonardo Scheme. The practice is delighted to have been awarded this prestigious business accolade.”

Stephen Howard, Chief Executive, Business in the Community said: “I am delighted to be able to tell you that your submission has been assessed and awarded a Big Tick. As you will know, the Big Tick is given to companies that can demonstrate the positive impact of their responsible business practices and is a highly respected endorsement. The decision to award you the Big Tick has been made by a panel of independent, experienced practitioners, and as such is both hard won, and highly prestigious. I am delighted to be the first to congratulate you on your achievement. Your entry has also been shortlisted by the assessment panel to become the 2008 Example of Excellence, so congratulations again.”

Mr Howard continued: "Those who achieve the Big Tick are leading companies, ones that run their businesses aware that they depend above all on the talent, innovation and loyalty of their people. They know that they cannot build a successful sustainable business without constantly showing their commitment to being a better business. Business in the Community mobilises business for good. The Awards for Excellence is our annual benchmark of the very best."

LSI Architects achieved the Percent standard in its last 2 years and was voted by staff to be one of the TOP 50 Employers by Building Magazine in 2007. Last year, LSI Architects was announced the "Best East of England Small Company" in the Business in The Community (BITC) Awards for Excellence 2007. In addition to the Awards for Excellence 2007, Business in the Community presented 7 East of England Regional Leadership Team Awards. These are designed specifically to recognise companies based in the region for their good work in society no matter how great or small. The Regional Leadership Team - "Best East of England Business in the Community Award - Best Small Company" - went to LSI Architects and was sponsored by Norwich Union.

Ends

Notes to the Editor

1. PR Consultant to RIBA East, Carri Crook, Carisma Communications, is out of the office from 24th May, returning on 2nd June. For media enquiries, project information or images during this period, please contact Flicky Ridel PR on 01603 702021 or email flickyridelpr@btconnect.com. From 2nd June Carri Crook can be contacted on 01842 815910 or email carri@carismacommunications.co.uk.
2. Based in Norwich and London, 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. Through advocacy and design, the practice seeks to reduce the environmental impacts of its proposals and buildings. LSI Architects pursues excellence in both its design and business methods, and has a demonstrable track record in delivering positive impacts in society and the workplace through the activities of their 'Open Environment' programme.
3. LSI Architects is an ISO 9001 and 14001 accredited practice and has secured a number of prestigious awards.
4. Business in the Community is a charity that mobilises business for good. The organisation inspires, engages, supports and challenges companies on responsible business, working through four areas: Marketplace, Workplace, Environment and Community. With more than 850 companies in membership, it represents 1 in 5 of the UK private sector workforce and convenes a network of 112 global partners in 60 countries. These members commit to integrating responsible business, sharing

experience and taking collaborative action. This is achieved through campaigns, programmes, awards, benchmarks and publications.

5. For further information on Business in the Community or the Awards, please contact Vicky Gashe, Head of Media, email: vicky.gashe@bitc.org.uk or call 020 7566 8794.