

# Dumfries and Galloway Council Design Awards 2016



## Introduction and Background

Over the years there have been a number of buildings in the region which have been recognised nationally for their exceptional design quality.

Dumfries and Galloway Council have used the Year of Innovation, Architecture and Design to launch their first Design Awards for the best designed buildings.

The awards aim to recognise, promote and celebrate examples of exceptional design quality within both the urban and rural parts of the region.

All types of projects were eligible from small to large scale, urban to rural, domestic or commercial.

There were three separate categories to enter, however applications could be considered for more than one category or award:

- **New build residential**
- **New build non-residential**
- **Works to existing buildings**

Overall 18 entries were submitted in relation to 16 sites. All of the submissions were of a very high quality in terms of design standards and were judged by a panel of independent experts that included **Mark Douglas** (Lead Officer Built Heritage & Design at Scottish Borders Council), **Diarmaid Lawlor** (Director of Urbanism at Architecture and Design Scotland), and **Volkmar Nix** (former Conservation Officer at D&G Council).

The aim is to hold the awards every 2-3 years.

For each category an award and commendation were presented at an award ceremony held on the 5th July 2016 by the Chair of the Council's Economy, Environment and Infrastructure Committee Councillor and MSP Colin Smyth.

This document contains details and feedback of those schemes along with details of the other projects submitted for consideration.



## New Build Residential

### Award:

#### **Lane's End, Thornhill – John Murray Architect for Ms Blackwood constructed by 3b Construction Ltd**

This is a very successful and sensitive integration of a new building into a complex and relatively constrained urban setting. The building is deceptively modest but is a hardworking and confident scheme which creates distinct experiences from lane, to court, to inside/out built spaces. The judges particularly liked the beautiful, layered courtyard garden and contemporary rear elevation which successfully complements the more restrained approach to the street elevation. The level of craftsmanship in the detailing to the building also helps with the overall success of the scheme.

### Commendation:

#### **Westbrook, Moffat – Simon Winstanley Architects for Mr & Mrs Graham constructed by 3b Construction Ltd**

This scheme represents successful and confident spatial planning of the site in terms of the flow in the sequence of spaces. This is particularly so in the way the lower wing frames the garden area forming an open courtyard affect. The judges appreciated the rigorousness of keeping to a very simple, well-crafted form which follows, but isn't bound by, the context of its large plot.

### Other entries:

#### **Tranquillity, Colvend – Homer Young for Mr Pain (self-build)**

This is a simple and straightforward structure designed to meet the specific needs of the occupant which it appears to do very successfully. There is good use of the levels and positioning on the site making the most of its lochside location whilst still being fully accessible. Its conventional appearance belies a very sophisticated climate control and waste management system.

#### **Darach, Dalbeattie – Robert Potter and Partners for Mr Need (self-build)**

This is a very large house on the outskirts of Dalbeattie which has been broken into a number of architectural elements in an attempt to reduce its visual impact. The peripheral landscaping and stonewalling have made good use of local materials. It is a commendable self-build project which has been competently executed using local contractors.

#### **Linnet, Loch Arthur Community, Beeswing - Simon Winstanley Architects for the Loch Arthur Community constructed by PRS Building Contractors**

The building has a very competent and simple vernacular design which could be replicated in other parts of the community and beyond. The scheme is well detailed and constructed from well used materials, the use of slate in particular helps to provide the building with a sense of solidity. The building creates an important resource for members of the Loch Arthur community.



**Hallam House, Beeswing - Robert Potter and Partners for Loreburn Housing Association constructed by TAS Building Supplies**

This scheme provides a pleasant, welcoming site with a simple but well-designed form. The use of the curve provides a more enclosed, courtyard feel which gives an impression of security. The judges liked the simple modular design that provides safe entry for each unit. The scheme integrates and relates well to neighbouring properties in the village.



**The Foxhole, Kirkcudbright - Simon Winstanley Architects for Mr & Mrs Nisbet constructed by 3b Construction**

This is a simply designed, well executed and well detailed building set on the suburban approach to Kirkcudbright. The building is situated set back and unobtrusively on the site and a simple range of materials, carefully selected and well-handled lend the building a sense of modesty.



**Oyster Cabin, Carrick - Simon Winstanley Architects for Mr & Mrs Stevenson constructed by PRS Building Contractors**

This is a well crafted and elegant replacement for a previous hut on the site which benefits from an exceptional location. The building is of a simple form and makes good use of simple materials in a sensitive location. The pv roof panels have been particularly well managed adding interest to the roofscape.



**Brockloch Treehouse, Kirkpatrick Durham**

– for details please see the New Build Non-Residential category

**Loch Ken Eco Bothies, Loch Ken Activity Centre**

– for details please see the New Build Non-Residential category



## New Build Non-Residential

### Award:

#### **Kirroughtree Visitor Centre, Newton Stewart – jmarchitects for Forestry Commission Scotland constructed by Robertsons**

This scheme represents a very successful whole site response to the needs of the site, designed with sensitivity to integrate within its wider setting. The judges felt that the building provides a real sense of arrival and welcome and successfully provides a hierarchy of easily understood spaces for all visitors which fully connects the inside and outside areas. The design is well disciplined and subtle using a limited but successful pallet of materials.

### Commendation:

#### **Brockloch Treehouse, Kirkpatrick Durham – Echo Living (designed and constructed) for J Nicholson**

The judges considered the scheme to be a complete joy providing a sense of intrigue and adventure. The scheme showed a real confidence, competence and sensitivity in handling the site in a unique and innovative way. There is a very careful attention to detail in the manner of its total design and sustainable approach.

### Other entry:

#### **Loch Ken Eco Bothies - Echo Living (designed and constructed) for Loch Ken Activity Centre**

This is a successful small modular development in a private setting providing adaptable and comfortable tourist accommodation. Due to the construction method the modules have a very light touch on the earth and are also off grid providing a sustainable and low impact response to the needs of tourists.



## Works to Existing Buildings

### Award:

#### **Killylour, Shawhead – Simon Winstanley Architects for Ms Chalmers and Mr McBride constructed by Andrew Campbell & Sons**

This scheme is a sensitive, respectful and well detailed approach to a previously altered building. The judges particularly liked this modest and functional extension which has avoided the temptation to over-enlarge or add too much thereby enhancing its rural setting.



### Commendation:

#### **Float Bay Cottage – ARPL Architects for Mr Brown constructed by 3b Construction Ltd**

This scheme is a well-crafted addition to an existing cottage to form a modern interpretation of a steading complex set in a stunning coastal location. The judges considered that the building responds well to its landscape setting and creates coherent internal spaces. The response to the contours of the site and internal level changes were particularly successful.



### Other entries:

#### **Girthhead Mill, Johnstonebridge – Robert Potter and Partners for Mr & Mrs Orr constructed by 3b Construction Ltd**

This is a very successful conversion of a modestly sized former mill which sits in an undulating landscape that hugs the building. The conversion is particularly successful in terms of the hierarchy of internal spaces and experiences that have been created.



#### **Three Merkland Long Barn, Hardgate – Savills for Mr Herries constructed by Armstrong Joinery**

This is a careful and well detailed conversion of a long range of outbuildings. The scheme has been very sensitively executed providing spacious modern accommodation with minimal alteration to the building.



#### **Theatre Royal, Dumfries - ARPL Architects for Guild of Players by T Graham & Sons**

The theatre makes an important contribution to the social and artistic life of Dumfries and the project has given it a whole new lease of life. The provision of additional high quality ancillary spaces will benefit the whole town. The judges acknowledged that it had been a difficult and complex project to link several different buildings together of different ages reconciling both user and architectural needs in an historical context.

