

## DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY DESIGN AWARDS 2023 – JUDGING RESULTS AND COMMENTS

### GENERAL COMMENTS

The judging panel was delighted that this year's Design Awards attracted 35 entrants from across the region and covered a variety of projects, large and small, including the reuse of existing buildings as well as new build projects. It was a daunting task to draw up a short list of projects to visit over two days, which given the geographical spread of the entries was limited to a total of 14 projects.

The panel acknowledged work that all entrants had undertaken in submitting their entries and enjoyed looking at all these, all of which had merits – there was a strong theme of sustainability running through all the projects from both clients/end users and designers.


The panel had been asked to assess the applications bearing in mind the following four judging criteria;



- Context
- Environmental Impact & Sustainable Design
- Economy, Innovation and Community
- Design and Standard of Work


	Project, Designers, Owners, Contractors		Independent Judging Panel: Comments	Result
1	<p><b>New Housing</b>, Castle Crescent, Closeburn</p> <p>John Gilbert Architects Nith Valley LEAF Trust - owners South of Scotland Community Homes (Stewart &amp; Shields contractor now gone out of business)</p>		<p>Although a modest terrace of only three units, the panel recognised the positive impact of this small scheme; well designed to Passivhaus standards and one of the first community-owned homes.</p> <p>The judges also liked the simple introduction of colour</p>	AWARD


			to allow the individual houses to be clearly identified and how the redevelopment of the site creates a frontage to the village green opposite.	
<b>2</b>	<p><b>Replacement house</b> at Hazelrig, by Balmaclellan</p> <p>Graeme Ditchburn Architect &amp; Simon Winstanley Architects* Colin and Susan Nimmo - owners Gary McKeand, GM Construction</p> <p>* Simon Winstanley retired in 2018 and, sadly, died in 2021, but was part of the design team at the outset.</p>		<p>This is a “tour-de-force” new private house, replacing an earlier house on a wooded site looking out over open countryside.</p> <p>The client had a very clear-cut brief for an exemplary energy-efficient building and the panel was impressed by the attention to detail inside and out and the high standard of workmanship achieved.</p>	AWARD
<b>3</b>	<p><b>New house, Hemp House, Gatehouse of Fleet</b></p> <p>Rachel Bevan – architect AG Turnbull &amp; S Walter – owners George Shaw - GS Constructions (Borgue) Ltd – contractors</p>		<p>The new house was designed to make maximum use of the sloping site leading down to the river and was built with a real passion to minimise its environmental impact, both through the use of Hempcrete (which afforded the opportunity of delightful “rounded” junctions and enables good temperature control in both winter and summer) and locally sourced reused materials.</p> <p>The panel recognised the very individual nature of this energy-efficient house.</p>	AWARD

<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>New café building, The Gather, Laggan</b></p> <p>Adam James, New Space Architecture Duncan McConchie – owner 3B Construction</p>		<p>The judges appreciated the choice of location for the new café taking full advantage of the southerly view to the Islands of Fleet, the name “The Gather” was a reminder of a former use of the site to gather the sheep and there were some echoes of this past use of the site in the new building where corrugated iron panels were used in the bar.</p> <p>The panel particularly liked how the internal and external elements were thoughtfully integrated, with the outside seating area set down into the ground to minimise its impact. The building itself is a simple timber clad box with a fully glazed façade and is unobtrusive in the landscape setting.</p>	<p>AWARD</p>
<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>Conversion and remodelling at Glentrool Hive (former school)</b></p> <p>John Gilbert Architects Glentrool &amp; Bargrennan Community Trust Broatch Construction</p>		<p>The school dates back to 1954 and has been transformed by the Glentrool and Bargrennan Community Trust in the Glentrool Hive.</p> <p>The judges were impressed by the way that the Trust had used the development of the Hive as a core integrated</p>	<p>AWARD</p>

			<p>regeneration project in the heart of the village. The provision of a holiday let within the Hive both provided a welcome visitor facility and also provided some core income to support the community use. The original school building has been externally clad in timber with great care taken to extend the eaves and window surrounds.</p> <p>The Hive also manages the surrounding former school playing field as a natural open space with allotments.</p>	
<p>6</p>	<p><b>Re-use of a historic building and associated redevelopment</b> of the site for holiday accommodation, Borgue of original Category A, Coo Palace</p> <p>Joel Pinnington, JMP Architects Ltd HPB (Holiday Property Bond) 3B Construction</p>		<p>The Category A listed Coo Palace was originally built as a “model” cow house for his 12 belted Galloways by the local laird just before the First World War. Sadly, in recent years it had fallen out of use and was in poor condition and featured on the “Buildings at Risk Register” for many years.</p> <p>The panel welcomed the redevelopment of the farm, by the Holiday Property Bond, which includes new holiday accommodation in a traditional style and a club</p>	<p>AWARD</p>

			room in a more contemporary style. It however still allows the Coo Palace, which has been completely restored with great attention to detail, to read as the dominant feature in the landscape, and the whole complex is powered by a biomass boiler.	
7	<p><b>Conversion and extension</b> for re-use of former Harbour master's Office, Stranraer –</p> <p>Jamie Bateman, Smith Scott Mullan Associates Dumfries &amp; Galloway Council – Property Services and Stranraer CARS project officer Pam Taylor</p> <p>Enterprising DG – no longer in business</p>		<p>Originally built as the harbour office in an Art Deco style in the 1930s, the building has now found a new life as a Harbour Centre to promote local tourism and businesses.</p> <p>The panel appreciated how the new extension connected to the original building by a glazed link, echoed the architectural style, and allowed the clock tower to remain the dominant feature, in part assisted by the external landscaping with bench seating centred on the tower.</p>	COMMENDATION
8	<p><b>Replacement house</b> at Whitehill, Kirkcubright</p> <p>Graeme Ditchburn Architect Rob and Anna Hale - owners Gary McKeand, GM Construction</p>		<p>Once the owners had taken the bold decision to take down the remains of the farm building on the site, the brief for the new house was very straightforward – an energy-efficient house, taking advantage of the sea views to</p>	COMMENDATION

			<p>the south and west. The result is a simple and effective building that with its slated roof fits into the landscape. The interior has been designed to accommodate the client's needs, with contrasting light, spacious and dark, cosy spaces.</p>	
9	<p><b>Conversion of category B stables and associated housing development</b> at Lincluden Stables</p> <p>Douglas Bodell, Robert Potter and Partners Ltd Wheatley Homes South, Denise Peat Ashleigh (Scotland) Limited</p>		<p>The panel welcomed the bringing back into use of the former Category B stables for residential use and the associated “enabling” development of new social housing, with the use of glazed brick to unify the scheme.</p> <p>There was some concern about the dominance of the roadways in the development, in particular the uncertainty of parking areas with unprotected trees, but the re-use of the building and architecture of the scheme was considered worthy of commendation.</p>	COMMENDATION

<p>10</p>	<p><b>Off-grid Woodland hut</b>, Clifton and Black Sea Woods</p> <p>John Murray Architect Adam &amp; Susan Gillingham, owners</p> <p>Neil Hutchison, PRS Building Contractors [no longer in business]</p>		<p>A unique property erected at the edge of a woodland holding to take advantage of both the views to the south and to maximise the potential of PV electrical generation – the hut is completely off-grid.</p> <p>The panel liked the light touch installation using timber posts and how the building was broken down into smaller linked components to minimise its impact.</p>	<p><b>COMMENDATION</b></p>