

LANDSCAPE INSTITUTE NEWS RELEASE

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TOP INDUSTRY AWARDS FOR EDINBURGH SQUARE AND OLYMPIC PARK

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This year's Landscape Institute Awards, presented today by environmentalist Jonathan Porritt, gave the top industry prize, the **President's Award** to St Andrew Square in Edinburgh designed by landscape architects Gillespies. 'Gillespies' work is a splendid example of public space fulfilling its potential and contributing to the life of the city,' said Landscape Institute President Neil Williamson, 'They have produced a confident and convincing design for this world heritage site in the heart of Edinburgh.'

The Peter Youngman Award which is awarded each year for outstanding contribution to landscape was awarded to the Olympic Delivery Authority for their visionary plans for a new London park. In making the award to John Hopkins, project sponsor, parklands and public realm at the ODA the President said: 'The focus of the London 2012 Games will be the Olympic Park in east London, which will house the new sport venues. The Olympic Park is located in the Lower Lea Valley – an area of great untapped potential. After the Games the area will be transformed into one of the largest urban parks created in Europe for more than 150 years. The determination to ensure that the most lasting legacy of the Olympics should not only be beautiful new buildings but a beautiful new park at its heart, setting the context for a new piece of city has led to the decision to make the award this year to the Olympic Delivery Authority which is responsible for commissioning the Olympic Park, one of the most significant landscape-led regeneration projects in the UK.'

Awards are made in fourteen categories: Communications & Presentation, Design under 1ha, Design 1-5ha, Design over 5ha, Heritage & Conservation, Landscape Policy, Landscape Sciences, Local Landscape Planning, Management, Research, Strategic Landscape Planning, Student Dissertation, Student Portfolio and Urban Design & Masterplanning.

Landscape Institute Chief Executive Alastair McCapra said: 'This year, despite the rigours of the recession, we were delighted to receive such an excellent range of imaginative, constructive and, above all, sustainable approaches to every aspect of landscape management, design and research.'

Full list of awards

Urban Design and Masterplanning

Winner

Ancoats Public Realm, the creation of a pedestrian-friendly public space in the east of Manchester - Camlin

Lonsdale Landscape Architects, Llangadfan

Judges' comments: *'This is a simple yet engaging idea which will encourage the public to connect with the site and uncover the area's secrets. Overall the project provides clarity, texture and imagination in the public realm and a highly appropriate response to context.'*

Highly Commended

Chavasse Park, Liverpool, the creation of a new public park at the heart of the Liverpool One development –

BDP

Judges' comments: *'A very professional, thorough approach which responds well to the brief and delivers an interesting set of public spaces while making a positive contribution the urban fabric of Liverpool.'*

Commended

Caldew and Carlisle City Flood Alleviation Scheme, landscape-led guidelines for a major flood defence project –

AXIS

Judges' comments: *'A thorough and rigorous project which understands the site's constraints and addresses them.'*

Landscape Sciences

Commended

Abergavenny to Gilwern Bat Mitigation Plan, survey and analysis for the Countryside Commission for Wales –

TACP

Judges' comments: *'This submission impressed for its demonstration of an awareness of the relationship between the key species concerned, habitat requirements and the ability of the local environment to accommodate measures in an appropriate manner.'*

Commended

The Biodiversity of Wigan, a detailed analysis of priority habitats and species – TEP

Judges' comments: *'This project was particularly strong in compilation of evidence, survey and other information and clearly showed the important role of the landscape sciences in providing a broad understanding – to move forward to implementation.'*

Commended

St. Bartholomew's School, Newbury, proposals for native planting in a school setting - Environmental Dimension Partnership

Judges' comments: *'This scheme successfully brought together understanding of context, design solutions and the client; it was felt that the scheme would be 'owned' by the school and its pupils bringing a positive benefit to the immediate community.'*

Communications and Presentation

Winner

*Regener8**, a community engagement board game - Taylor Young Ltd

Judges' comments: *'This was work that demonstrated a particularly innovative process.'*

Highly Commended

'The BIG Landscape eXperiment', a tool for re-imagining school grounds - Hampshire County Council

Judges' comments: *'The judges were hugely impressed by this great tool for communication and engagement.'*

Highly Commended

Design for Play, a guide to creating successful play spaces - Aileen Shackell Associates

Judges' comments: *'This work was inspiring in its approach and the case studies inspired the judges as well.'*

Commended

The Fairytale of Burscough Bridge, an exhibition - BCA Landscape

Judges' comments: *'The broad range of media used, with creative and fantastic graphics, was remarkable.'*

Heritage & Conservation

Winner

Queen Square, Bristol, restoration of one of the largest Georgian squares in the UK - Bristol City Council, Urban Design and Conservation

Judges' comments: *'The term 'highest quality' can be used for this scheme which has resulted in clear benefits for a wide area of the city.'*

Highly Commended

Castle Gardens, Co. Antrim, restoration of an urban park - Soltys Brewster Consulting Ltd

Judges' comments: *'The integration of landscape design and contemporary uses is excellent.'*

Commended

Discover Bute, a planning strategy for the Isle of Bute - Land Use Consultants

Judges' comments: *'The vision statement and framework are excellent.'*

Commended

St. John at Hackney Churchyard Gardens, the restoration of a neglected churchyard - Land Use Consultants

Judges' comments: *'The judges were impressed with the links between research and interpretation, with thorough consultation that valued the contrasting views of those consulted.'*

Design under 1 ha

Winner

St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh, a major new public space in a world heritage site - Gillespies LLP

Judges' comments: *'This scheme is notable for the public realm design and the role of the landscape architect in delivering places for people.'*

Highly Commended

Cockermouth Market Place, design for reconstructing the market place - BCA Landscape

Judges' comments: *'The quality of the design and detailing in this scheme sets it apart from its competitors and establishes a benchmark in the creation of good quality public realm as well as a sense of place.'*

Commended

King George's Field Playscape, Hanwell, creating a natural approach to play - Groundwork London

Judges' comments: *'This is a beautiful piece of design in its own right and is also notable for its community engagement and collaborative design.'*

Commended

Rootstein Hopkins Parade Ground, an open air studio and exhibition space - Planet Earth Ltd

Judges' comments: *'The jurors were impressed with the simple elegance of the design and the integration of sustainable energy sources through the ground source heat pump system.'*

Student Dissertation

Winner

Contemplation-Scapes, an enquiry into contemplative landscapes - Bianca Soares Moura

Judges' comments: *'This is a refreshing subject, and this focus could be of great benefit to the profession. This dissertation is a beautifully-presented work, both graphically and in the quality of its prose.'*

Highly Commended

Piccadilly Gardens: a critical appraisal of a 21st century civic landscape - Rowland Byass, University of Sheffield

Judges' comments: *'This work exhibits all the hallmarks of refined critical, analytical thinking. It is an ambitious work, beautifully structured and written with passion and deft confidence.'*

Commended

The Development of Western North American and Mediterranean Dry Meadows - Marta Puig de la Bellacasa, LDA Design

Judges' comments: *'The subject is very timely and relevant and this research is extremely useful to design for brownfield and postindustrial sites. The science and research is also exceptionally thorough.'*

Design over 5 ha

Highly Commended

George Bancroft Park (Phase 1), the first new public green space for Blackpool – EDAW

Judges' comments: *'The panel recognised the complex and demanding challenges of the site and applauded the landscape architects for their interpretation of the brief and their understanding of the site's role in both a global and local scale.'*

Highly Commended

Yorkshire Sculpture Park, new access road and gallery landscape - Land Use Consultants

Judges' comments: *'The scheme illustrated an imaginative, contemporary yet appropriate intervention to the historic landscape, seamlessly merging architecture and landscape architecture.'*

Management

Highly Commended

Thames Basin Heaths, a nature conservation strategy for the Thames Basin - LDA Design

Judges' comments: *'The judges were impressed that this entry covered high level prescriptions with more site specific proposals involving a range of interests through a consultation process.'*

Commended

Green Estate Management Best Practice, guidance for the Homes and Communities Agency – TEP

Judges' comments: *'This document brings survey information and GIS together with policy and prescription - making management information more available to those that need it through an accessible management tool.'*

Local Landscape Planning

Winner

Reculver Country Park Masterplan, proposals for green tourism-led planning - Allen:Scott

Judges' comments: *'The panel were thrilled by the vision presented here; full of optimism but very caring and considerate. The success of this project was assured by the thorough understanding of what made this place special.'*

Highly Commended

Olympic Park and Public Realm Masterplan, the creation of a new park for East London - Olympic Delivery Authority

Judges' comments: *'This masterplan is visionary and innovative. At the same time it is deliverable, and the landscape, which will become one of the most visible landscapes in the world for a short time, will be robust and contribute to the art and science of landscape architecture.'*

Commended

Kirkwall Urban Design Development Framework, a landscape-led approach to urban design - Land Use Consultants

Judges' comments: *'This document will guide the future of the city and it will remain as an invaluable reference document well into the future and is noted for being an honest statement of where contemporary work is failing the quality of the place.'*

Commended

Markham Vale, design code and framework for the Markham Employment Growth Zone - Scott Wilson Ltd

Judges' comments: *'This is a thoroughly professionally undertaken project but what sets it aside was its reference to people and its sense of humour.'*

Landscape Policy

Winner

Liverpool and Manchester City Region Green Infrastructure Prospectus, development of a landscape policy – TEP

Judges' comments: *'A policy statement that has had a major effect on national and regional policy, and advocacy and has made a real difference.'*

Highly Commended

Thames Estuary 2100, a flood risk policy that puts climate change at its core - Environment Agency / Arup Landscape

Judges' comments: *'A well laid out and easy to understand document with good case studies.'*

Design 1-5 ha

Winner

Normand Park, a new park in Fulham - Kinnear Landscape Architects

Judges' comments: *'The judges were impressed and inspired by this fun and playful scheme, which had exceptional attention to detail and also established a distinctive sense of place.'*

Research

Winner

Sustainability Challenge London: Sustainable Cities Initiative, a project to identify the success factors in a sustainable city - Golder Associates (UK) Ltd

Judges' comments: *'In the Panel's opinion this piece of work shows the unique contribution that Landscape architects can make to the essential subject of sustainable cities –they are a well deserved winner and an inspiration to others!'*

Strategic Landscape Planning

Winner

Welsh Seascapes and their sensitivity to offshore developments, a study essential to the planning of the Welsh coastline - White Consultants

Judges' comments: *'This is a professional and timely piece of work. It places landscape architects in a critical position to help decision makers move forward on addressing critical issues associated with the provision of renewable energy.'*

Student Portfolio

Winner

Claire Katherine Butlin, Edinburgh College of Art

Judges' comments: *'This was a beautiful and well-composed portfolio of projects that impressed the panel.'*

Highly Commended

Katherine Jones, University of Gloucestershire

Judges' comments: *'The rigorous grasp and technical reports and research stood out in this submission.'*

Commended

Hazel Newman, Kingston University

Judges' comments: *'A fantastic and sustainable design process in a portfolio that used diverse media.'*

Commended

Katharine Jackson, University of Sheffield

Judges' comments: *'This submission was well expressed, particularly in terms of images and design ideas.'*

ENDS

Note to editors:

The Landscape Institute Awards

The Landscape Institute Awards are presented to encourage and recognise outstanding examples of work by the landscape profession. The Awards aim to bring greater awareness of the best contributions from Landscape Institute members in creating an improved environment.

The Awards aim to:

- promote the art and science of landscape architecture
- advance the knowledge and understanding of the discipline
- celebrate professional expertise
- reward schemes that demonstrate a high level of commitment to sustainability

The Landscape Institute

The Landscape Institute is the professional body and regulator for landscape architecture. Under its Royal Charter the Landscape Institute is charged with protecting, conserving and enhancing the natural and built environment for the benefit of the public.

The Landscape Institute is an educational charity and chartered body responsible for protecting, conserving and enhancing the natural and built environment for the benefit of the public. It champions well-designed and well-managed urban and rural landscape. The Institute's accreditation and professional procedures ensure that the designers, managers and scientists who make up the landscape architecture profession work to the highest standards. Its advocacy and education programmes promote the landscape architecture profession as one which focuses on design, environment and community in order to inspire great places where people want to live, work and visit.

The Landscape Institute represents 6000 members who include chartered landscape architects, academics, scientists and students. Our members work for a range of organisations such as local authorities, government agencies and in private practice. They are involved in a broad range of tasks including masterplanning, environmental assessment, public consultation and design.

The Institute provides services to assist members including support and promotion of the work of landscape architects; information and guidance to the public and industry about the specific expertise offered by those in the profession; and training and educational advice to students and professionals looking to build upon their experience.