

PRESS RELEASE

Strictly embargoed until 16:00 on Thursday 17th November 2011

£1 million regeneration in Dalston wins the UK's premier landscape award

The £1 million scheme which is transforming Dalston's sprawling urban environment into a greener and more community-orientated suburb of east London has won the prestigious President's Award in this year's Landscape Institute Awards. Selected from a shortlist of 30, J&L Gibbons, the landscape architects responsible for the project in collaboration with muf architecture/art, were praised for their highly sophisticated response to a very challenging brief. 'Making Space in Dalston' included the creation of ten individual projects which would deliver better public space without losing the existing qualities of the neighbourhood. Projects included the installation of a linear vegetable garden and community orchard planting on the Somerford Grove estate, a pack-away playground for Dalston's main square, a green wall for the Princess May School and the transformation of a piece of abandoned railway land into a much-loved community garden.

J&L Gibbons, in collaboration with muf architecture/art, were recognised for successfully creating better quality public space whilst avoiding neighbourhood sanitisation. The judges said; "This is a strikingly graceful approach to understanding an area, and sets a model for how it should be done. The temporary landscape projects are quite transformational." By resisting the traditional 'top-down' approach the practice chose instead to work very closely with local residents, businesses and organisations to develop a shared vision for regeneration. The judges added; "the landscape architects encouraged local partners to take ownership of the projects. As such, it acts a test case for how the 'Big Society' might work at the point of delivery of new urban plans."

On the Somerford Grove Estate, where residents were severely lacking in any green space, they were invited to help plant a new orchard, and a linear vegetable garden was established in response to local enthusiasm for 'grow your own'. In Gillett Square, Dalston's cultural hub, several improvements were made including the creation of a large mirrored container with a pack-away playground and sound and projection equipment allowing local residents to utilise the space much more effectively. At the Eastern Curve Garden derelict land was transformed into a local asset. The eco-garden with new barn to host community events, rainwater collection system and furniture made in on-site community workshops has provided a much-needed green oasis. Speaking about the Eastern Curve Garden Marie Murray, local resident and garden co-ordinator said; "The Dalston Eastern Curve Garden is a perfect example of small budget, big impact. We're in an area severely lacking in public green space that can feel very frantic with traffic and noise. The Garden is a peaceful oasis where people can connect with nature and meet their neighbours in a relaxed way."

Also picking up an award was the 'Grow 2 Eat' edible landscape manual created by Studio Engleback for TV presenter Kevin McCloud's residential eco-development in Swindon. The Triangle was created to promote a sustainable lifestyle and includes a series of shared kitchen gardens designed by Studio Engleback. The 'Grow 2 Eat' manual was prepared as a gift to the new residents to help inform and inspire them on how to use the kitchen gardens. The manual, which won in the Communications and Presentation category, contains practical advice on how to grow edibles and a collection of inspiring recipes. It was recognised by the judges as "An inspiring piece of work that communicated a 'getting back to basics' message. The booklet gave a real sense of bringing a community together and making them more self-sufficient and sustainable. A powerful way of engaging people with their landscape."

Other winners at this year's Awards included HTA Landscape Design for the rejuvenation of Stevenage New Town Gardens in the Heritage and Conservation category, which the judges called "A Landmark project in terms of recognising the importance of post-war design." In the Landscape Management category Lloyd Bore Ltd won for the sensitive restoration of the gardens at the Luton Hoo Hotel in Bedfordshire which were first created by the eighteenth century landscape architect Capability Brown. The 'greening' of Leeds city centre by LDA Design won in the Landscape Policy category. LDA Design successfully harnessed the City's natural resources to deliver sustainable growth for future generations. Leeds city centre is now well placed to benefit from the economic value that investment in green infrastructure can bring through inward investment, by driving the demand for a 'green skilled' workforce and increasing the resilience of its businesses against the costly impact of climate change.

Now in its fifth consecutive year, the Landscape Awards are presented in association with Nemetschek Vectorworks, McParland Finn Ltd, Charcon, Marshalls, English Heritage and Hardscape. The Awards ceremony was hosted by Eden Project founder Tim Smit KBE on Thursday 17th November 2011 at The Brewery, London. Awards were presented in the following categories:

Peter Youngman Award

Winner: David Scott, former partner and founder of TEP

President's Award

Winner: Making Space in Dalston by J&L Gibbons/muf architecture

Communications and Presentation

Winner: Grow 2 Eat, edible landscape manual by Studio Engleback

Highly Commended: The Spell of the Ancient Market Area Kingston by Outerspace and Room 60

Highly commended: Ingrebourne Valley Wayfinding Strategy by J&L Gibbons/muf architecture

Design Under One Hectare

Highly Commended: Angel Field, Liverpool Hope University by BCA Landscapes

Commended: Crow Wood Playscape, Cheshire by Davies White Ltd

Commended: Bank Street Basin, North Lanarkshire by The Paul Hogarth Company

Design One to Five Hectares

Highly commended: Stanislavsky Factory, Moscow by John McAslan + Partners

Design Over Five Hectares

Winner: Old Pale Community Woodland, Cheshire by TEP

Heritage and Conservation

Winner: Stevenage New Town Gardens by HTA Landscape Design

Highly Commended: Boundary Gardens, London by LDA Design

Highly Commended: Great Lines Heritage Park, Kent by HTA Landscape Design

Landscape Management

Winner: Luton Hoo Hotel, Bedfordshire by Lloyd Bore Ltd

Landscape Policy

Winner: Leeds City Region Green Infrastructure Strategy by LDA Design

Highly Commended: Study on Green Roof Application in Hong Kong by Urbis Limited

Landscape and Research

Winner: Public Realm Design Guide for Hostile Vehicle Mitigation by Capita Lovejoy

Commended: Overlooking the Visual: Demystifying the Art of Design by Kathryn Moore

Landscape Sciences

Highly Commended: Gallic Heathland Restoration at the Point of Ayre by SLR Consulting Ltd

Local Landscape Planning

Winner: Great Lines Heritage Park, Kent by HTA Landscape Design

Commended: Clay Cross Regeneration Framework, Derbyshire by Maxim Urban Design

Commended: Sow and Grow Everywhere (SAGE), Glasgow by erz Limited

Strategic Landscape Planning

Winner: The Sensitivity of the Coastal Landscapes and Seascapes of Wales to Tidal Stream Developments by Land Use Consultants

Highly Commended: Newlands, North West England by the Forestry Commission

Commended: Dorset Coast and Seascape Character Assessment by LDA Design

Urban Design and Masterplanning

Winner: Making Space in Dalston, London by J&L Gibbons/muf architecture

Highly Commended: Msheireb: Heart of Doha by AECOM

Commended: North West Lands, Wembley by Macfarlane Wilder

Student Dissertation

Winner: Resilient Landscapes: What are They and How Useful is it for Landscape Architects to Adopt the Concept as a New Design Paradigm? By Amy Harley-Jepson, Edinburgh College of Art

Commended: The Effect of Provenance on Winter Cold Tolerance of Western South African species with the Potential for Use on Green Roofs in the UK by Helen Cummins, University of Sheffield

Commended: 21st Century Sublime: What is the Place of the Sublime in the Modern World?
By Nick Tolley, Edinburgh College of Art

Student Portfolio

Winner: Templehof, Germany and Al Ain Oasis, UAE by Oliver Barden, Edinburgh College of Art

Commended: Portfolio of Works (2006-2011) by Andrew Pringle, Edinburgh College of Art

Further information about the Landscape Awards can be found at:

www.landscapeinstitute.org/events/awards2011.php

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For further information, interviews and images please contact Sarah Harrison, on behalf of the Landscape Institute, on 07768 372892 or email sarah@sarahharrisonpr.com

Notes to Editors:

- Making Space in Dalston is a £1 million London Development Agency project, managed by Design for London/LDA in partnership with the London Borough of Hackney.
- The Landscape Institute Awards are presented to encourage and recognise outstanding examples of the work of the landscape profession. The Awards aims to promote the art and science of landscape architecture; advance the knowledge and understanding of the discipline; celebrate professional expertise and reward schemes that demonstrate a high level of commitment to sustainability
- The judging committee included: David Withycombe CMLI (Chair), Land Management Services Ltd; Clare Brockhurst FLI, Tyler Grange; Nicola Cox CMLI, Place Design + Planning; Anne Evans CMLI, Mouchel; Paj Valley FLI, Atkins; Jo Watkins PLI, Landscape Institute
- The Landscape Institute is the royal chartered body for landscape architects. It is a professional organisation and educational charity working to protect, conserve and enhance the natural and built environment for the public benefit. It accredits university courses and promotes professional development to ensure that landscape architects deliver the highest standards of practice. It works with government to improve the planning, design and management of urban and rural landscape. Through its advocacy programmes and support to its members it champions landscape, and the landscape profession, in order to inspire great places where people want to live, work and visit. Visit www.Landscapeinstitute.org for more information or follow the Institute on twitter: @talklandscape