Lord Mayor’s DESIGN AWARDS

WINNERS 2019
ABOUT THE LORD MAYOR’S DESIGN AWARDS

The Lord Mayor’s Design Awards is a biennial awards ceremony which has been running since 1994.

The aim is to celebrate and publicise the best in architecture and environmental design, to help improve the built environment for us all.

Awards are given to schemes which make an outstanding contribution to the quality and appearance of the local environment.

The 2019 awards have awarded schemes in a range of categories, and this brochure has been designed to celebrate the winners and commended finalists.

“The best in architecture and environmental design”
New Building

AWARD WINNER

Northumbria University Computer Information Sciences Building

Client: Northumbria University
Architect: NORR Consultants Ltd.
Main Contractor: Esh Group

The dynamic rounded form of the CIS building is located at the gateway to the Northumbria University Campus from the pedestrian bridge to Ellison Place. The judges felt that this eye-catching form was inspiring for students and was a landmark building which welcomed them onto the campus. The concept of open plan teaching spaces allowing an uninterrupted flow of movement was welcomed by the judges, who felt it made the building modern and attractive. The building was also commended for the flexibility of its layout.

COMMENDED FINALIST

The Biosphere

Client: Newcastle City Council
Architect: Ryder Architecture
Main Contractor: Kier Property Developments Ltd.

This highly flexible, multi-occupied laboratory and office was commended for being a sharp new building which reads well and is clearly high quality. The judging panel were impressed by the colonnade around the building which helps with the challenging level changes across the site and contributes to a bold entrance interior. The judges believe the Biosphere will continue to raise the profile of Newcastle as a national centre for biosciences and meet the needs of future occupants.

Community Value and Social Accessibility

AWARD WINNER

Eagles Community Arena

Client: Tynexe Ltd and Eagles Community Foundation
Architect: Squires Barnett
Main Contractor: Esh Group
Planning Consultant: KLR Planning

The Eagles Community Foundation have been active in Newcastle since launching in 2006, and the development of their own dedicated arena has increased their offer in the city. The judges were impressed to learn that this purpose-built arena is a versatile venue which has favoured a flexible building layout in order to provide benefits for the wider community. The arena has already had a significant impact, hosting everything from social events for the elderly, sports coaching for young people, meetings for local businesses and formal dinners. The judges thought it commendable that the decision was made by the Foundation to locate the arena on this difficult site to maximise its public value to the people in the West of the city.

COMMENDED FINALIST

Star and Shadow

Client: Star and Shadow
Architect: MawsonKerr Architects
Main Contractor: Star and Shadow

The Star and Shadow has been commended by the judges because the project is by and for the community. Members of the public helped to crowd fund and build the venue, which includes a café, gallery space and support facilities including a Changing Place. The construction process expanded and extended the cinema community with over 300 volunteers of all ages and backgrounds. Innovations include a cinema which is an artwork in its own right, and peer to peer training in projection, lighting, sound and other vocations. The judges were impressed with the achievement of this self-sufficient, independent and growing community that is open to all.
Landscape

**Bigg Market**

**Client:** Newcastle NE1 Ltd.

**Landscape Architect:** Southern Green Ltd.

**Main Contractor:** Historic Property Restoration Ltd.

The Bigg Market has undergone a transformation from a difficult and underused space to a useable and accessible area of public realm. This transformation has created a new identity for the area, which has been enhanced through subtle detailing such as barley studs to represent its history as a public market, and the inscription of the “Blaydon Races” lyrics into the seating, paying tribute to George Ridley who first performed the song at Balmbra’s Music Hall, on a street off the Bigg Market.

The judges were particularly impressed that the design team showed a commitment to retaining the mature trees in the Bigg Market where possible, and to enhancing the views towards the Cathedral and Castle. The Bigg Market is now open and accessible to all members of the public and the judges believe it will act as a catalyst for surrounding developments.

**Armstrong Courtyard**

**Client:** Newcastle University

**Landscape Architect:** Southern Green Ltd.

**Main Contractor:** PF Burridge and Sons Ltd.

Once an under appreciated service yard, the Armstrong Courtyard has been transformed into a tranquil public space which now forms part of a new processional route from the Boiler House into the Armstrong Building. The judges agreed that the Armstrong Courtyard feels as though it has always been there, an achievement which should be highly commended.

As part of the redesign, a statue of Martin Luther King Jr. was commissioned as a focal point of the courtyard. The decision to place the statue within the courtyard was made alongside the sculptor and was specifically chosen because it places King amongst the people as an equal, reminding us of the importance of civil rights and social justice.
Conservation

**Boiler House**

**Client:** Newcastle University  
**Architect:** Howarth Litchfield  
**Main Contractor:** PF Burridge and Sons Ltd.

The judges highlighted that the Boiler House is an example of true conservation, where the changes have been so sensitive that they look natural and as though they have always been there. The restoration of the castellations has been particularly effective. The installation of the new roof lanterns and the large glazed entrance on the eastern elevation have created a light and welcoming internal environment.

The use of the new timber screening has brought a modern feel to the interior, whilst the retention of the original white industrial tiling has maintained a connection to the historic industrial use of the building. The judges agreed that the level changes across the building have been managed well and achieving level entrances on all sides is impressive – a feat which would not have been possible without the external landscaping works.

**Byzantine House**

**Client:** Provenance Developments Ltd.  
**Architect:** GD Lodge Architects  
**Designer:** Design Direction Ltd.  
**Main Contractor:** Kier Property Developments Ltd.

The conversion of this former Synagogue to create ten luxury apartments in a sought after area was commended by the judges for the retention of original features such as the mosaic floor and stained glass, which have been integrated into the scheme. The transformation has shown a clear commitment to maintaining the historic elements of the building. The judges thought the scheme has been sensitively done and has enhanced an already beautiful building.

Refurbishment

**Everyman Cinema**

**Client:** Everyman  
**Main Contractor:** Phelan Construction  
**Heritage Consultant:** Sarah Dyer  
**Civil and Structural Engineer:** Fairhurst

The Everyman Cinema has brought life to an unused basement in a prominent listed building on Grey Street. The refurbishment of this basement space has transformed something uninspiring into something aspirational and has enriched the cultural offer of the city. The judges recognised the effort to retain original features such as the cast iron columns and the dedication to minimum intervention through inserting removal pods to create the auditoria.

**Star and Shadow**

**Client:** Star and Shadow  
**Architect:** MawsonKerr Architects  
**Main Contractor:** Star and Shadow

While not a typical ‘sustainability’ project, the Star and Shadow Cinema embodies the mantra ‘reduce, reuse and recycle’. This previously unloved building has been transformed into a characterful community venue through volunteer power. This included transporting and reusing insulation and furniture from the previous venue and fitting the roof with solar panels. The judges noted that dedicated volunteers overcame hidden technical details to achieve the required level of sound proofing, protecting the amenity of nearby residents.

Sustainability

**Award Winner**

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**The Rose Auditorium**

*Client:* Sacred Heart Catholic School  
*Architect:* Mawson Kerr Architects  
*Main Contractor:* Surgo Construction Ltd.

This simple, elegant and functional auditorium space thoroughly impressed the judging panel. The designers of the Rose Auditorium have considered all elements of performance, with a sprung floor and innovative acoustic panelling. The judges felt it was positive to see a school focusing on the arts. In addition to a high-class performance space, the new design allowed for a dedicated staff area to be created below the auditorium, the quality of which was appreciated by the judging panel.

**Picton Manor**

*Client:* Gather Properties  
*Architect:* Mawson Kerr Architects  
*Main Contractor:* Tyneside Developments

The judges were impressed by not only the retention of much of the original late Georgian terrace but also the stepping down extension to the rear of Picton Manor, providing external space for occupants. The judges thought this was a commendable solution for developing in a difficult and constrained site. A subtle feature is the triangular window on the south elevation which emphasises the line of the original roof, allowing the historic and new elements of the building to be read together. Additionally, the scheme was commended for having a mix of uses in the development. While mainly residential, Picton Manor has office space and a commercial unit on the lower ground floor.

**Eagles Community Arena**

*Client:* Tynexe Ltd and Eagles Community Foundation  
*Architect:* Squires Barnett  
*Main Contractor:* Esh Group  
*Planning Consultant:* KLR Planning

“The Eagles Community Foundation deserve considerable credit for taking professional basketball very successfully to the Elswick area”

This year, the Lord Mayor has chosen to give his special award to the Eagles Community Arena. The Lord Mayor commented:

“It has been superbly designed for its purpose as a Sports Hall, suitable for many other uses including large formal dinners. The spectator areas for professional basketball are very quickly and easily converted, it is a superb building for accessibility both in terms of disabled persons and in terms of its suitability for community usage with several accessible spaces which can be tailored for a variety of applications, and according to numbers at the time.

They are to be commended for their success in community involvement in the use of the spaces. Without the thought that has gone into the internal design of the building, they would not have been able to do this.

The Eagles Community Foundation deserve considerable credit for taking professional basketball very successfully to the Elswick area, on a site not without difficulties to surmount when it would have been easy to choose elsewhere.”

**Lord Mayor’s Special Award**

*LORD MAYOR COUNCILLOR DAVID COOK*
JUDGING PANEL

Lord Mayor Councillor David Cook

Neil Barker  Member of the Royal Institute of British Architects
Richard Barnes  Landscape and Ecology Team Manager at Newcastle City Council
Alan Grant  Member of the Northumberland and Newcastle Society
John Grundy  Local History and Architecture Specialist
Marie-Louise Milliken  Member of the Royal Town Planning Institute

For further information, please contact the Urban Design and Conservation Team
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