

Portsmouth International Port Wins Best New Building 2012

Judging for the Portsmouth Society's Design Awards took place in September with the new terminal building at Portsmouth International Port taking the Best New Building prize.



Best Restoration was for a conversion of a former solicitor's office to a home at 5 Grove Road South in Southsea.



The Best Landscaping prize went to the landscaping at Mile End Road.



In the new, Best Reuse category, the new library at Palmerston Road, Southsea was the clear winner.



Portsmouth Society Design Awards 2012

To the delight of the judges in the Portsmouth Society's Design Competition, the recession has not affected the quality or quantity of this year's entries. The judges were: Tod Wakefield, former head of Portsmouth School of Architecture, planner Phil Turner, architect Graham Brown and Celia Clark of the Portsmouth Society.

Portsmouth International Port Mile End – Winner - Best New Building



Winner of the Best New Building Award is the sparkling white International Port Terminal in Mile End, designed by Joel Kempsey-Fagg of D5 Architects of Birmingham. It feels like a light airy airport – and the clarity of signs and routes needed to process 400,000 people to and from their ferries and cruise ships each year make their transit enjoyable. The sculptural anti-terrorism protection: giant anchors and concrete chain links enhance the perimeter, and the judges

were impressed by the innovative use of seawater for cooling and heating via a heat exchanger. Halcrow were the lead design consultants for project management, civil engineering, structural, mechanical and electrical engineering. Mansell were the main contractors.

Highbury Children's Centre – Commended - Best New Building

One of two commended schemes was Highbury Children's Centre by Alastair Lewis Portsmouth City Architects, built by Habens of Rodney Road Portsmouth. With its carefully detailed light-filled community hall and Surestart Centre, it once again demonstrates the excellence



in design we have come to expect from the city's architects.



Alliance House St. Mary's Road Fratton – Commended - Best New Building

The articulated façade, clever planning and private outdoor space makes living in Alliance House Apartments in St. Mary's Road Fratton enjoyable and sociable. A resident who worked in the corset factory on the site – its history is explained in a display board – appropriately, lives in a flat there. The scheme was designed by Mike

Ford of HM Architects Ltd. and built by W Stirland Ltd. of Birdham West Sussex for Radian (formerly Drum Housing Association).

5 Grove Road South Southsea - Winner - Best Restoration

The Best Restoration Award was to the elegant restoration of 5 Grove Road South Southsea from its former use as a solicitor's office as their home by Mark Lemon and Kemi Adenubi. In place of the redbrick office rear extension is a lovely new orangery, paved garden, greenhouse and dining arbour, and Peter Clutterbuck's distinctive new railings enhance both front and back.

Old Iron Foundry Portsmouth Dockyard – Commended - Best Restoration

Commended in this category was the Old Iron Foundry in Portsmouth Naval Base, designed by Robert Benn Associates of Gunwharf. The new entrance hall and ground floor offices are the last phase of a restoration and conversion to offices for BAE Systems, first commended by the Society in 2005. The carefully restored vaulted redbrick ceilings and walls, grey painted original water pumps and crane gantries are complemented by the new slate floor and impressive boardroom table.



The new slate floor and impressive boardroom table.

Southsea Library – Winner – Best Reuse

The judges introduced a new category this year: Best Reuse Award, because of the trend towards conversion of existing buildings rather than new build, where pubs are turned into homes and shops, churches into pubs, garages into cafes.... Winner was the popular Southsea Library, created in the former Woolworths store in Palmerston Road Southsea – as suggested by a member of the Society! Project co-ordination was by Portsmouth City Council architect Marcelle Newbold. Amid brightly coloured furniture, the sinuous interior design by Robert Benn Associates creates spaces for new activities. The building was adapted and fitted out by Brymor.

Yellow Kite Café Southsea Castle – Commended – Best Reuse

Commended was the pleasant café in the casemates inside Southsea Castle for Gamble Parker of Yellow Kite by contractor Habens, within a challenging heritage environment, where much restoration of the castle still remains to be done



Central reservation landscaping Mile End Road – Winner – Best Landscaping

Best Landscaping: the winner is the new landscaping of the arrival into Portsmouth from the M275: the central reservation of Mile End Road and the new link road to the dockyard Trafalgar Gate. Designed by Vincent Mount, Senior Landscape Architect at Portsmouth City Council, it reminds people of the city's connection to the sea, evoking the local beach: the grasses sway in the wind like waves, catching the changing light through the day. Sea species such as thrift, thistle and holly,



sedum and creeping rosemary add seasonal colour and interest, and emerging pines and birch offer contrast. The planting is edged by Solent shingle borders in elegant zigzags, punctuated with large stone blocks from the dock in which the Mary Rose Museum is being constructed. The scheme is very well received by the public, many drivers tooting their horns and showing thumbs up whilst the designers were on site.

Pairs of painted ships in the walls at the Trafalgar Gate entrance by Mark Lewis of The Art and Soul Traders Ltd. are part of the scheme. PGSD were the Landscape contractors, Ringway (Eurovia) the main contractor.



Stacey Centre Community Orchard Walsall Road Baffins – Commended – Best Landscaping

Particularly commended is the Stacey Centre Community Orchard in Walsall Road Baffins – an exemplar of how to enhance the many pockets of dull mown grass all over the city. Encouraged and designed by Tracey Jones, volunteers meet regularly to plant and tend the lovely trees, shrubs and plants and enjoy the vine-planted arbours.



Also viewed ...

The judges also saw Twinkle Cottage Day Nursery in the former Dog and Duck Fratton, St. Mary's Health Campus, Harry Sotnick Care Home

Fratton, Mayflower Mews Highland Road, Sellers Coffee House Castle Road, the early stages of the restoration of the Beneficial School owned by the Groundlings Theatre in Kent Street Portsea, Chandos Rise Garden in the city centre, and the quirky Celestial Microscope in Portsmouth Grammar School which complements the Bristow-Clavell Science building.

Hear from the judges at the November meeting

The judges, entrants and Portsmouth Society members will be discussing the entries and winners at the Society's meeting on Wednesday 7 November at 7pm in the St. George's Centre Old Portsmouth - entrance in St. Thomas's Street - when all are welcome.

Celia Clark, President Portsmouth Society