

Portsmouth Society Design Awards 2013

Record Year for the Design Awards

No fewer than five awards and several Commendations were given in the four categories of the Design Competition: Best Restoration, Best Reuse, Best New Building and Best Landscaping.

Best New Building Award Winner: The Limes, St James's Hospital



The Limes, an in-patient acute treatment mental health unit for older patients in the beautiful grounds of St. James's Hospital in Milton. Designed by architects IBI Nightingales of Brighton and built by Keir Southern (Construction), its light filled, calm and beautifully detailed spaces have seats in the corridors where patients and nurses can rest, with views out to the lovely gardens which patients can freely access. This was the only

entry with significant public art - apart from the restored Osmund Kay windows relocated in St. Cuthbert's. Commissioned by Portsmouth City Primary Care Trust, Ben Barrell's beautiful Dignity is by the front entrance. Tree by Alyosha Moeran and Guy Stevens is in the north garden.

New buildings – commendations

Commendations in the Best New Building category were the Portsmouth University Marine Laboratory at Eastney, with its varied blue panels reflecting the sky and surrounding sea. Important research into human interaction with the coastal marine environment takes place here, including pollution damage to aquatic organisms, the impact of biofuel technology development and marine conservation strategies. Also Commended are the new council houses at Henrietta Place in Somerstown, designed for larger families by the City Architects, winners of numerous previous awards. The large well-planned rooms are much appreciated by the residents.

Best Restoration Award



Spitbank Fort – Winner

Spitbank Fort has been impressively transformed into an extraordinary hospitality venue by Clarence's owner Mike Clare, who also owns the other seaforts : No Man's Land and Horse Sand. Spitbank's mechanical services have been

renewed, its massive brick, iron and teak structure carefully repaired, while new facilities: a professional kitchen, glamorous bedrooms and bathrooms and bar have been sensitively inserted. PLC Architects were the designers and interior design was by Carol Clare. Drayton firm ITD Consultants were responsible for the planning and design of all the engineering services in this challenging location. Other firms involved included structural engineers Hamill Davies, service engineers Lowe & Oliver, and contractors Newman Scott. Together they have brought this neglected Ancient Monument back to life.

Best Reuse Award - former Grave Diggers pub - Joint winner



Joint winner of the Best Reuse Award is the conversion of the former Grave Diggers pub in Highland Road into an airy, dramatic new home for exceptional clients, Val and Jackie Walker. Little of the inside of the pub was worth keeping, though the barrel slope survives in the basement. The interior was completely transformed by architect Carl Leroy Smith and the building work was carried out by contractors McCann. The judges particularly enjoyed the elegant new

metal and wood staircase designed by the architect and made locally by Will Chamberlain Joinery and Harrison Industrial.



St Cuthbert's Church Copnor- Joint winner

The other joint winner of the Best Reuse Award is the extraordinary and imaginative insertion of new facilities: meeting halls, doctors' surgeries, nursery school, education base and renewed church, all within the massive spaces of the listed St. Cuthbert's Copnor, built in 1914. This has been a long term project over fourteen years, led by the Rev. David Power and his congregation, who had to raise £4.5 million and

use a school hall for worship for four years. The architect was Nicholas Lee Evans and there were four builders : Ash Construction, (surgery/hall/entrance/lift/stairs), Austins, (flats), Habens, (community rooms) and Davies Developments, (worship area/entrance). The place hums with activity throughout the week, fulfilling the important sustainability criteria of the Awards: reuse of an existing building - now home to dramatically increased social activity, energy conservation and sustainable design.

Best Landscaping Award - Baffins Pond – Winner

The extensive work on Baffins Pond by Portsmouth City Council's Parks and Recreation Services, including new edges and planting into the wetland areas, is the winner of the Best Landscaping Award. The judges were impressed by the richness of the wildlife



using the pond and local people's involvement in education and recreation, including fishing. The Environment Agency was one of the funders, the designers were Adrian Rozier and Peter Burrard-Lucas and the contractors were Stronghold and Aquascience.

Portsmouth's Naval War Memorial – Commended

Commended is the excellent and detailed restoration of Portsmouth's Naval War Memorial on Southsea seafront by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Re-bronzing of the plaques and the figures at the summit, meticulous repointing of the Portland stone tower and sandstone paving and new landscaping demonstrate the Commission's commitment to long lasting restoration of our most important seafront memorial.

Also viewed ...

The judges also saw Waterside School's Sports Centre at Tipner, Wells Terrace (ex-Beresford Arms) in Twyford Avenue, Copnor Green housing at Copnor Bridge, James Terrace housing in Clarendon Road Southsea, Summerson Lodge sheltered housing in Milton Road, the Sea Survival Training Centre on Horsea Island, and the Foyer young people's hostel in the city centre.

The Judges

The judges, who spent two full days exploring new work in the city were: Paul Williams, architect from Winchester; James Wood, architect from Headley near Guildford, Jane Davies, retired Southampton conservation officer and Celia Clark of the Portsmouth Society.

Unveiling / presentation of plaques and presentation commendation certificates

The morning of Saturday 22nd February has been fixed as the date for the unveiling / presentation of plaques and presentation of commendation certificates for the 2013 Design Awards. The event will begin at 10.15am at St. Cuthbert's Church in Lichfield Road off Hayling Avenue in Copnor. The Lord Mayor, Councillor Lynne Stagg, will unveil St. Cuthbert's blue plaque and present plaques to two other winners. We will then move on down Hayling Avenue to Baffins Pond to unveil the Best Landscape Award plaque. Finally we will visit Best New Building winner 'The Limes' at St. James's Hospital to unveil their plaque.