

Portsmouth Society Design Awards 2015

Best New Building

Winner - Somerstown Central

Commended - Extension building at Milton Park Primary School, new building at Charter Academy, Sixth Form Centre at Portsmouth Grammar School

Best Restoration

Winner - Babcock Galleries (Storehouses 10 and 11), Portsmouth Historic Dockyard

Best Reuse

Winner - Bluewater Care Home, Kingston Road

Commended - Southsea Beach Cafe, Ship Leopard, The Hard

Best Landscaping

Winner - Charles Dickens Statue, . Guildhall Square

Commended - Landscaping at Park & Ride, Tipner

The winners of the Portsmouth Society annual Design Awards were announced on 23 October 2015 at a prestigious ceremony held on the top floor 'Flightdeck' at the Land Rover BAR headquarters on the Camber.

Rod Edwards, Chairman of the Portsmouth Society, explained how the judging this year was particularly difficult with a number of strong entries. In addition to Rod, the judges this year were John Pike (formerly the Conservation Officer at Portsmouth City Council) and Karen Fielder from the University of Portsmouth. Over a busy 2 day period the judges reviewed a broad range of projects.

Best Landscaping



In the Landscaping category the judges awarded a Commendation to the sensitive landscaping achieved at the new Park & Ride facility; the winner of this category being the Charles Dickens statue in the Guildhall Square. The award for 'Best Landscaping' was presented to Professor Tony Pointon of the Dickens Fellowship by James Priory, Headmaster of Portsmouth Grammar School.

Best Reuse Award

In the Best Reuse category the judges reviewed a large number of conversions and reused buildings across the city. Commendations were given to the Southsea Beach Cafe and the Ship Leopard boutique hotel on the Hard.



The 'Best Reuse Award' was presented to David and Carmen Sheppard of the Bluewater Care Home in Kingston Road. This building, originally an Oddfellows Hall and more recently the Regal Palace nightclub, has been a labour of love for the owners over many years. They have created an outstanding environment, especially comforting for dementia sufferers. David and Carmen received their award from Andy Grays, Chief Executive of the Guildhall Cultural Trust.

Best Restoration



The restoration and conservation of Storehouse 10 and 11 in the Historic Dockyard won the 'Best Restoration' category. Now called the Babcock Galleries, part of the National Museum of the Royal Navy, and hosting the HMS (Here My Story) displays of the Royal Navy in the 20th Century, the judges were hugely impressed by the care and detail taken in this impressive conservation. The Award was presented by Councillor Linda Symes to Matthew Sheldon (NMRN) and architect Martin Dunseath (Purcell).

Best New Building

Finally the biggest field of entries was from the large number of new buildings that opened in Portsmouth last year. The judges particularly commented about the quality of new school buildings coming on-stream, and gave Commendations to the extension building at Milton Park Primary School, the new building at Charter Academy, and the new Sixth Form Centre at Portsmouth Grammar School.



After much difficult consideration, the judges awarded 'Best New Building' award to the Somerstown Central', with its impressive use of space over the Winston Churchill Avenue, whilst providing a broad range of community facilities, including a dance studio, the Brook Club youth club, the housing office, a coffee shop and an impressive NHS surgery and facilities. The Award was presented by Dr Celia Clark, President of the Portsmouth Society, to Kevin Hudson, the Portsmouth City Council project manager.