
Design Awards 2020

Annual Report

MARCH 2020

The Aberdeen Society of Architects



ASA AGM 2020 - AWARDS COMMITTEE REPORT

21 entries received - numbers are fairly steady over the past few years, but dropped significantly this year. We understand that this may be a consequence of the oil price downturn in 2015-16. The quality of the entries remains high. It should be noted that 3 of the entries are large scale, regionally and nationally significant. Without these this year would have seen even lower entries. With this in mind the committee is already forming a list of potential entries for next year and will be contacting architects to encourage entry.

Entry remained free. We see no issue with changing this at the moment. We would note that some other chapters use online submission services, and these come at a cost.

The latest certificates were used again this year. Supply is still high, over 150 remaining. The frames for the certificates are from black painted timber with mount, from Matalan. Frames are relatively cost effective at £6ea. The committee carried out the printing and framing. A different colour frame was used for the sustainability category (white) and a timber frame (unpainted) was used for the Innovative Use of Timber category.

We would encourage interested parties to let us know if they would like to get involved in the Awards committee. We are also very happy to receive recommendations for entries where we can 'chase' any reluctant architect to submit their project.

RIAS are considering changes to their awards and we would like to keep in line with the entry requirements to make it easier for our members to enter both without considerable additional work. This years form is available here for reference. <https://aberdeenarchitects.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/ASA-Design-Awards-2020-Entry-Form.pdf>

The awards judges this year were Jon Frullani of the Dundee Institute of Architects & Claire McArthur, Team Leader with the Aberdeen City Council Masterplanning, Design & Conservation team. The judging panel was again convened this year by RGU, with Neil Lamb, Architecture Course Leader. Neil also presented the awards at the awards evening.

We are currently receiving feedback on the awards as part of the gathering of feedback on the Annual Dinner held on 6th March 2020.

We felt that the awards were again a success, in spite of the low entry numbers.

This year's awards winners and commendation are up on the ASA website in the news section. Comments from the judging panel convener on each winning or commended project are included on the following pages.



We believe this is an exceptional architectural project and significantly one of the most important regeneration projects nationally in recent times.

It has breathed new life significantly into a well-loved building and taken it on a course well in to the 21st Century.

We would encourage those of you who have been to look again and those who go for the first time to look carefully as it has many lessons to teach in the careful art of considerate contemporary adaption of existing architecture.

At first glance the changes may seem unremarkable to the passer-by who looks and sees little but subtle change to the building façade. But it is when you look up that you see a hint of the exciting contemporary new copper clad gallery extensions that is a welcome addition to the city skyline.

Internally the composition and order of the internal space remains familiar but yet re-worked. A new shop and café location, subtly relocated, new circulation and now full public accessibility, even the relocation of two granite columns feel like they should always have been there.

The utter feeling of legibility is pervasive as from the central courtyard you can now see clearly the disposition and accessibility of all primary spaces, each threshold defined by deep bronzed thresholds which case the openings from gallery to gallery and neatly deal with services.

A new central roof light draws your up and toward the upper spaces achieved by a new 'Scottish' (described by one of the staffs) staircase finally to the bright gallery spaces atop the composition and the viewing terraces which provide new aspect of the city beyond.

Much has been done behind the scenes as it should be and the close working relationship between architect and client has been at the heart of this highly successful architectural project.

This is an important building for the city, it is a building that is screaming quietly but it certainly gives us a building to be proud of and is worthy of telling about to others.

A nationally important regional collection of art has now a nationally important building.

Aberdeen Art Gallery is ASA building of the year.

HIGHLY COMMENDED - INTERIORS
Aberdeen Music Hall
Building Design Partnership



Highly successful and thoughtful re-development of one of the city's most important historic buildings to give it the new facilities and creatively re-imagined spaces and facilities to provide for its sustainable future.

AWARD - INTERIORS
Vovem
TINTO Architecture



The interior architecture has the contemporary feel of a modern high-end metropolitan bar and restaurant. It's an exceptionally clear concept that has been well executed. The unit engages with Union Street in an interesting (and playful) manner, drawing people in and upwards towards the assigned focal points. Materials and products have been well chosen to reflect the surrounding streetscape and wider historic urban context.

COMMENDED - COMMERCIAL
Vovem
TINTO Architecture



Bar and restaurant re-development and strong and tasteful contemporary Interior design and a respectful contemporary addition to the shopfronts of Union Street.

AWARD
TECA
Keppie Design



Regionally important and striking commercial building that provides new opportunities and economic impetus for the area.

The project acts a strong catalyst for the local and regional economy and demonstrates a design strategy which has innovatively taken the “space hungry” elements of the use and created a scheme which is legible in terms of its form and massing. The extensive public parkland provides an attractive environment for staff, visitors and local residents to enjoy. Overall the TECA complex is attractive and welcoming to the many different types of users it caters for.

AWARD - PUBLIC
Aberdeen Art Gallery
Hoskins Architects



The project has opened up a part of Aberdeen City Centre that has, in cultural terms, lain dormant for the last few years. It is delightful to experience this building and it is highly accessible to and for all facets of the community. The innovative use of copper to compliment the tones of the local granite is very successfully achieved. In space planning terms, a sensitive approach has been taken to the fabric of the building and the final solution shows a successful approach to “managing change” in the historic built environment. The result is a high-quality PUBLIC place / space that Aberdeen absolutely deserves

COMMEDED - NEW HOUSE
The DAB house and Bothy
DAB Architecture



Visited on a pleasant sunny day and you could feel the real sense of light and space flowing from space to space. Well planned contemporary house deploying imaginative construction technology

HIGHLY COMMENDED - NEW HOUSE
Bruadarach
Fiddess Architects



This new home feels incredibly understanding of its setting and the wider landscape. It fits well. It is well-considered and is made of a careful blend of appropriate form and thoughtful use of locally sourced sustainable materials, particularly its reuse of local granite. The composition draws carefully from the vernacular with an appropriate blend of contemporary design moves and benefits from passive design throughout the interior and exterior culminating in a particularly enjoyable exterior patio space.

COMMENDED - DOMESTIC EXTENSION
Smith House
HYVE Architects



The extension opens up the existing building to provide additional living accommodation which, given it remains all on one floor, is highly accessible to many. Views of the surrounding Estate are well utilised with new glazing and pleasing canopy.

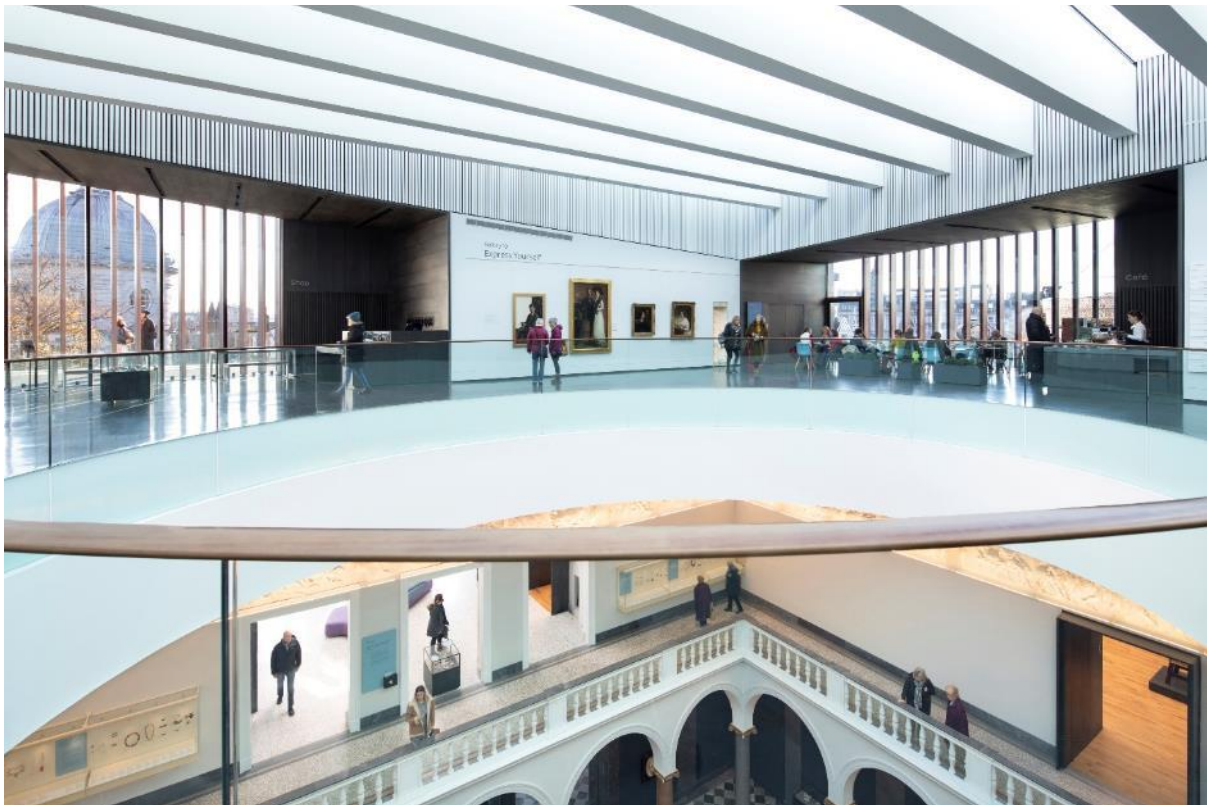
HIGHLY COMMENDED - LANDSCAPE & URBAN REALM
TECA
Keppie Design



The design team have created a highly successful and striking public building that successfully merges the functional requirements of a large public with an iconic public façade. Car parking is skilfully managed in a flexible underground space which allows for extensive external public space on top.

Powerful, clever and pleasing landscape composition with a striking contemporary feel which adds to the overall composition. An important and game changing contemporary landscape design.

HIGHLY COMMENDED - CONSERVATION
Aberdeen Art Gallery
Hoskins Architects



The carefully considered conservation and resultant improvements add significantly confidently to Marshall Mackenzie's design. New facilities are carefully added while bringing clarity and legibility in a new design that brings out the best of the old building while adding strong elements of new contemporary design.

AWARD - CONSERVATION
Aberdeen Music Hall
Building Design Partnership



The careful conservation of the building's qualities has been successfully retained in a significant conservation and renovation of one of the City's best loved buildings.

Its sustainable future has all but been guaranteed by the significant range of conservation activity and tasteful additions.

The project has allowed the building to create a better relationship with Union Street and the wider City Centre, drawing people in and, again, promoting accessibility to all. In space planning terms, again a sensitive approach has been taken to managing historic features.

AWARD - REGENERATION
Aberdeen Art Gallery
Hoskins Architects



An exceptional and imaginative regeneration of Aberdeen's well-loved Victorian art gallery. The regenerative design is trans-formatory. Much of which is hidden from the public but having spoken to the people who work in the building their working lives have been transformed by the changes. Legibility blended with cool contemporary design. What we really like about it is it does what it needed to be done without fuss.

COMMENDATION - INNOVATIVE USE OF TIMBER

Smith House

HYVE Architects



So, returning to the timber pergola the judges thought this was a successful feature in tying the two components of the house together in a unified sculptural composition.

AWARD - INNOVATIVE USE OF TIMBER

Dalbreck Cottage

BROWN+BROWN



The new design has carefully been designed to a high degree of detail. The project by its nature is economic but it packs in a lot of pleasing architecture, at every turn you see the architects touch down to the detail of the space saving sliding interior doors that are concealed in the walls. Internal spaces are light and having a positive Scandinavian quality, possibly drawn from the innovative use of timber linings internally, ready to be removed if the river floods again. Externally the timber is carefully detailed and the composition is reminiscent of abstracted back garden architecture. A particularly successful detail is the timbered entrance space where the client wanted a space to sit out of the weather and talk to his near neighbour across the fence.

We were impressed by the relationship that was presented in relation to client and architect. The architect had clearly worked hard to gain the trust of the client - this was demonstrated by the client “allowing” changes to the original house which may have been emotionally sensitive but ultimately benefitted how the building would work as a home, not just for this client but for future occupiers too. The result is a clean and contemporary house, which sits comfortably within a sensitive context.

HIGHLY COMMENDED - SUSTAINABLE ARCHITECTURE

Dalbreck Cottage

BROWN+BROWN



The judges were impressed how the project can be said to be sustainable at a multiplicity of levels from the Makro to the Micro; Community, Place, People, Careful pallet of materials with sustainable credentials and passive and active energy provision via an air sourced heat pump. A lot can be learnt from this project particularly in its economy and at some point, we even considered that this project would make an excellent prototype for low cost rural architecture.

AWARD - SUSTAINABLE ARCHITECTURE

TECA

Keppie Design



Regionally important and striking commercial building that provides new opportunities and economic impetus for the area. Environmentally Innovative and considerate.