

News and events

RTPI News



West of Scotland Chapter Convener John Walls presents prize to winner Peter Russell (left)

Same Chapter, Different Award

John Walls reports: Following the report in June's *Scottishplanner* on our University of Glasgow 2010 Student Awards, the Chapter has now presented its Awards for Excellence for students of Strathclyde University's Urban Design MSc Programme - a collaboration between the University and ourselves. Vice-Convenor Iain Hynd and I attended the University's Annual Exhibition on 11 June to view students' work and make the presentations.

The Chapter's panel of assessors thought that all submissions were of the highest quality - a credit to the students, the tutors and the University. In particular, the urban design building code analysis approach developed by Strathclyde's Urban Design Course has given students a very useful toolkit to help develop proposals. The enthusiastic teaching of tutors Sergio Porta and Ombretta Romice cannot be underestimated too.

Peter Russell from Chicago was the winning student. The panel considered his design offered an eminently deliverable solution. We liked its overall urban form and the many ideas integrated within it, for example: the 'market plaza'; the opening-up of the river frontage by a

sculpture park and maritime-based attractions; the cross-river link strengthening economic and tourism links; and the pedestrian network. These features respected the heritage of Govan, providing a strong sense of 'place' - a benefit to residents and an asset to the City. Interestingly, Peter said he found resonances between Chicago and Glasgow. I did say to him that Frank Lloyd Wright had been influenced by Alexander 'Greek' Thomson, so who knows?

Two architects, Darren Baird and Mark Feeley, from the Masters in Advanced Architectural Design received a commendation. Their joint project for Govan was a real *tour de force*, and the overall analyses fascinated the panel, the block adaptability analysis in particular. They also made an excellent model with simple yet sophisticated lift-out sections to illustrate potential phasing - very imaginative and effective. We also felt that the linkages to attractions and vibrant areas were excellent, the overall vision striking and the delivery stylish and bold.

RTPI Performance Survey Could you spare five minutes for this important survey? The RTPI is committed to delivering relevant benefits and services that support members in their careers, and is always keen to hear feedback on potential improvements and on what the services mean to you. We would be very grateful if you could complete this survey looking at current benefits and services and at future development - view at www.surveymonkey.com/s/2QXKDH9

Members News

We are sad to announce the death of the following Member of the Institute in Scotland: Audrey Roberts.

RTPI Events in Scotland

For further information on the listings below or for the latest information on RTPI national and chapter events in Scotland, go to www.scotland.rtpi.org.uk and see 'Scottish Chapters' and/or 'RTPI national events in Scotland 2010.'

Sept

28: Working Together to Create Healthy Environments - Living Streets Scotland with support from RTPI Scotland

Also in October

6: Planning for Housing Conference - Chartered Institute for Housing Scotland and RTPI (in Glasgow)

(Also) 15-16: Young Planners Conference: Planning for Localism - RTPI (in Cardiff)

Other News and Events

Highland Council Wins Homes for Scotland Award



(l-r) Brian Frater, Head of Planning at Scottish Borders Council and Chair of Judging Panel; Richard Hartland, Head of Planning & Building Standards at Highland Council; and Fred MacAulay © image courtesy Homes for Scotland Quality Awards 2010

A value-added service offered by Highland Council in partnership with a number of other national agencies, including Scottish Natural Heritage, Scottish Environment Protection Agency and Transport Scotland, has received national recognition at the Homes for Scotland Awards 2010.

The Pre-Application Advice Service for Major Developments, a cross Council service led by the Planning and Development Service, received an award in the *Key Agency Working* category. The Awards aim to demonstrate the further evolution of the development industry's commitment to improvement across the board and to give the message that the industry is determined to embrace the many challenges which lie ahead in overcoming the difficulties of the past two years. Highland Council was the only Scottish Local Authority to be short-listed this year.

The Pre-Application Advice Service helps by encouraging early and effective consultation, so avoiding some of the difficult situations arising during application process. The Service offers advice on a range of issues including transport arrangements, design, sustainability and community engagement.

Councillor Ian Ross, Chair of Highland Council's Planning Environment and Development Committee, said: "We are delighted to have received this prestigious award which reflects the strong and constructive working relationship between the council and its partners since the inception of this service in February 2009."

See *Scottishplanner* April 2010 (p13) for an article on the service by Neil Huggan of RTPI Highlands and Islands Chapter - via www.scotland.rtpi.org.uk (click on 'Scottish Planner' in lefthand column).