

CIVIC VOICE

DESIGN AWARDS

2017





“What make the Civic Voice Design Awards special is that they are not the usual industry awards where professionals give awards to other professionals. Nominated and supported by local people, the awards recognise places that are loved by local people for both their high quality design and positive contribution to the local area. The Civic Voice Design Awards are unique in that they encourage communities to celebrate the best of what is happening where they live. They allow us to shine light on the amazing work of civic champions across England who are making their towns and villages a better place to live, work and enjoy.”

Civic Voice Design Awards winners have the potential to have a powerful effect not only on local pride, but also on local economic prosperity. I have had the privilege to visit many schemes across England to find out first-hand how schemes, loved and supported by the community, can enhance the local area. Each of this year's winners are, in their own right, breathing new life into our towns, cities and villages.

Engaging with the community to achieve high quality design? It seems such a strange thought for some. But, it is happening. The awards are examples of that. We hope we are enabling more communities to find their voice and say; “If they can have that, why can't we?” As judges, we want to demonstrate that with the right architect and the right imagination, high quality development can be achieved in partnership with the community.

We can only continue the awards with the support of our partners so on behalf of the judging panel, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the entrants and supporters and, in particular, British Land and Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners for sponsoring the awards and ceremony this year.”

Max Farrell

Chair, Design Awards judging panel



“This year, the Civic Voice Design Awards judging panel introduced the special Conservation Area Award, to mark the 50th anniversary of the Civic Amenities Act 1967 and to recognise and highlight outstanding development within a Conservation Area.

Today there are approximately 10,000 Conservation Areas across the UK. Conservation Areas are as much a part of the fabric of this country as the Green Belt is in shaping our cities, towns and villages.

I am delighted that Sunbridge Wells, Bradford; Cedars Hall, Wells and Warwick Hall Community Centre, Burford have all won a Special Award. Each demonstrates what can be done when we realise the historic environment is an asset not a barrier for our urban areas. I look forward to visiting each scheme in the very near future, on a Civic Voice Design Awards study tour.

I hope, through the Civic Voice Design Awards, we can build upon the first 50 years and continue to celebrate the impact that Conservation Areas have on communities across England, so that we can all continue to say, ‘We care about where we live’.”

Laura Sandys

Vice-president, Civic Voice

WINTON CHAPEL, UNIVERSITY OF WINCHESTER

Design Engine Architects

In 2015, the University commissioned Design Engine Architects to oversee a complete restoration and reorder of the building's internal and external fabric, and to create a small side chapel and a social and meeting space. The brief was simple; to ensure the chapel sits as a small 'jewel' in the heart of the campus and is, once more, a place of quiet contemplation; the final result certainly achieves this!

The chapel plays a vital role in University life for students, staff and members of the community. It is a centre of worship and discussion, open to people of all faiths and of none, for those seeking support or a guiding hand when they need it most, as well as a place of joy and celebration.

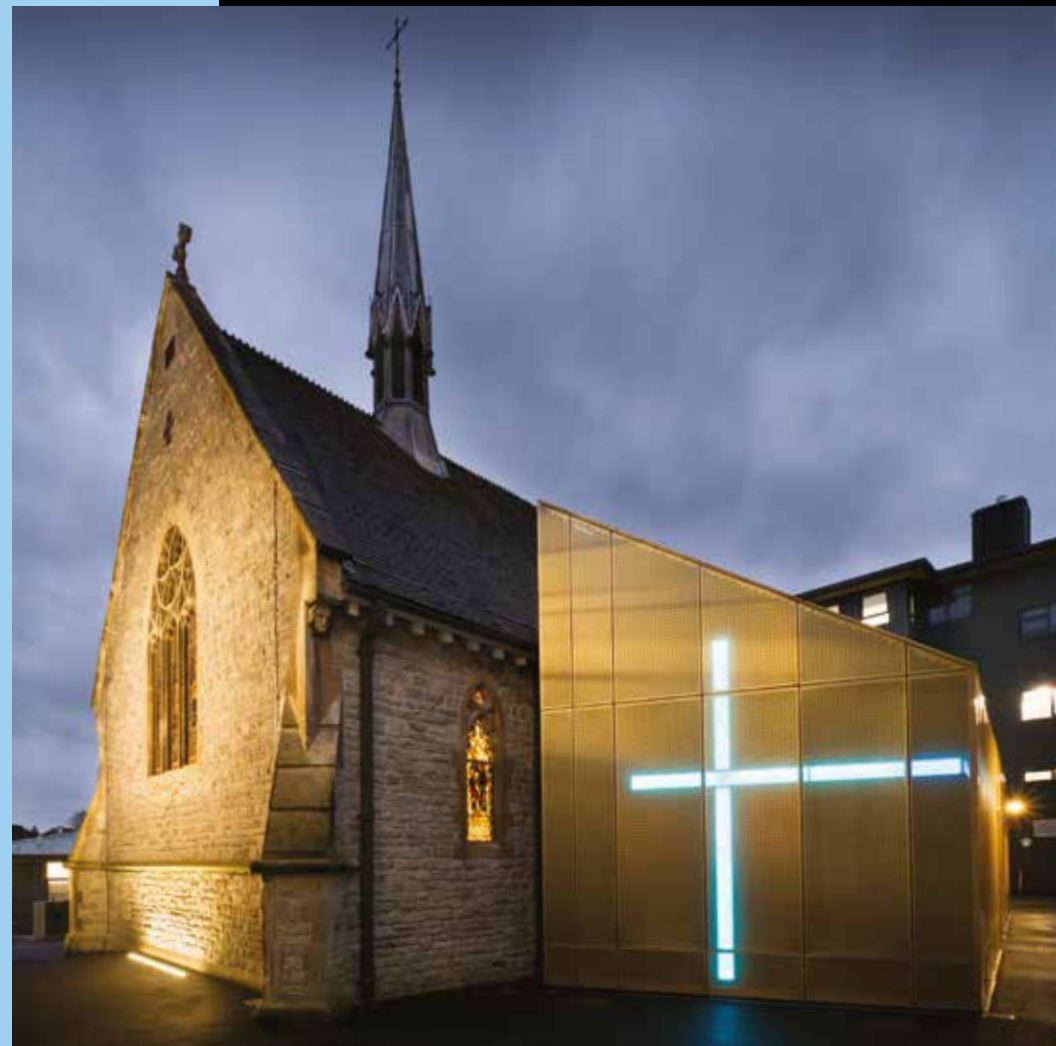
The modernisation of the interior in conjunction with sensitive restoration of its original features is a delight, and the highly imaginative small extension on a complex site, achieves the extra spaces that help the building to fulfil its important role in the community.

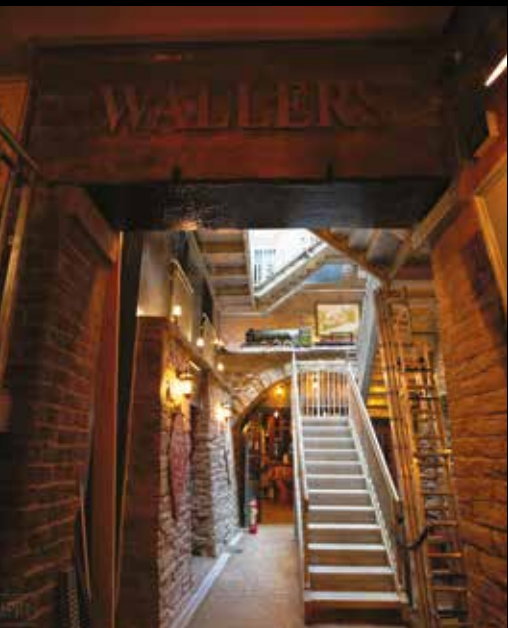
Much consultation was undertaken during the project. Academic and student involvement was critical to the design evolution, and the City of Winchester Trust can see the chapel continuing to evolve in supporting its many users, with a link to the University's past and foundation, as well as to its future.

The judges said:

Winton Chapel demonstrates the potential of universities to make positive contributions to our communities, both in terms of reaching out to local communities and in bringing high quality architecture to our towns and cities. Incredibly restrained and beautifully simple, with a contemporary graphic quality and bold use of materials, architecturally, this is a fascinating project. Its clever integration of sacred and secular spaces and beautiful detailing serves as fine example to others on how our ecclesiastical buildings can be used and adapted to meet the demands of the modern world.

Nominated by The City of Winchester Trust





SUNBRIDGE WELLS, BRADFORD

Developer: **Graham Hall, Sunbridge Wells**

Through the vision of local developer Graham Hall to remodel a long-forgotten set of historic tunnels and bring them back to life, Sunbridge Wells has acted as a catalyst for the regeneration of the wider area, transforming an unloved part of Bradford city centre into a destination that pulls people in from far and wide.

Bradford Civic Society has been blown away by the sheer amount of effort, passion and attention-to-detail invested in this unique project. In the Civic Society's words: 'There's nothing like it in the UK and we are proud to have it in our patch!'

The judges said:

We just loved this bold project for its imaginative restoration of a derelict heritage asset, ambitious conservation effort and its positive economic regenerative effect. A beacon of hope for Bradford and an inspiration for our urban centres.

Nominated by Bradford Civic Society



QUAY PLACE HERITAGE & WELLBEING CENTRE, IPSWICH

Molyneux Kerr Architects

Quay Place Heritage & Wellbeing Centre is the realisation of a £5.1m scheme to rescue the Grade II* listed 'at risk' medieval church and is an example of how sensitive collaboration and persistence can culminate in stunning outcomes.

Brought about by the Churches Conservation Trust and the mental health charity Suffolk Mind, Quay Place offers a unique setting where people can enjoy a wide range of activities with comfort, happiness and health. It demonstrates the innovative ways that our heritage can continue to play a central role in our lives. The message of Quay Place is simple; 'Come as you are. Leave better'.

The judges said:

Quay Place demonstrates high quality conservation, beautiful detailing, creative new build solutions and the power of locally driven thinking to imagine what the building could become. It's a real jewel in an area in early stages of regeneration with more to do and offers an example of what can be achieved.

Nominated by The Ipswich Society

WESTERN TERRACE, WESTERN RIVERSIDE, BATH

Alison Brooks Architects

Part of a large Crest Nicholson regeneration project to develop 44 acres of former industrial land into a new residential quarter for the city of Bath. The Alison Brooks Buildings (Western Terrace) form the eastern part of the site, providing a mixed-use scheme, located on the banks of the River Avon. The development provides much needed new housing in an area of wholesale regeneration where a new community is being established.

This scheme goes against the trend of 'everywhere architecture', instead creating an original and thoughtful contemporary housing scheme which harmonises with the surrounding Georgian townscape but also surprises the onlooker with a variety of punctuated elevations, planes and views through the site.

Bath Western Riverside is a large infrastructure project for Bath and has undergone extensive public consultation over several years. Alison Brooks Architects has successfully designed a new scheme that enhances the townscape of Bath; it does this by utilising classical architectural rules in a new and exciting way, ensuring the scheme sits comfortably within the Georgian city and does not compete with it, but displays its own compelling contemporary version of classicism. The scheme compliments and therefore enhances the surrounding Georgian cityscape.

Bath Preservation Trust believes that this stands out as the architectural 'jewel in the crown' in the development.

The judges said:

This is a stunning housing development which provides an interesting contemporary take on a proud local identity. It is good to see something new and intelligent in the housing sector, particularly within a World Heritage Site, and demonstrates to other developers that high quality housing can be achieved and you can be bold in a historic setting.

Nominated by Bath Preservation Trust



WARWICK HALL COMMUNITY CENTRE, BURFORD

Acanthus Clews Architects

The aspiration was to build a community space that is as beautiful and inspirational as the Cotswold landscape it sits within and to create a centre which will become central to the daily life of the local community. The brief was to extend and adapt the Grade II listed complex, removing later inappropriate additions, and then to rebuild in a manner which respected its setting and to provide a new hall flexible enough to meet the wide-ranging needs of today's end users. The challenge was to deliver a new community facility in a sensitive historic setting, within a conservation area and adjacent to a complex of listed buildings.

Warwick Hall Community Centre has made an immediate and substantial impact on the area and its inhabitants. The design, honed through several iterations sparked by, amongst other things, representations from the community.

The project is, and will continue to be, an outstanding success made possible only because the church and the town combined to bring it about. This collaborative partnership ensured that the many obstacles encountered along the way, including fund-raising from the local community without borrowing, fighting for permissions and faculties as well as the usual onsite construction challenges, were overcome.

The judges said:

Warwick Hall is a wonderful example of what contemporary architecture can achieve within a highly sensitive historic location. Bold, but sympathetic to its surroundings, the final design seamlessly integrates old and new and the community building has a beautiful composition and sense of space. We applaud the Burford community for its partnership approach, this project demonstrates what a community can achieve when it works together.

Nominated by Burford Town Council





CEDARS HALL, WELLS

Eric Parry Architects

Cedars Hall is a state-of-the-art performance, teaching and learning centre built within the ancient footprint of Wells Cathedral School. The local community was fully engaged in the planning process and Wells Civic Society were among a number of groups invited to comment on the designs as they developed. This process has succeeded in creating a bold and modern complex of glass and weathered corten steel, complementing its prestigious historic setting.

The judges said:

Cedars Hall has succeeded in being a visually dominant building, without detracting from its historic setting. The choice of materials, the scale of the building relative to its context and its classical proportions and position adds significantly to the quality of Wells' built environment.

Nominated by Wells Civic Society



REMEMBRANCE CENTRE, NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM, STAFFORDSHIRE

Glenn Howells Architects

The National Memorial Arboretum is the UK's year-round centre of remembrance. The centre provides a gateway into the 150-acre arboretum and is also home to exhibition, educational and retail spaces. Funded by people passionate about the NMA, the final design creates a dignified building to receive those remembering lost friends and relatives. The new £15.7m centre engages with its environment, honours the fallen, recognises service and sacrifice and fosters pride in our country. It is a building that says: 'We will always remember them'.

The judges said:

The Remembrance Centre is a project with a great community story, providing historical, educational, social and environmental benefits to the local area. We loved its monumental yet thoughtful design which has created a quiet, restful atmosphere and a calm and reflective space.

Nominated by Ride to the Wall

GREY TO GREEN (PHASE 1), SHEFFIELD

Sheffield City Council

Innovative and inspiring, Grey to Green (phase 1) is an impressive multi-purpose public space that demonstrates a new approach to improving the quality of the public realm in our town and city centres. The project has enhanced the public realm, made walking and cycling more attractive and enjoyable and improved connectivity between Sheffield's Riverside Business District and the rest of the city centre.

The first phase of a 1.3km corridor of improvements, currently the largest planned retro-fit SUDS scheme in the UK, the project has taken an innovative approach to water management using a mix of natural and recycled materials and perennial low maintenance planting. The area's heritage has been celebrated using five eye-catching public art 'totems' which reveal some of the area's colourful and unexpected history and associations. High quality landscaping, materials and bold, playful public art have created attractive civic spaces, providing opportunities for social interaction and enjoyment of nature.

Securing funding of £3.5m from the European Regional Development Fund and Sheffield City Region Infrastructure Fund the project will improve the city's resilience to climate change while transforming 'grey' redundant road space within Sheffield's Riverside Business District, into a network of 'green' flower meadows, wetlands and public spaces

The scheme has embraced innovation to meet the challenges of climate change, reduced public funding and the need for more partnership and collaboration.

The judges said:

We applaud Sheffield City Council for investing in the quality of the city's public realm and building innovative partnerships to find contemporary solutions to water management. Grey to Green is an outstanding example to other local authorities in transforming areas once dominated by tarmac and traffic into beautifully playful and high quality civic spaces.

Nominated by Sheffield Civic Trust



CEDARS HALL, WELLS

Eric Parry Architects

Cedars Hall is a bold and modern new building that visually enhances the 'picture postcard' Wells Conservation Area. Rather than follow traditional architectural form, Cedars Hall looks ahead in its design, materials and concept. It poses a striking image alongside the Cathedral and the main school building, but crucially, does not overshadow or detract from either. Described by Wells Civic Society as a '21st century contribution to the nationally important heritage of Wells'.



WARWICK HALL COMMUNITY CENTRE, BURFORD

Acanthus Clews Architects

A very sensitively designed scheme on a complex site, located within Burford Conservation Area and adjacent a complex of listed buildings, the refurbishment of and extension to Warwick Hall has secured the long-term future of an important building in a beautiful historic setting. The Bishop of Dorchester has described it as "the communities' 'gift' to Burford", and it demonstrates what a community can achieve when it works together. Warwick Hall is an inspiring example of designing sensitively within a Conservation Area.



SUNBRIDGE WELLS, BRADFORD

Developer: **Graham Hall, Sunbridge Wells**

Sunbridge Wells is located within Bradford City Centre Conservation Area and is within one of the most economically challenged areas of the country. Led by a private developer Sunbridge Wells links to the past yet at the same time is helping Bradford look to the future by acting as a catalyst for wider regeneration of the city centre. This conservation project is a testament to the pride and passion of the project's leader, a fantastic addition to Bradford City Centre Conservation Area.



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JUDGES

Max Farrell, Chair **Farrells**

Max is a partner at Farrells, the award-winning architect-planners, with offices in London, Hong Kong and Shanghai. Max was Project Leader for the Farrell Review of Architecture and the Built Environment, commissioned by Culture Minister Ed Vaizey in 2013 and published in 2014 after extensive consultation with government, institutions, industry and the public.

Rob Cowan **Urban Design Skills**

Rob is director of the consultancy Urban Design Skills and editor of Context, the journal of the Institute of Historic Building Conservation. His many publications include the government's first urban design guidance, *By Design*, and *The Dictionary of Urbanism*.

Russ Hamilton **Farrells**

Russ is a design partner at Farrells and is the lead designer on high profile public and cultural buildings. He has extensive experience of working with heritage buildings and mixed use schemes. Key projects include the Grade I listed Royal Institution of Great Britain, the Great North Museum, Alexandra Palace, the Pantechnicon Building, the London Clinic and the Embassy Gardens development at Nine Elms.

Tracy Meller **Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners**

Tracy is an associate partner at Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners, a practice which, for over nearly four decades, has attracted critical acclaim and awards. As the lead architect on award winning projects such as NEO Bankside residential scheme and Mossbourne Academy, regarded as an example of best practice in schools architecture, Tracy has a track record of delivering innovative schemes on some of the most complex urban sites.

Sophia de Sousa **The Glass-House Community Led Design**

Chief executive at The Glass-House Community Led Design, Sophia is committed to the charity's mission to raise the standard of placemaking through public participation and leadership in the design of buildings, spaces, housing and neighbourhoods. Sophia promotes and supports collaborative placemaking as a valuable means of informing good design that benefits local people and leads to the long-term improvement of neighbourhoods.

John Walker **The Ramsgate Society**

As former deputy chairman of Civic Voice, John lead on a number of projects, in particular; the collaborative planning campaign and the Civic Voice Design Awards. Currently chair of The Ramsgate Society, where he lives, and the Kent Federation of Amenity Societies, John has a strong interest in the quality of the public realm and the importance of good design in the built environment.

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