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BALTIC CELEBRATIONS SHOW FUTURE BRIGHT FOR NORT EAST ARCHITECTURE

The North East has been celebrating its past successes in developing innovative buildings and heralding a bright future. Following the recent announcement of the regional winners for the 2008 Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) Awards a glittering reception and presentation of awards was held in the Roof Top Restaurant at BALTIC, Gateshead earlier in the month. The Lifestyle Academy at Newcastle College, The Alnwick Garden Pavilion and Visitor Centre and The Bamburgh Clinic at St. Nicholas Hospital were all winners from within the North East region and representatives from the design and commissioning teams were present to receive their awards, including the Duchess of Northumberland representing the Alnwick Estate.

The annual RIBA awards have been running since 1966 and are given in recognition of buildings that have high architectural standards and make a substantial contribution to the local environment. This initial short listing followed visits by a judging panel to each project entered and regional winners will be announced in May. Previous award winners from the North East include Dance City in Newcastle, Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art and the River Green Centre in Durham.

Following the presentation of awards Regional RIBA chairman, Dolan Conway, said:

‘Once again the North East has demonstrated a cutting edge in innovation and design. The three winning buildings have been singled out by the Royal institute of British Architects as worthy of recognition and I am absolutely delighted for all concerned. It has been a fantastic evening of celebration of our success in the region – not just for the award winners; it has also been an opportunity to highlight the excellent work of local students through the Hadrian Award Scheme.’

The Hadrian Medal is awarded to a student at either Northumbria or Newcastle University in recognition of excellence in the pursuit of architectural education. This year the winner of the Hadrian Medal is Holly Galbraith from Northumbria University.

Regional Head of the RIBA, Jon Jo Macnamara said:

'Holly is an outstanding student who has consistently developed throughout her course. Her winning project shows a mature confidence in handling subtle and complex issues such as weather, materiality and ancient and recent heritage. She is a worthy winner of this award.'

Special commendations were also awarded to Peter Virtue from Northumbria University and Emma Flynn from Newcastle University.

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Note to Editors:

PHOTO: (From left to right) Hadrian Award winner Holly Galbraith, Douglas Kell (from NCBF, sponsors of the Hadrian Award), Emma Flynn, Peter Virtue

If you would like any further information on any of these RIBA 2008 Regional Award winning projects please contact Jon Jo Macnamara on 0191 2617441.

For media inquiries please contact James McArdle on 07966 595075.