

PRESS RELEASE (RIBA/05/2008/06)

Thursday 5th June 2008

**REGIONAL AWARD WINNERS CELEBRATE NORTH EAST
INNOVATION**

The North East has received recognition of its success in developing innovative buildings. This follows the recent announcement of the regional winners for the 2008 Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) Awards. The Lifestyle Academy at Newcastle College, The Alnwick Garden Pavilion and Visitor Centre and The Bamburgh Clinic at St. Nicholas Hospital are all winners from within the North East region.

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 announcement of the winners 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.’

ENDS

Note to Editors:

‘Snapshot’ of shortlisted projects

Bamburgh Clinic, St. Nicholas Hospital, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne – the design was developed in close conjunction with staff and service users to achieve a building that enables the Trust to run an efficient service in a therapeutic environment. The frame of the building, as well as the benches and tables in the courtyards, are made from locally sourced, prefabricated timber. Sun pipes and rain harvesting techniques have also been used.

Lifestyle Academy, Newcastle College, Newcastle upon Tyne – the Lifestyle Academy has a concrete frame and exposed BubbleDeck concrete slabs. The use of this system includes a precast slab that integrates standard reinforcement and encloses recycled hollow plastic spheres in place of concrete. This system offers significant environmental and sustainable benefits by reducing material and energy consumption and saving CO2 emissions.

The Alnwick Garden Pavilion and Visitor Centre, Alnwick, Northumberland – This project transformed a derelict 12 acre walled garden adjoining Alnwick Castle, creating a contemporary public garden where underlying planted structure forms and unifies the garden's diverse themes of spectacular water displays and quiet contemplative areas. The Visitor Centre uses high efficiency light sources, high efficiency gas fired condensing boilers, a geothermal borehole and rain water harvesting in order to reduce energy use.

If you would like any further information on any of these RIBA 2008 Regional Award winning projects please contact Jon Jo Macnamara on 0191 2220186.

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