

**PRESS RELEASE (RIBA/03/2008/04)**

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2008**

**REGIONAL AWARDS SHORT LIST CELEBRATES NORTH EAST  
INNOVATION**

The North East looks set for further recognition of its success in developing innovative buildings. This follows the recent announcement of the regional short lists for the 2008 Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) Awards. The Lifestyle Academy at Newcastle College, Northumbria University's City Campus East project, The Alnwick Garden Pavilion and Visitor Centre and The Bamburgh Clinic at St. Nicholas Hospital have all been shortlisted 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 short list Regional RIBA chairman, Dolan Conway, said:

'Once again the North East has demonstrated a cutting edge in innovation and design. The four short listed buildings have been singled out by the Royal institute of British Architects as worthy of recognition and I am confident we will be celebrating again when the regional winners are announced in May.'

**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.

**Northumbria University City Campus east project, Newcastle upon Tyne** – this building successfully transformed a former brown field site to the east of Newcastle city centre. In order to ensure the new buildings established a relationship with the existing campus a new publicly-accessible pedestrian bridge which traverses the adjacent motorway was

constructed. 95% of the materials from the old site were recycled; the £47 million work was completed on time and on budget. External landscaping was designed to reduce the impact of noise from the nearby urban motorway and railway line.

**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 recycles 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 Award shortlisted projects please contact Jon Jo Macnamara on 0191 2220186.

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