

# Penseiri

**Cymdeithas Frenhinol Penseiri yng Nghymru**  
**Royal Society of Architects in Wales**

## **Creative Assembly: making innovation happen in the built environment** **RSAW Autumn conference 2010**

Look at the website of any design practice and they'll tell you how innovative they are. The idea of staking out new spatial and technological territory has always driven architecture forward.

We are looking at the idea of creativity as the engine of design development.

What is the twist that makes some projects special? Is the thirst for innovation a mental trap? Are we really as creative as we like to think we are? How has the drive for innovation helped the profession? Do architects give away the very thing that sets them apart?

How do groups come together around a creative project? How does the architect bring these teams together? Do architects need to be more creative in the way they do business and generate work? Do we need new models for making design happen?

Confirmed speakers include Hugh Broughton, architect of the Halley VI Antarctic Research Station (for the British Antarctic Survey); Robert Sakula, architect of the newly refurbished Chapter in Cardiff; and Eric Parry, renewal project for the historic St Martin-in-the-Fields Church in Trafalgar Square. We are also hoping to secure Thomas Heatherwick, designer of the new Creative Business Units at Aberystwyth and the UK Pavilion at the Shanghai Expo 2010, as one of the speakers.

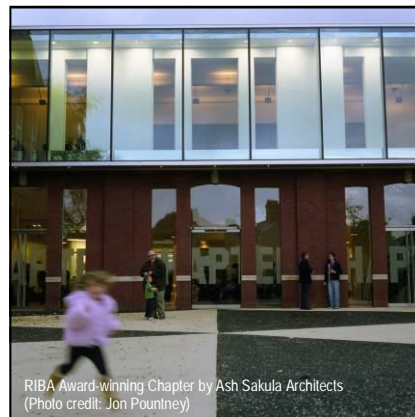
Join us at the RSAW annual conference at St David's Hotel, Cardiff Bay on 15 October to hear more about innovation in the built environment as we examine and discuss creativity. Cost: **£110** + VAT or **earlybird discount £90** + VAT (book by 1 October). Book your place with Sophie Gibbs, RSAW, t: 02920 228987 e: [sophie.gibbs@inst.riba.org](mailto:sophie.gibbs@inst.riba.org)



Halley VI Antarctic Research Station by Hugh Broughton Architects (Photo credit: Hugh Broughton Architects)



RIBA Award-winning Creative Business Units by Heatherwick Studio (Photo credit: Edmund Sumner photography)



RIBA Award-winning Chapter by Ash Sakula Architects (Photo credit: Jon Pountney)

# RIBA Awards 2010

The RIBA Awards have been running since 1966, and 2010 was a bumper year for Wales with a record number of 28 entries, a shortlist of 12 and a winning list of seven.

Support for the RIBA Awards in Wales this year has been fantastic: an online poll in the Western Mail caught the eye of over 900 people who voted for their favourite building in the shortlist.



Skypad, the Teenage Cancer Trust Unit by Orms Architecture Design/ Stride Treglown Davies, won the public vote in the Western Mail, securing just under 20% of the vote (photo credit: James Brittain photography)

The winning schemes in 2010 are:

1. Hafod Eryri (Snowdon Summit Building), Betws Garmon, Caernarfon, Gwynedd LL55 by Ray Hole Architects



RSAW President Pierre Wasenaar (centre) presents the RIBA Award lead plaque to Ray Hole, Ray Hole Architects (left) and Caerwyn Roberts (right), Chairman, Snowdonia National Park, at Hafod Eryri, July 2010

2. Creative Business Units, Aberystwyth Arts Centre, Penglais Hill, Penglais, Aberystwyth, Dyfed SY23 by Heatherwick Studio
3. Sleeperz Hotel, Station Approach, Saunders Road, Cardiff CF10 by Clash Associates/ Holder Mathias Architects
4. Cardiff Central Library, The Hayes, Cardiff CF10 by BDP/ Stride Treglown Davies
5. Chapter Arts Centre, Market Road, Canton, Cardiff CF5 by Ash Sakula Architects
6. Skypad - Teenage Cancer Trust Unit, Heath Park, Cardiff CF14 by Orms Architecture Design/ Stride Treglown Davies
7. Margam Discovery Centre, Port Talbot, West Glamorgan SA13 by Loyn and Co Architects and Design Research Unit, Welsh School of Architecture

The winners illustrate a new level of design excellence in Wales with dazzlingly different buildings that are emerging in the landscape, all of which are thoughtful, intelligent and sensitive.

The seven RIBA Awards winners in Wales were amongst 102 buildings in the UK and Europe winning awards (93 in the UK and nine in the rest of the EU).

# What's occurring?

## Architectural sandcastle competition

The RSAW partnered with Design Circle, Bristol & Bath Society of Architects, RIBA South West and the Vale of Glamorgan Council to run the inaugural joint sandcastle competition in July 2010.

26 teams competed at Barry Island beach in July 2010 to win one or more of the four categories:

- Tallest sandcastle, judged by Past RIBA President George Ferguson
- Most Technically Daring, judged by Tony Harris, President of the Institute of Structural Engineers for Wales
- Best Overall sandcastle, judged by BBC Wales weatherman Derek Brockway
- People's Choice voted for by all visitors to the beach and presented by Leader of Vale of Glamorgan Council. Cllr. Gordon Kemp



Lucy Shenton and Sushil Chudasama's winning sandcastle for the Most Technically Daring category (including voting bucket in the foreground)

Entry to the sandcastle competition was free for all participants. Prizes included an annual pass to the Welsh castles under CADW custodianship, and a visitor's pass to the recently-refurbished SS Great Britain, moored in Bristol. Vale of Glamorgan Council also supplied the rosettes for first, second and third place in each category.



Derek Brockway (left) with the winning team for the Best Overall sandcastle, The Beach Boys (and girls)

Over 3,500 visitors came to the beach that day, all of whom turned out to have an opinion on architecture and design: the building they live in, the buildings that they hate.

The sandcastle competition was an ideal way to engage face-to-face with the public in a dialogue about architecture.

**SANDCASTLE COMPETITION 2011**  
will be at Weston-super-Mare  
part of Weston Sand Sculpture Festival

**WATCH THIS SPACE FOR DETAILS**

## Meet the Branch Chair for Design Circle South Wales

The RSAW Council consists of 12 members from across Wales who meet regularly to respond to RSAW policy and local matters.

The current Design Circle South Wales branch chair is Mhairi McVicar BSc(Hons) MArch, NCARB Registered Architect USA, State of Illinois.



Born in Aberdeen, Mhairi completed a BSc (Hons) at the Scott Sutherland School of Architecture, and a Masters of Architecture at Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago.

Mhairi is registered as an Architect in the State of Illinois, where she practiced for ten years with James & Kutyla Architecture, Chicago, working on a range of commercial, civic and residential projects including the award-winning Avec wine bar; a University of Chicago synagogue; and the Whitehead/ Elsniki residence, published in the New York Times for its innovative use of sustainable strategies.

Mhairi also taught as an Adjunct Assistant Professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago before returning to the UK in 2004, where she worked in London for two years with Pollard Thomas Edwards Architects before taking up a post as a Lecturer with the Welsh School of Architecture in 2006.

As well as chairing the BSc Year 2, Mhairi is completing a PhD on precision in architectural practice. Her research has included publications in *Architectural Research Quarterly* and *Quality: Out of Control*.

Mhairi is currently a principal of Cardiff-based Collaborative Design Studio, whose built work includes a self-built residence and the Westray Heritage Centre in the Orkney Islands.

As a committee member of Design Circle RSAW South, Mhairi has been a lead organiser of the architectural exhibitions *Reflecting Wales 2008*, and *Reflecting Wales 09:09*, co-organised with WSA and DCFW. An upcoming architectural exhibition and workshop, *'What Architects Do'*, also co-organised with WSA and DCFW, gives three young 'Design Champions' the opportunity to shadow architectural practices, and to tell the public, in their words, what architects do, and why good design matters.

Elected as Chair of the RSAW South Wales branch in 2010, Mhairi hopes to promote public awareness of architecture through ongoing exhibitions, workshops and lectures, and, through these, to continue to celebrate and debate architectural design in Wales.

See the Design Circle website: [www.designcircilersawsouth.co.uk](http://www.designcircilersawsouth.co.uk) or email: [mhairi@designcircilersawsouth.co.uk](mailto:mhairi@designcircilersawsouth.co.uk)

## Practice profile: Lawray Architects, Cardiff and Wrexham

Lawray Architects are a RIBA Chartered Practice with offices in Cardiff, Wrexham and London, specialising in the creative adaptation of existing buildings.

That said, in 2008, they completed the £28 million Queen Elizabeth High School and Leisure Centre at Johnstown, Carmarthenshire. The new school for 1600 pupils, built to a BREEAM 'Very Good' rating, replaced two existing schools and includes a Sixth Form Centre, an SEN Regional Resource Centre and a Leisure Centre with a competition-standard pool.

Construction is also well underway on the £2.4 million Creative Industries Building for Glyndŵr University, Wrexham, providing facilities for Art & Design, Computing, Humanities, Theatre & Performance within a new complex packed with sustainable design and construction techniques.

So why are Lawray regarded as specialists in existing buildings? The answer lies in their approach to each project. They are very client-focused and decisions are driven by the need to fully understand and meet client's aspirations. Ideas and proposals are presented in a clear, understandable way. Any existing site conditions and features, including buildings, are assessed and rated against those aspirations, and their expertise in the re-use of buildings has led to a systematic assessment of their value.

When the right decision is to incorporate the existing building, their knowledge of the character and construction of the original leads to equally successful projects such as the creation of a £3.5m Conference Centre in Church House, a Grade II listed building in Westminster.



Queen Elizabeth High School, Carmarthenshire

Lawray has recently appointed 2 new employees in Wrexham and London, and is pleased to be able to continue to support the designers of the future through work experience programmes.

For more information on Lawray Architects visit: [www.lawray.co.uk](http://www.lawray.co.uk), or contact: T 02920 762511, e [info@lawray.co.uk](mailto:info@lawray.co.uk)



Team players at Lawray

# DIARY

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To receive our fortnightly update of news and events, contact [rsaw@inst.riba.org](mailto:rsaw@inst.riba.org)

### SEPT 2010

**CPD Wed 15, NATURAL VENTILATION**, at the RSAW 4 Cathedral Road, Cardiff. CF11 9LJ, 2pm-5pm. Ventilation is a critical factor in determining the environmental performance of buildings, from energy use to the health and comfort of the occupants. This seminar will introduce the principles and practice of natural ventilation using state of the art laboratory and computer modelling techniques and case studies, and will be led by Professor Andrew Woods and Dr Shaun Fitzgerald, BP Institute, University of Cambridge.

CPD record: 3 hours of formal CPD. Fees £55 + VAT (RSAW/ RIBA Member) £65 + VAT (non-member). For more information contact Sophie Gibbs, t: 029 2022 8987, [sophie.gibbs@inst.riba.org](mailto:sophie.gibbs@inst.riba.org)

**CPD Thu 30, RIBA CPD PROVIDER'S ROADSHOW**, at the Marriott Hotel, Mill Lane Cardiff, CF10 1EZ, 9am-4pm.

RIBA CPD Providers Network and the RSAW invite you to a full day's CPD to gain up-to-date knowledge and enhance personal proficiency on a wide range of subjects as well as earning CPD points from some of the top companies in their fields. All sessions are accredited under the RIBA Core Curriculum in Construction Skills, Practice Management, Professional Context, Managing Projects and Health and Safety. Each session is one hour, and you can book as many as five sessions throughout the day. Attendance is FREE but book your place with Sophie Gibbs, t: 029 2022 8987, [sophie.gibbs@inst.riba.org](mailto:sophie.gibbs@inst.riba.org)

The RIBA 2010 CPD Roadshow is partnered by [Acrylicon Systems Ltd](http://Acrylicon Systems Ltd)

### OCT 2010

**CPD Wed 6, FLOOD RISK** at the Conwy Business Centre, Junction Way, Llandudno Junction LL31 9XX, 2pm-5pm. Nationally, flood risk is a fundamental issue affecting development throughout Wales. The briefing from Hyder Consulting will discuss the issues brought to light in the Pitt Report, the draft Flood and Water Management Bill which was published in April of this year, and the Environment Agency's recent national assessment of flood risk in Wales.

CPD record: 3 hours of formal CPD. Fees £55 + VAT (RSAW/ RIBA Member) £65 + VAT (non-member). For more information contact Sophie Gibbs, t: 029 2022 8987, [sophie.gibbs@inst.riba.org](mailto:sophie.gibbs@inst.riba.org)

**CPD Wed 13, ENERGY PERFORMANCE OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS**, at RSAW, 4 Cathedral Road, Cardiff CF11 9LJ, 2-5pm. Topics covered in this seminar will include fossil fuels (oil / gas / coal), climate change, legislation – current and projected, energy and historic houses – the basic principles, quantifying the financial benefit of different energy improvements, renewables for historic houses and grant funding.

Speaker Jonathan Clarke MSc IHBC DipHI MRAC, owner and Principal of Energy Solutions (Thame) Ltd is a fully licensed SAP (Domestic Energy) Assessor (NHER) and is also a full member of the IHBC and the AECB.

CPD record: 3 hours of formal CPD. Fees £55 + VAT (RSAW/ RIBA Member) £65 + VAT (non-member). To book, contact Sophie Gibbs, t: 029 2022 8987, [sophie.gibbs@inst.riba.org](mailto:sophie.gibbs@inst.riba.org)

### OCT 2010

**CPD Wed 20, NEGOTIATING APPOINTMENTS AND BENCHMARKING BUSINESS PERFORMANCE FOR ARCHITECTS**, at the Conwy Business Centre, Junction Way, Llandudno Junction LL31 9XX, 2pm-5pm. In the current economic climate having a resource-based approach to fee setting and being able to demonstrate added value are key to sustaining your practice. Appointment agreements need to carefully define your scope of services and include provisions for protecting your cash-flow in the event of non-payment.

In the rush and push of day-to-day practice, business development needs can easily be neglected. The RIBA has developed a business benchmarking tool which you can use to help analyse your business performance and compare your practice with the rest of the architecture sector in key areas such as financial performance, quality management, marketing and winning work and managing staff.

Adrian Dobson, RIBA Director of Practice, will lead both sessions.

CPD record: 3 hours of formal CPD. Fees £55 + VAT (RSAW/ RIBA Member) £65 + VAT (non-member). For more information contact Sophie Gibbs, t: 029 2022 8987, [sophie.gibbs@inst.riba.org](mailto:sophie.gibbs@inst.riba.org)

### NOV 2010

**CPD WED 3, DELIVERING A GREAT CLIENT EXPERIENCE** at Llys Glas, Alexandra Road, Swansea, SA1 5AJ, 2-5pm. Derek Blackburn, Managing Director of Sidona Group, will lead this dynamic and interactive workshop which will provide you with up to date knowledge, strategies and skills to identify, manage and meet client expectations. The workshop will include: how to identify what your clients really value, creating the client experience that gives you a unique competitive advantage, and understanding the key communication tools, skills and service language to ensure you successfully manage your customers' expectations.

CPD record: 3 hours of formal CPD. Fees £55 + VAT (RSAW/ RIBA Member) £65 + VAT (non-member). For more information contact Sophie Gibbs, t: 029 2022 8987, [sophie.gibbs@inst.riba.org](mailto:sophie.gibbs@inst.riba.org)

**CPD WED 10, PROCUREMENT & TENDERING** at RSAW, 4 Cathedral Road, Cardiff CF11 9LJ, 2-5pm. The objective of this seminar is to provide you with tools to enhance your existing professional approach to procurement, enabling you to reach an objective assessment of the appropriate procurement strategy for a single project or strategic spend and develop tendering, assessment and selection strategies to suit specific procurement strategies. Topics covered will include:

- Defining the clients' business and value drivers
- Categorising projects by risk and spend
- Working with Supply Team and sub-contracts
- Developing frameworks, partnering, collaborative working

Speaker Mike Thomas has considerable experience as a Quantity Surveyor, Project Manager, Procurement Manager and Facilitator and managed the introduction and successful implementation of construction best practices, including partnering into a FTSE 100 leisure company.

CPD record: 3 hours of formal CPD. Fees £55 + VAT (RSAW/ RIBA Member) £65 + VAT (non-member). To book, contact Sophie Gibbs, t: 029 2022 8987, [sophie.gibbs@inst.riba.org](mailto:sophie.gibbs@inst.riba.org)

**COPY DATE FOR NEXT PENSEIRI**

**01 DECEMBER 2010**

**SEND TO SOPHIE GIBBS, RSAW [sophie.gibbs@inst.riba.org](mailto:sophie.gibbs@inst.riba.org)**