

## NEW RELEASE

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### **Student from the Leeds Metropolitan University walked away with top prize at the RIBA Yorkshire Student Awards 2009**

The 2009 RIBA Yorkshire Student Awards were announced on 2 July 2009 at an event packed with professionals keen to see the next generation's best architectural talent. Undergraduate and Postgraduate work from architecture students at Leeds Metropolitan University, University of Sheffield, Sheffield Hallam University and Huddersfield University were entered into the awards which were judged by a panel of industry leaders. Claiming the gold award this year was Alex Hargreaves at the Leeds Metropolitan University.

There were two entry classes for the awards. Each architecture school involved was asked to submit two Part 1 design projects and if relevant to the school, two Part 2 design projects as well. The winners were as follows:

#### **Part 1 (undergraduate)**

Gold – Alex Hargreaves, Leeds Metropolitan University  
Concept: Cayton Bay Surf School

Silver and Best Presentation – Rob Taylor, University of Sheffield  
Concept: The Secret Policeman's Saloon

No bronze was awarded

#### **Part 2 (postgraduate)**

No gold was awarded

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Silver – Nikhil Dhumma, University of Huddersfield  
Concept: Contemporary Art Museum, Portland, Oregon, USA

Silver - Pete McMahon, University of Sheffield  
Concept: The British Centre, Rome

Bronze – Richard Holland, University of Sheffield  
Concept: The State of the North Sea

Judge's comment on Alex Hargreaves;

“This project quietly yet convincingly demonstrated a clear line of thought and a thorough investigation of the site, brief and environmental impact of the proposals. The panel were unanimous in awarding this project the Gold award as it was highly sophisticated yet refreshingly low key.”

Judges' comment on Nikhil Dhumma;

“This project perhaps told the most complete story of any Part 2 project the panel reviewed. The presentation showed a clear idea that linked the city context to the building programme then through to a highly developed and convincing proposal about the building.”

Gerry Togher from sponsor Sheffield Hallam University started the presentations with an introduction to Re:Defining the City; an initiative to promote Sheffield as a great place to live, learn, work and play. The RIBA Yorkshire Student Awards were presented by Geoff Halliwell, Director from Bond Bryan and Kevin Norbury from Ibstock, both sponsors of the event.

Stephen Calvert, Chair of the WYSA (West Yorkshire Society of Architects), who also supported the event, handed out the prize for best presentation.

Guest Speaker at the award was Glenn Howells, director of Glenn Howells Architects.

The RIBA Yorkshire Student Awards celebrate and reward the talent and excellence of the region's architecture students. The judging panel was chaired by Glenn Howells, director at Glenn Howells based in Birmingham and also includes Geoff Shearcroft, director of AOC Architecture; Kate Scholes, architect at Architecture 2B in Leeds; Ben Elliott, senior lecturer in Architecture at Northumbria University; Simon Harrison, urbanist at Yorkshire Forward and Geoff Halliwell, director at Bond Bryan Architects.

## **Ends**

**For further information and images please contact Claire Hutchinson at RIBA Yorkshire on 0113 3899870 or email [claire.hutchinson@inst.riba.org](mailto:claire.hutchinson@inst.riba.org)**

## **Editors Notes**

- The Awards are open to schools with RIBA validated courses in the Yorkshire and Humber region, each shortlisting projects from the students' end of year shows, supplying details of the brief and the students who worked on it as well as a short statement as to why it was chosen. Entries were not judged in competition with each other but on individual merit.
- RIBA Yorkshire delivers the services of the Royal Institute of British Architects in the Yorkshire and Humber region. Its mission is to advance architecture by demonstrating benefit to society and promoting excellence in the profession.

