



GUERNSEY DESIGN AWARDS 2012

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Guernsey's top architects were honoured at the re-launched Guernsey Design Awards 2012 which attracted around 50 local projects. These were whittled down to a short list of 11 projects which have caught the imagination - and the votes - of the Guernsey public.

The awards, which are a joint venture between the Guernsey Society of Architects and the Environment Department, were sponsored by Norman Piette.

Their MD Clive Fenner spoke of his delight in helping bring back the awards which were last held in 2005 - and which will now come back as a bi-annual competition.

The presentation showcased the talents and innovation of Guernsey's architects and building contractors and exhibited a wide variety of projects from farmhouse conversions to the refurbishment of the Town Church.

Top honours were shared by CCD Chartered Architects, represented by managing director Andrew Dyke, and BAS Mooarc whose design director Jamie Falla picked up the coveted prize. The judges decided that two local residential properties deserved to win the highest award of the night - BAS Mooarc's Etoile du Nord, a project created from a bungalow overlooking Vazon Bay, and Les Prevosts Farm at St Saviour's a 17th Century semi derelict site which was brought back to life in style by CCD Chartered Architects.

Jamie Falla explained that he was delighted to be playing a part in Guernsey's architectural heritage, and spoke of the challenges, and the satisfaction on working on the project.

"It was a privilege to work with the planners, contractors and the client. It has represented a long journey lasting five years, but it means so much to the studio to win a Guernsey Award."

Andrew Dyke of CCD Chartered Architects also paid tribute to his team and he spoke of his pride on bringing what had been a vision to life. "This really was the refurbishment of an historic building and bringing it back to life for modern family living" he explained.

The People's Choice award went to Earlswood Café which was designed by Brian Tyrrell of Tyrrell Dowinton and Associates. The design has created a central hub - and spacious café for the garden centre and made the best use of an underutilised area. Brian Tyrrell said that it is always nice to win an award, but with the amount of negative press that architecture has had over the years it was good to win a people's award. The contractor's award for that project went to J. W. Rihoy and Sons.

The Norman Piette Contractor's Award for Craftsmanship and Construction went to Joe Moriarty and Sons for Etoile du Nord and to H.D.Brehaut and Sons for Les Prevosts Farm.

The Guest speaker for the awards was the president of the Royal Town Planning Institute Colin Haylock, and the awards were introduced by Paul Langlois of The Guernsey Society of Architects, Clive Fenner of sponsors Norman Piette and Faith Rose on behalf of the Environment Department.

All spoke of the tremendous response to the re-introduction of the Design Awards and of the high quality of the entries.



Etoile du Nord



Les Prevosts Farm



Earlswood Café

building a reputation

It's been quite a year for the team at CCD Architects. They were still basking in the success of the Fabulous Houses Exhibition, celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the practice, when earlier this year they scooped the Business of the Year prize as the best overall business at the Achievement Awards. At the recent Design Awards 2012, they shared the top honour for their Les Prevosts Farm development and were proud to have a total of 5 CCD schemes shortlisted. It is also the fifth time the practice has won the Guernsey Design Award since its original inauguration in 1995.

It is clear that CCD enjoy the challenge of combining contemporary styling while still retaining the charm and character of an older property which is crying out for renovation.

Andrew Dyke, who was project architect for the scheme, says "Les Prevosts was a particular challenge as it was in a bad state of disrepair, very run down and had not had any maintenance work for decades. The roof was falling in and the property was generally in a terrible state. We wanted to bring it back to life whilst still retaining its rich heritage and features which in many cases were hidden away. The Clients were keen to utilise the large attached barn as a kitchen and family room, but this was a challenge as the barn had low ceilings and very few windows.

"The solution was to open up the barn to create a domestic double-height space with a balcony, and to create light and wonderful views of the fields through large openings formed in the walls, and which also give access to the oak-framed dining area. We also found some 250 year old timbers in an old chimney-hood, and we re-used these to form a handrail to the balcony and staircase to great effect, and they look amazing."

Says Andrew, "Architecture is not simply about design and what a Client may want. It is about buildings within a community which fit seamlessly into the landscape. The Design Awards are a good thing because they make us think about these things."



"It is good that Guernsey celebrates its 21st Century architecture because what we do today creates tomorrow's heritage."



Cresswell Cuttle & Dyke Chartered Architects

Image by CCD Architects/Tom Warry