



PRESS RELEASE

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DESIGN AWARDS RECOGNISE BEST SCOTTISH NEW BUILD HOUSING

Recognising the best in Scottish new build housing, Homes for Scotland, the organisation that represents the residential development industry in Scotland, has announced the results of its 2004 Design Awards.

Looking at development layout and the creation of successful places and spaces as opposed to individual house types, competition for this second year of the Homes for Scotland Design Awards was fierce with an increase in the number of entries of more than 50% on 2003.

A total of 54 entries were evaluated by the panel of independent judges across the categories of brownfield, greenfield and suburban, conversion and development by small builder with awards and commendations given as follows:

Brownfield New Build (large)

Award to Miller Homes/Cruden Homes for Ronaldson's Wharf, Edinburgh
Commendation to Ogilvie Homes for Queen Elizabeth Square, Glasgow
Commendation to George Wimpey East Scotland for Meadow Court, Edinburgh

Brownfield New Build (small)

Award to Mactaggart and Mickel for Eskbank Court, Eskbank
Commendation to The Burrell Company for Caledon House, Edinburgh

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Conversion

Award to Park Lane Caledonian Group for The Chrysalis Building, Glasgow
Commendation to Strathclyde Homes for the Picture House, Glasgow

Development by Small Builder

Award to Bancon Homes for Carnegie Court, Inverurie
Commendation to Headon Developments for Bonfield Steading, Strathkinness

Greenfield and Suburban

Award to Ogilvie Homes for The Drum, Bo'ness
Commendation to Mactaggart and Mickel for The Grange and Walled Garden, Irvine

With its membership of more than 70 companies providing over 90% of all new homes built for sale in Scotland, Homes for Scotland is committed to improving design standards across the country, a move wholeheartedly supported by the industry which has embraced the innovative approach of the Design Awards. Unrivalled in terms of national reach and credibility, the competition has, in only two years, established itself as one of the premier events in the Scottish housebuilding calendar.

Homes for Scotland's Executive Director Bruce Black is certain that the tremendous level of support which the 2004 Design Awards attracted bodes well for both homebuyers and the future of the industry itself.

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He said: “This year’s event set out to build on the success we enjoyed in 2003 and to continue driving forward the design agenda in Scottish housing. What this year’s entries demonstrate is the growing commitment of our members to deliver high quality patterns of urban and rural living through good design. They are working hard to ensure their developments fit with the environment and community. Today’s home buyers expect nothing less.”

The judging panel represented a variety of interests in relation to new house building. Chaired by Rhona Brankin MSP, Convenor of the Scottish Parliament’s Cross Party Group on Architecture and the Built Environment, the panel also included Ian Gilzean, Principal Architect at the Scottish Executive, Graham U’ren, Director of the Royal Town Planning Institute in Scotland and Roan Rutherford from the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland. The criteria used to evaluate submissions was as follows:

- Context - how the development understands its physical and market setting
- Identity - how the design seeks to strengthen local identity or, where none exists, helps create an identifiable character
- Connection - how the development integrates with the movement and settlement patterns of the wider area
- Variety - of house types and tenure, materials and uses
- Sustainability - how the development engages design, layout, materials, maintenance and the community

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Responsible for developing Scotland's first policy on architecture as Deputy Minister for Culture and Sport in 1999, Rhona appreciates the importance that design plays in both meeting basic practical needs and improving the quality of people's lives.

Clearly encouraged by the fact that so many housebuilders are keen to present their developments for scrutiny, she said: "We were delighted both at the response to this year's competition and the standards achieved. An initiative such as the Homes for Scotland Design Awards plays a key role in helping to raise the standard and quality of new housing developments and is all the more significant in the context of the current market where there appears to be a considerable excess of demand over supply. Together with the planning advice from the Scottish Executive, we hope that the Design Awards will be instrumental in improving housing design in years to come."

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Photo captions for category winners:

- Image 1: Ronaldson's Wharf, Edinburgh - Miller Homes/Crudon Homes
Winner: Brownfield New Build (large)
- Image 2: Eskbank Court, Eskbank – Mactaggart & Mickel
Winner: Brownfield New Build (small)
- Image 3: The Chrysalis Building, Glasgow – Park Lane Caledonian Group
Winner: Conversion
- Image 4: Carnegie Court, Inverurie – Bancon Homes
Winner: Development by Small Builder
- Image 5: The Drum, Bo'ness – Ogilvie Homes
Winner: Greenfield & Suburban



Notes to editors:

About Homes for Scotland:

Homes for Scotland (www.homesforscotland.com) is the representative membership body for the home building and residential development industry in Scotland. Its member companies build more than 90% of all new homes in Scotland.

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