



PRESS RELEASE

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HOUSING AWARDS ATTRACT RECORD NUMBER OF ENTRIES

A record number of entries have been received for an awards scheme aimed at ensuring new homes form part of high quality, integrated and sustainable communities.

Each year Homes for Scotland, the organisation which represents companies building 95% of the country's new homes, holds awards to improve standards and promote best practice within the home building industry.

Embracing the Scottish Government's place-making agenda, this year the focus is on "Designing Places" and the competition is clearly relished by the organisation's members who submitted a record 68 entries in the categories of urban, rural and masterplanning.

Following the first meeting of the independent judging panel, which was held today, Homes for Scotland's Chief Executive Jonathan Fair said:

"Our awards are unrivalled in terms of national reach and credibility, and in addressing the issues that matter to the industry's many stakeholders.

A key objective for Homes for Scotland is to keep driving the design agenda forward and this year's entries demonstrate the growing commitment of our members to deliver high quality patterns of urban and rural living. They are working hard to ensure their developments complement both the environment and local community. The judges certainly have a tough job on their hands."



Chair of the judging panel Chief Planner Jim Mackinnon said:

“The Government’s central purpose is to promote sustainable economic growth. Those entries which address issues such as location, quality and environmental impact will stand the best chance of success. It is our hope that these Awards will uncover examples of best practice which will inspire the industry, designers and communities.”

Winners of the Homes for Scotland Designing Places Awards will be announced at the the organisation’s annual lunch on Friday 9 May where over 650 members of the Scottish home building industry will be in attendance.

Ends

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Notes to the Editor:

1. Homes for Scotland (www.homesforscotland.com) represents the country’s home building industry which:
 - is the largest source of private investment in Scotland
 - contributes £5bn to the economy annually
 - builds 20,000 new homes per annum
 - employs more than 110,000 people
 - is the largest user of the planning system in Scotland
2. Entries were sought from home building member companies of Homes for Scotland in the following categories:
 - Urban large** (*sponsored by Premier Guarantee*)
 - Urban small** (*sponsored by Morisons LLP*)
 - Rural large** (*sponsored by Forster Roofing*)
 - Rural small** (*sponsored by Harley Haddow Consulting Engineers*)
 - Masterplanning** (*sponsored by Paull & Williamsons Solicitors*)
3. The independent judging panel is Chaired by **Jim Mackinnon**, Scottish Government Chief Planner and further comprises:
 - Karen Anderson** - Chair of the Saltire Society Housing Design Awards Panel
 - Donald Anderson** - Consultant and former Leader of Edinburgh Council
 - Fiona McLachlan** - Senior Lecturer in Architectural Design & Practice, University of Edinburgh
 - Alistair Stark** - Convener, RTPI Scotland
 - Sebastian Tombs** - Chief Executive, Architecture + Design Scotland

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