



HOMES FOR SCOTLAND
AWARDS 2015

Best Employer

Sponsored by Archial Norr

Winner:



Mactaggart & Mickel Homes for a clear demonstration of investment in its people.

Showcasing strong evidence of supporting employees and developing talent, the judges felt that this was a stand out submission.

The range of benefits offered to employees is both imaginative and supportive, with the company demonstrating several leading schemes which benefitted the wellbeing of staff. Of particular merit was the shared parental benefits scheme, a commitment to learning and development and an employee engagement forum. Judges were particularly impressed by the very positive employee feedback which backed up this entry.

Commended:



Barratt Homes for its carefully considered programmes of work that help build careers for both graduates and apprentices.

The thoughtful workplace benefits and opportunities offered to employees were clearly outlined within this entry, with the judging panel particularly impressed by the training and leadership initiatives offered. From the award-winning Barratt Academy apprenticeship programme to master classes in commercial management, decision-making skills and leadership, the company is committed to ensuring that its employees achieve their full potential.

Employee of the Year

Sponsored by Clancy Docwra

Winner:



Heather Henderson – Springfield Properties

The judges felt that this application was particularly strong and clearly identified how Heather has made a significant difference to Springfield within a short space of time.

In her role as HR Manager, Heather has introduced a series of improvements which have resulted in direct and measurable benefits for the company in terms of reduced staff turnover and increased profit. She has also gone over and above her day job to engage with schools, job centres and charities to the benefit of her organisation and the wider community.

Best Customer Service Initiative

Sponsored by Celotex

Winner:



Springfield Properties for the strong and dynamic approach to customer service showcased within the “It’s Included” initiative.

The judges were unanimous in granting Springfield this award for its transparent and stress free buying process with added “feel good factor” on move-in day.

The company has reacted to customer needs and tailored its specification accordingly by including items which were previously “extras”. The marketing campaign attached to this initiative shows a fresh approach and reinforces customer confidence using simple language to portray a clear message. This has resulted in an increase in both footfall and market share.

Commended:



Miller Homes for “The Miller Difference”.

Focused on an enhanced data system, this robust initiative resulted in benefits to both the business and the customer. The ‘Salesforce’ system gives access internally to all departments showing the complete customer journey from pre-reservation onwards and therefore communication with the customer is streamlined, quicker and more efficient. This demonstrated a clear commitment by the company to deliver excellent customer service.

Best Partnership in Affordable Housing Delivery

Sponsored by Forster Roofing

Winner:



Rettie & Co, Cruden Group, Hillcrest Housing Association, City of Edinburgh Council and Scottish Futures Trust for Sailmaker Apartments, Leith.

The successful culmination of a complex partnership, the judges were very impressed by the way this team had used their own areas of expertise to develop an otherwise mothballed site in order to create 145 affordable homes without grant support.

One of the largest National Housing Trust projects at the time, these mid-rent homes constitute a major contribution to the housing supply challenges facing the capital and offer tenants the prospect of moving to home ownership after five years.

Commendation:



Dunedin Canmore Housing and City of Edinburgh Council for Little Road Phase 1, Merchants Court, Edinburgh.

The judges commended this high quality mixed tenure development of 32 social rent and mid-rent flats as an innovative example of meeting the housing needs of older people in a community setting using a blend of private finance, charitable investment and modest grant support.

The panel was impressed by the development itself as well as the approach to delivery which contributes both to the city's affordable housing supply needs and its Joint Capacity Plan for Older People.

Best Home Design

Sponsored by Registers of Scotland

Winner:



Robertson Homes for Azure Grand, Westercraigs, Inverness.

The judges felt this design had the versatility needed for modern family living, with a contemporary style that could also combine successfully with traditional forms and settings.

The flexibility of the home layout provides potential for a number of different lifestyles and family groupings, using ground floor and roof volume as possible additional bedrooms, living or work spaces.

Best Development – large (26+ units)

Sponsored by NHBC

Winner:



CALA Homes (East) for Albert Dock, The Shore, Edinburgh.

This development stood out for its approach to addressing the challenge of developing a narrow site sitting between a working dock and a future tram halt through uncomplicated linear build forms which sit well in a regeneration area which is still in transition.

The design of the private open space within the mews lane at ground level and the use of first floor terraced decks greatly enhance a sense of community within the development.

Commended:



EMA Architects and **Glencairn Properties** for Bellevue Colonies, Edinburgh.

Based around a mix of flats and colony style housing, the judges praised the contemporary approach to delivering a close relationship with neighbouring properties and a common sense of identity.

The judges considered the project a trailblazer if the genre is to be resurrected.

Commended:



McTaggart Construction and **Robertson Homes (Urban Union)** for Laurieston, Glasgow.

The judges commended this project for the uncomplicated manner in which it reinforces the work undertaken to rebuild a vibrant community.

The development builds on the urban character of Glasgow, with clearly defined blocks reinforcing the grid-like quality of the city.

Commended:



Places for People for Roman Fields, Twechar, East Dunbartonshire.

This two-storey development provides a range of house types to ensure that people at different stages of their lives can be accommodated.

The judges were impressed by demonstrations of innovation, the scale of development and its context.

Best Development – medium (11-25 units)

Sponsored by ZPG

Winner:



Eildon Housing Association for Dunwhinny Gardens, Peebles.

Eildon Housing Association has produced a high quality project that embraces current design policies and guidance and developed these with sound detailing of buildings, the inter-relationship of spaces and landscape arrangements.

The end result is a development of distinctive character that sets an excellent benchmark for future Scottish housing developments, and one which stuck out to the judging panel as a worthy winner in this category.

Commended:



Springfield Properties for Corstorphine Mews, Edinburgh.

The panel considered Corstorphine Mews an excellent illustration of a well designed project which enhances an existing place.

The thoughtful approach utilised throughout recognises existing neighbours and gets the context just right. The design process demonstrates an adaptable approach by testing a variety of options before arriving at a project that is highly commendable.

Best Development – small (up to ten units)

Sponsored by Allied Surveyors Scotland

Winner:



Springfield Properties for Powderhall Gate, Edinburgh.

The judges were impressed by the fresh and modern outlook delivered by this development of terraced townhouses in Powderhall Village.

The external elevations reference adjacent properties of a similar type but are enhanced by subtle architectural design and the use of different contrasting materials.

Internal layouts are designed to be flexible with additional natural light introduced via sun pipes, all of which contributes to the overall wellbeing of the occupants.

Best Supporting Company

Sponsored by Brodies LLP

Winner:



First Mortgage for the integral part they play in simplifying the home buying process for both buyer and builder.

With a comprehensive review of the mortgage market taking place last year, builders have never relied more on the skills and expertise of the mortgage broker to guide potential buyers through the maze of house purchase. First Mortgage have excelled in this regard, developing key relationships with local and national builders and offering a dedicated team of specialists working seven days a week to deliver first class service

Special Award

Awarded to:



The Board and wider membership of Homes for Scotland wished to acknowledge the contribution made by former Director of Planning **Allan Lundmark** over his 13 years of service.

During that time Allan worked tirelessly in promoting the need for new homes and specifically:

- ensured that Homes for Scotland heavily influenced the new planning system under the 2006 Act
- secured significant improvements to Scottish Planning Policy
- ensured a strong industry voice in the design and placemaking agenda

Lifetime Achievement

Sponsored by Ground Developments

Awarded to:



Bill Robertson CBE for his contribution to home building across 50 years.

Founding Robertson Group in 1966, a family business of which he is still at the helm as Executive Chairman, Bill has steered the business through ever-changing industry conditions with a steady hand and a head for strategy.

Robertson is now the largest privately owned construction, infrastructure and support services company in Scotland, with home building an integral part of the business from the very early years.

Throughout his half century in the business, Bill has demonstrated a tremendous commitment to home building – one which is still ongoing and has translated into thousands of high quality homes and secure jobs across the country.

Homes for Scotland Home Builder of the Year



The judges were in agreement that **Springfield Properties** was the outright winner of this top accolade based upon its demonstrations of innovation across a wide range of categories.

Springfield entered eight submissions with five making the judges' first cut shortlist. One of these entries received a commendation under best medium development and three went on to become category winners.

A strong focus on improving customer service and providing a transparent and stress-free buying process saw the "It's Included" campaign take the top spot for Best Customer Service Initiative.

The judges were hugely impressed by the modernity demonstrated within Powderhall Gate's development of terraced townhouses in Edinburgh.

And the submission for Employee of the Year clearly showcased HR Manager Heather Henderson as a stand-out candidate whose people skills, commercial awareness and managerial abilities have made a significant difference to Springfield's business practices.