

Edinburgh Architecture Association EAA December 2023

EAA Awards

This quarter saw the EAA host the *EAA Awards 2023* and *EAA J R McKay Medal* (Student Awards) in an in-person awards ceremony on 26th October 2023 at West Court, Edinburgh College of Art. The EAA Awards are recognised at local and national level and are one of the main highlights of the annual EAA programme. Congratulations to all of our 2023 award winners, commended projects and short-listed entries. The full results are available on our website; <https://eaa.org.uk/2023-eaa-awards-short-list>. A special thank you to all our sponsors for continuing to support us during this challenging year and thanks to our judges; Neil Middleton, Emma Garland, Christina Gaiger & Ayla Riome.

Awards are an opportunity to promote what is best in practice. Best in practice has to be regenerating existing communities and existing buildings, supporting, and developing local skills and local supply chains, designing with low carbon materials, for ease of repair and maintenance. This was showcased in the breadth of the submissions and winners at the Awards.

Special mention for the Winner of the 2023 Building of the Year Award, Holmes Miller, for their Trinity Academy Sports Campus. The judge's comments included: *"This building is not only a sports hall for the local secondary school but is also a rugby club, a base for local outdoors group and a community leisure centre. This example of collaboration between different groups to make the best use of a building results in a hardworking project that provides a solution to many problems. The architects have handled this in an exemplary way, the plan is finely tuned and well considered, handling the complexities of the requirements of many different stakeholders with self-assurance.*

The external appearance of the building is highly impressive, the elegant single storey brick façade faces the entrance to the site – this provides a welcoming approach to the building. The single storey element facing the rugby pitch becomes a covered colonnade – providing a threshold between the rugby club house and the rugby pitch for watching matches in the rain. The height required for the larger spaces is handled delicately – the double height polycarbonate sections are set back from the public elevations and their translucency makes them appear delicate, helping the building to settle into its mature context.

The architects have navigated the potential challenges of an urban site and multiple stakeholders to create a piece of architecture that ultimately does set an example of using resources to benefit the greater good."

EAA Micro Visits

The EAA is developing a series of Micro Visits to smaller projects in Edinburgh. The first visit was an invitation to join Grigor Mitchell, architect and Passivhaus

Designer, for a tour of 34 Blackford Avenue, a house designed to Passivhaus standards and other ecological considerations.

EAA/ESALA Pre Year Out Event

The EAA contributed to an event organised by ESALA for third year undergraduate students who are about to embark on their integrated practice period, bringing together a range of individuals who have taken alternative approaches to practice. EAA Council Members attended the event to speak with students, and Past-Vice President and former ESALA student Dan Anderson opened the event with a short presentation of his experience in practice.

EAA EUDP

The EAA continue to attend the EUDP pre-application design reviews with Edinburgh Council, offering design advice on proposed developments within the city along with other design organisations. This is a key element of supporting Edinburgh Council to improve the design quality of buildings and places. We see a core role of this as promoting the wider benefits of sustainability.

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