

St Albans Civic Society Awards Evening

October 20th, 2010

The Maltings Arts Theatre



The St Albans Civic Society held its annual awards evening at the Maltings Arts Theatre on October 20th, 2010. Each of the projects considered was completed in 2009. The longlist included developments which all contributed to enhancing the environment, culture and community of the city. The number, range and quality of this year's contenders for this highly prestigious award presented a strong challenge to the awards committee, but after much debate a shortlist of six was selected. Five were commended and received certificates. The sixth project, in St Paul's Place, was awarded the Society's plaque. All were presented by the Mayor of St Albans City and District, Councillor Maxine Crawley.

Details of the award winner, and the commended projects, are given below.

Awarded the Civic Society's Plaque

1-8 St Paul's Place, Hatfield Road

client: Aldwyck Housing Group

architect: Kyle Smart Associates

builder: VE Parrott (Oakley) Ltd

This small development of eight rented flats for single elderly people is a partnership between St Albans Council and the Aldwyck Housing Association. It is designed to meet Lifetime Homes Design Standards, so can be used by those in wheelchairs. Flats can be adapted to the changing needs of tenants. Each has a small area of outside space and has its own solar roof panel for water heating. We were impressed with the thought and care which had gone into creating these elegant, spacious and practical homes.



Commended

White Stuff, Market Place

designers: AMD interior architects with the White Stuff design team

builder: Nexus Ltd

White Stuff have made a major contribution to St Albans Market Place. Its new exterior is traditional in style and materials, which are very appropriate to its location. Internally, the company have created an interesting and beautifully fitted shop. White Stuff are also to be congratulated on their commitment to local charities, in St Albans the Grove House hospice.



The Abbey Station

designers and builders: Network Rail with Hertfordshire County Council, the Department for Transport and London Midland

The refurbishment of the Abbey Station has converted an unappealing station halt into an elegant and attractive rail terminus. The entrance and car parking areas have been opened up, resurfaced, and well lit, making the station feel much safer and more accessible. The platform has crisp and well detailed seating 'pods', bench seats and cycle parking. It also has a 'Harrington Hump', a raised area of the platform which allows level access for those unable to manage the gap between the platform and the train.



Henley House, Lattimore Road

architect: Briffa Phillips

developer: Raybridge Corporation Ltd

Henley House is a development of 12 small apartments which replaced a redundant warehouse. The site is small, long, narrow and sloping. The narrow front of the building is constructed from an intriguing combination of shapes and materials, topped by a barrel roof. The apartments run along the length of the site and share a small paved and planted area. This is a very attractive and carefully designed development on a difficult site.



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Kingsbury Barn

*historic buildings consultancy: Oxley Conservation Ltd
builders: IJP Owlsworth*

Kingsbury Barn was built in 1374 and has been carefully restored by its owners. It is a very remarkable achievement. The exterior has been reclad in elm, and it has a new roof. The interior is almost entirely original. The barn has not been modernised in any way and remains much as it would have been six hundred and fifty years ago. This is a very generous opportunity for the people of St Albans to visit, use, and learn about this beautiful ancient building.



© Kingsbury Barn

West Hall, Napsbury Park

architect and developer: Jaspar Group

Napsbury Hospital was opened in 1905 as the Middlesex county asylum. West Hall is the largest building in the park, being the social centre and dining hall for the patients. It has been converted into 40 spacious flats. Great care and respect has been shown for the original building and beautifully made new windows have been inserted throughout. The developers are to be congratulated for bringing an unloved and abandoned building back to life.



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