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## Edinburgh Printmakers wins Project of the Year in inaugural RICS Social Impact Awards

RICS (Royal Institution for Chartered Surveyors) has announced the winners of the inaugural RICS Social Impact Awards for Scotland, and Edinburgh Printmakers has won the esteemed title of Project of the Year.

35 construction projects, who's entries celebrate the role of property professionals in transforming Scottish communities and the everyday lives of people, were shortlisted back in February.

Eight projects have now been successful as category winners, with Edinburgh Printmakers selected by judges from amongst them as Project of the Year.

The awards – which are supporting The Prince's Trust campaign to get more young people into construction – were launched earlier this year to find the best examples of developments delivering economic, social or environmental improvements for their communities; therefore, recognising the real estate industry's vital role in society.

All of the Scottish winners were announced in a digital awards ceremony revealed by RICS this afternoon. They are:

- **Project of the Year:** Edinburgh Printmakers
- **Commercial:** TECA - creating a world-class events and leisure complex
- **Education:** University of Glasgow Campus Development
- **Healthcare:** Prince & Princess of Wales Hospice
- **Heritage:** Edinburgh Printmakers
- **Infrastructure:** Glenrothes Energy Network
- **Leisure:** The Fraser Centre
- **Residential:** North Sighthill Regeneration
- **Student Accommodation:** Baird's Close Two

The new home of Edinburgh Printmakers is located within what was once the headquarters of the North British Rubber Company (NBRC). The NBRC building is the only surviving structure from the once large and important nineteenth century Castle Mills industrial complex. The project involved the redevelopment of this derelict building into a multi-use arts complex centred around printmaking production. The approach of the project team involved “making precise contemporary interventions to facilitate the new use while respecting the character and story of the existing building”.

**RICS Social Impact Awards Head Judge for Scotland, Colin Smith**, commented: “The Edinburgh Printmakers project has saved and creatively adapted one of the last vestiges of the industrial and social history of Fountainbridge, the former headquarters of the North British Rubber Factory. The project has ingeniously inserted a range of public facing new uses into the building, respecting its fabric, character and heritage, and done so in a way

that provides access for all throughout and which opens the building out to engage with its emerging surroundings. It is a multi-faceted gem.”

He continued: “The built environment is an integral part of the Scottish economy but also makes a positive impact on our everyday lives. In these challenging times, it is warming to reflect on these winning projects, and how they are not only a demonstration of the breadth of talent within the profession, but showcase how buildings can make towns and cities across the country more inclusive and deliver communities which people can be proud of.”

**ENDS**

### **Notes for editors**

Images of the winners can be found [here](#).

#### **Judges’ summaries:**

##### **Commercial – TECA-creating a world-class events and leisure complex**

The project was a £333 million delivery of leisure and events space. It demonstrated very good collaboration with a range of stakeholders and was delivered on time and budget. The commercial build has good links with RICS professionals, and the scale of the build necessitated some innovative design and build solutions.

##### **Education – University of Glasgow Campus Development**

Multiplex have worked in partnership with the University of Glasgow to deliver a ‘best -in-class’ £1 billion Learning and Research campus woven into the fabric of Glasgow’s West End. The development builds on the University’s legacy and helps position it as a ‘world-changer’ in international higher education.

The development delivers a significant environmental performance including BREEAM ‘Excellent’ for all new buildings, a range of ecological features fitting in with its nearby Parkland location, low-waste policies during construction and strong community and social impact.

##### **Healthcare – Prince & Princess of Wales Hospice**

This new facility annually supports over 1,200 patients and families, providing high quality space for dignified and compassionate care.

The facility has been delivered to a high quality incorporating significant levels of sustainability including renewable energy, heating and low-waste strategies while integrating a strong Scandinavian patient-centric approach to design and its community-centred operation.

Collaboration was extensive in the establishment of this project especially the dedicated largely voluntary funding team which raised the necessary £21m to deliver this vital project.

##### **Heritage – Edinburgh Printmakers**

The Edinburgh Printmakers project has saved and creatively adapted one of the last vestiges of the industrial and social history of Fountainbridge, the former headquarters of the North British Rubber Factory. The project has ingeniously inserted a range of public facing new uses into the building, respecting its fabric, character and heritage, and done so in a way that provides access for all throughout and which opens the building out to engage with its emerging surroundings. A multi-faceted gem.

### **Infrastructure – Glenrothes Energy Network**

The Glenrothes Energy Network demonstrated exemplar qualities in the pursuit for this year's category winner. The judges were particularly impressed by the clearly successful delivery model, the re-use of surplus steam and the already well-established network, with the capacity to offer much more to the surrounding retail, commercial and residential sectors. Socially, this project makes significant strides in the ongoing drive for a more sustainable future for this country, with the benefit being felt by local people in their very homes.

### **Leisure – The Fraser Centre**

The New Fraser Centre has transformed the availability and quality of community leisure opportunities in Tranent. The new facility has been developed on the site of the previous facility, a former cinema that was inherently compromised and ultimately condemned as not fit for purpose. The new centre provides high quality flexible spaces, a cinema, café and small commercial office units within a simple new building. It delivers more than the sum of its parts, and transformational the benefit to the Tranent community.

### **Residential – North Sighthill Regeneration**

All parties involved in the project worked with a collective passion, energy and commitment to improve the lives of those within the Sighthill community. The Employer had a clear vision for the regeneration of the area. The designers strived to lower living costs whilst integrating and better connecting the community. The Contractor had a proactive attitude to community engagement and understood clearly the positive affect it could have on the lives of those its work affected.

We heard first-hand what a difference the project made to those living within Sighthill; the project had given invaluable employment, social and environmental opportunities to the Sighthill community that simply didn't exist beforehand. It was rewarding to see the positive difference the built environment can make to everyday lives – a really deserving winner.

### **Student Accommodation – Baird's Close Two**

The Baird's Close Two project delivers student accommodation on a level not commonly encountered in this country. The judges were witness to a building fitting of its prestigious location, directly overlooked by Edinburgh Castle and on a site steeped in both history and challenges. The project not only delivers accommodation of the highest order but sensitively brings to life a site which was once of great significance. Socially, this project seems to bring almost equal benefit to the residents as it does to the wider local community.

### **About RICS**

We are RICS. Everything we do is designed to effect positive change in the built and natural environments. Through our respected global standards, leading professional progression and our trusted data and insight, we promote and enforce the highest professional standards in the development and management of land, real estate, construction and infrastructure.

Our work with others provides a foundation for confident markets, pioneers better places to live and work and is a force for positive social impact.