CHELTENHAM CIVIC SOCIETY

CHELTENHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

CHELTENHAM CIVIC AWARDS 2013
Presentation of Cheltenham Civic Awards 2013

Wednesday 16 April 2014 at 4:00 pm
In the Drawing Room, Cheltenham Town Hall

In the presence of the mayor Councillor Wendy Flynn

Guest Presenter

Tom Dyckhoff

Honorary Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects and a Trustee of the Architecture Foundation, Tom Dyckhoff is best described as ‘an enthusiast, historian, writer and broadcaster about architecture, cities, design and places’. For eight years architectural critic for the *The Times* and thereafter columnist for The Guardian *Weekend* magazine, other publications he has contributed to include Domus, Blueprint, Icon and the V&A magazine and he has been a visiting tutor at various universities. Tom is widely recognised for the enthusiasm and excitement he has injected into the numerous television documentary series he has written and presented including ‘The Secret Life of Buildings’ and ‘Saving Britain’s Past’ and is architecture and design critic for BBC’s Culture Show. Among other involvements, Tom has been Exhibitions Curator at the RIBA and has hosted and been a panel member of The Stirling Prize. He is currently editing the 21st edition of Bannister Fletcher, the time honoured encyclopaedic history of architecture, and working on his first book on contemporary architecture and the city.

Tom Dyckhoff will give the Annual Cheltenham Civic Awards Lecture

**THE RIGHT TO BUILD**
another history of housing

Wednesday 16th of April at 7:30 pm
At St Andrew’s United Reform Church, Montpelliier Street

A Cheltenham Civic Society Public Lecture
Cheltenham Civic Awards

For projects which, through vision, design and craftsmanship beyond the ordinary, both respect their surroundings and give an example for the future, resulting in a feature of which Cheltenham will be proud.

Each year the Cheltenham Civic Awards are made by the Borough Council in association with Cheltenham Civic Society for the encouragement of standards of excellence in the restoration of historic buildings and other works in the field of improvement in Cheltenham's built environment.

An award, consisting of an engraved glass bowl, an illuminated citation and a bronze plaque, may be made in each of the following categories:

- **A New Building or Structure**
- **Restoration of or, Alterations or Additions to an Existing Building or Structure**
- **Improvements to the Built or Landscaped Environment**

An adjudication panel is drawn from a wide range of Cheltenham societies representing all shades of opinion. The independent panel of adjudicators takes account of factors such as design, proportion, materials, workmanship, and overall composition. They may also make commendations, with an illuminated citation, in all categories.

The Civic Society welcomes nominations from any member of the public, designer, contractor or owner, for their own work or that of any other. There is no limit to the number of nominations which can be made.
CHELTENHAM CIVIC SOCIETY

Cheltenham Civic Society was formally inaugurated in 1925 with objectives very similar to those of the modern Society but it was in 1958 following the campaign by Ian Nairn in the 1950s against the spoiling of towns by poor design, traffic, wires, signs and other street clutter and his lecture at Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum, that the present Cheltenham Civic Society was born, incorporating The Regency Society.

During the last fifty years the Society has vigorously campaigned for the preservation and enhancement of this beautiful town, both by opposing schemes that undermined the essence of the character of a garden town and encouraging good contemporary design to complement the largest conservation area in a town in Europe.

The activities of the Society are wide ranging. The Society is actively involved in the development of the town through consultations and participation in task forces and through its regular Planning forum and Tree Officer it reviews and comments on planning applications. But the Society is not merely a consultative body. It is proactive in initiating and supporting projects, many run by local amenity societies, which enhance the beauty of the town and the places where people live. Some project involvements have included the forming of the ‘Chelt Walk’, the creation of Jenner Gardens, the restoration of the Montpellier bandstand and in 2008, the installation of the Gustav Holst Memorial Fountain.

Since 1982, the Society has celebrated the character of the town through the erection of Blue and Green Plaques which commemorate people, places and events of local and national significance. In 2008 the Society published a book on the Commemorative Plaques of Cheltenham and a supplement for all subsequent plaques is being maintained. Through the national Heritage Open Days in September the opening of the town’s many architectural features is encouraged each year. An extensive programme of lectures and events is held for members and the public. The Society publishes a Newsletter three times a year to report on its activities. The Society’s headquarters are at Parmoor House in the magnificent Italianate Lypiatt Terrace in which it hires out rooms as a meeting place.

In 2010, Cheltenham Civic Society was a founding member of the Civic Voice which is a national organization promoting civic pride, seeking to make places more attractive, enjoyable and distinctive, and representing the Civic Movement to government.

For many years Cheltenham Civic Society has run the annual Civic Award Scheme, which is sponsored by the Borough Council, to encourage and recognize good design and workmanship in both restoration of and improvements to Cheltenham’s fine architectural and environmental heritage and in contemporary new buildings and structures. The adjudication panel is drawn from a wide group of interests within the town to represent all shades of opinion. In recent years, a distinguished architectural critic has been invited to make the presentation of awards and in the evening to give the Civic Awards Lecture.
CHELTENHAM CIVIC AWARDS 2013

Adjudication Panel

Diane Lewis  Convenor for Civic Awards, Cheltenham Civic Society
Sara Butler  President, Cheltenham, WI Leckhampton Branch
Christopher Coleman  Chairman, Cheltenham Borough Planning Committee
Mike Duckering  Cheltenham Civic Society
Judie Hodsdon  Friends of Pittville
Malcolm Kelsall  Chairman, Cheltenham NADFAS
Michael Krier  Chairman, Cheltenham Photographic Club
Gillian Rouse  President, Cheltenham Rotary Club, North
Phillip Thomas  Gloucestershire Architects’ Association
Robert Wilson  Cheltenham Conservation Area Advisory Panel

Advisory Panel

Douglas Ogle  Cheltenham Civic Society
# CIVIC AWARDS 2013

**Category One: New Building or Structure**

1. 16a, Rodney Road
2. St. Paul’s Walk
3. Alpha House, Queen’s Road
4. Tivoli Villas, Lypiatt Drive
5. 3 and 5, Well Place

**Category Two: Restoration of or, Alterations or Additions to a Building or Structure**

6. Eslington Mews, Thirlestaine Road
7. Sixways Hall, London Road
8. The Wilson Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum, Clarence Street

**Category Three: Improvements to the Built or Landscaped Environment**

9. The Railings, St Faith’s Nursing Home, Malvern Road
Category One: New Building or Structure
16a, Rodney Road

AWARD

Developer: Mr. L. Bales
Architect: Stanley Partnership
Contractor: Bales Homes Ltd.

Adjudication Panel’s Comments

This house is considered an intelligent approach to deal with the small space between two tall buildings and not clash with adjoining buildings. The scale and proportions of the component parts together with the unified colour approach contribute to the delight of the building. The individuality of the bay windows, the door handle running the height of the door, taking ones eye upwards, and the panes in the door complementing the small window at the raised ground floor level create a simple but elegant facade to the house. Painting the railings the same colour as the house adds to this.
Category One: New Building or Structure
St. Paul’s Walk

AWARD

Owner: Cheltenham Borough Homes
Architect: Nash Partnership
Contractor: Wates Living Space

Adjudication Panel’s Comments

The adjudication panel considered this development as an outstanding example of community development to address the crime and antisocial behaviour problems and prevent the rat runs in Manser and Hudson Street. These streets were changed to four cul-de-sacs by placing new buildings on top of the problem areas. The focus of the layout is a new pedestrian only open area that creates links with Manser and Hudson Streets. This high quality shared public space with stepped paving stones, seating and raised beds overlooked by balconies on all sides delivers a new community asset that the area previously lacked. The development gives an impression of space. The roof lines break up the tall buildings and the solar panels benefit the residents. The community hall, the mix of social and shared ownership residents have raised the aspirations of the residents and this is reflected in the environment not being damaged.
**Category One: New Building or Structure**  
**Alpha House, Queen’s Road**

**COMMENDATION**

Owner: Mr. W. Hinton  
Architect: Coombes Everitt LLP  
Architect: Stanley Partnership  
Contractor: Markey Construction

**Adjudications Panel’s Comments**

Alpha House has made a considerable improvement to the environment opposite the entrance to the railway station. Positive use of colour contributes to the facade. The small and large sections of the building articulate effectively. The frontage of the long section is broken up by a recess and the regularity of the large and small windows adds to this, relieving its mass and dullness. The colour works with the trees and the windows with balconies on the Honeybourne line side, allow the residents to be part of a lightly wooded environment.
Category One: New Building or Structure
Tivoli Villas, Lypiatt Drive

COMMENDATION

Developer: Marcus Homes Ltd.
Architect: Stanley Partnership
Contractor: Marcus Hawtin Builders Ltd.

Adjudication Panel’s Comments

An interesting but difficult cramped site has been used effectively to maximize development of houses. The adjudication panel considered this an original, fun, and well designed group of four houses, each enclosed by a high brick wall, that do not clash with adjacent buildings. The frontage is composed of a series of bold angular squares and rectangles. At the first floor level there is a large square window and a small rectangular within the rectangular outline of the building and this regularity is complemented by the shape of garages below. The bold metallic finish surrounding these bedroom windows changes with the light intensity and simultaneously the houses can appear different colours. They are constructed of good quality materials, with low maintenance costs.
Category One: New Building or Structure
3 and 5, Well Place

COMMENDATION

Developer:   Mr. F. Little
Architect:   Coombes Everitt LLP
Contractor:  Mr. F. Little

Adjudication Panel’s Comments

These houses are set within walled gardens. They are restrained, both in design and colour, the surface finish being limited to porcelain cladding, render and aluminium. The porcelain tiles are wrapped around the house and the colour combination of tiles and stucco give the building elegant simplicity. The doors, rectangular windows and tiles accentuate the regularity of the building. The roof top terrace is concealed behind the house facade.
Category Two: Restoration of or, Alterations or Additions to a Building or Structure
Eslington Mews, Thirlestaine Road

AWARD

Owner: Mr. & Mrs. F. A. W. Knowles
Architect: Stanley Partnership
Builder: Leckhampton Builders Ltd.

Adjudication Panel’s Comments

A beautiful extension to a coach house. The facade is composed of brick, wood and metal horizontally and vertically arranged. The scale of the extension and the scale and composition of the external elements works at all levels, the use of timber was considered exceptional by the adjudication panel. They give the building a stunning detailed surface, a rhythm of levels. The glass walled link to the coach house works and lets in an abundance of light on this shaded side. The sedum roof is an added bonus.
Category Two: Restoration of or, Alterations or Additions to a Building or Structure
The Wilson Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum, Clarence Street

AWARD

Owner: Cheltenham Borough Council
Architect: Berman Guedes Stretton
Contractor: ISG Pearce

Adjudication Panels’ Comments

The new gallery was designed to harmonize with the existing Grade II museum. The front facia complements a difficult street frontage. The building consists of 4 vertically stacked galleries, with full height windows at either end, lighting can be natural, controlled by brise soleil at the front of the building or blinds. The environmental strategy includes natural ventilation, Thermal Mass and locally sourced materials. Inspired by Arts and Crafts design, the selected materials in the building are natural, self-finished and durable so that expensive future maintenance is minimized. The new galleries are joined to the existing buildings on both sides. To the left at each level there is access to the pre-existing galleries. A void had been created in the building to the right of the gallery, from the floor to the roof and there is access to this at every level from the gallery. Flights of new staircases link the components of this section where there are rooms to increase storage space for museum artifacts, open archives with public access and an outreach system for 14 to 25 year olds to use for education purposes such as art exhibitions.
Category Two: Restoration of or, Alterations or Additions to a Building or Structure
Sixways Hall, London Road.

COMMENDATION

Owners:       Mr. T. Cooper & Ms. B. Woollett
Architect:    Evans Jones LLP
Designer:     Steve Hyslop Designs
Contractor:   M Lovett Builder & Stonemason

Adjudication Panels’ Comments

This represents a remarkable restoration project that has saved a small building of architectural significance, part of Cheltenham’s social history. The owner took on a derelict building. Extensive wet rot, dry rot, rising damp and penetrating damp were resolved and the main roof reformed at a higher level, recycling the original tiles, to enable the insertion of an independent internal structure creating bedroom accommodation and at the same time resolving wall movement caused by the ‘A frame’ roof trusses. Gables had to be secured, brick work repointed and subsidence of one of the detached front buildings was also resolved. Several new leaded light windows were replaced, and new doors, though the front door was restored. The adjudication panel considered the commitment of the owners highly commendable.
Category Three: Improvements to the Built or Landscaped Environment
The Railings, St Faith’s Nursing Home, Malvern Road

COMMENDATION

Owner: Lillian Faithfull Homes
Contractor: Stokes Welding & Fabrication

Adjudication Panels’ Comments

This building has long been devoid of its structural perimeter. The new Forest of Dean plinths and iron railings set in the traditional manner restores and enhance the facade of the building and the streetscape architecture. It is a good example for others to follow.