

Guildford Design Awards

Winners 2025



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Introduction



The Guildford Design Awards are awarded on a biennial basis by The Guildford Society and Guildford Borough Council.

Entries for the 2023-2025 awards were invited in the following categories:

- Commercial Buildings
- Public Buildings
- Individual Homes and Multiple Housing projects
- Conservation and Regeneration projects
- The Public Realm and Public Art

All entries had to be in the boundary of Guildford Borough.

The Guildford Design Awards judging panel is made up from officers of Guildford Borough Council, a heritage consultant, representatives from local organisations and members of the Guildford Society. They bring a range of skills and experience in building projects, public art and local business.

To select the awards the panel of judges created a short list from the entries received. The Judging Panel then visited all the ‘short listed’ projects.

The ‘Guildford Design Award’ is given to projects which are well designed, successful and are also an exemplary project which bring a little ‘pixie dust’ to the borough.

The ‘short list’ projects were considered as whether they were of a quality to receive a ‘Winners Award’ or a ‘Commendation’ award.

The 2025 Awards

The chair of the Guildford Society Design and Heritage Group, and also Chair of the Design Awards Judges, Peter Coleman RIBA commented “One of the things I enjoy about the Guildford Design Awards is it brings together, in one place, the

opportunity to see all the great projects that have been completed in the Borough over the past two years.

This year we had over forty entries and from a desk top assessment the judges prepared a 'short list' of some 25 projects.

The entries range in type and size from a cottage porch to the redevelopment of a major town site and include works to several listed buildings”

Peter also highlighted that “ The variety in the entries has ranged significantly and to recognise the quality of unique or small projects we have introduced some sub-categories” He mentioned as an example that “ The Commercial Building Category has two new sub- categories; ‘Refitted Commercial Office’ and ‘New Commercial Office’ as well as ‘ New Hospitality Project’ and ‘New Shop’”.

Peter concluded by sharing that the judging panel was excited to introduce a new category for the 2025 Guildford Design Awards. They wished to recognise an exemplary project that has the greatest beneficial influence on its surroundings and the town. Thus for 2025 a new category has been introduced ‘The Winner of Winners ‘.

See more about the Guildford Design Awards, and winners of previous years at <https://www.guildfordsociety.org.uk/IndexGDAs.html>

The Guildford Society as part of its commitment to raise the level of Design in Guildford also runs Annual Architecture Lectures these can be found as Videos via our website at

<https://www.guildfordsociety.org.uk/IndexArchitectureLectures.html>.

WWW.GUILDFORDSOCIETY.ORG.UK

COMMERCIAL BUILDING

We had considerable diversity in the Commercial Building category requiring the short-listed entries to be addressed under four sub-categories.

New Hospitality Project

ART & GRIND COMMENDATION

The selected project is a new café which provides a creative addition to the High Street. The new Art and Grind café completes the circle by returning one of Guildford's first coffee shops transformed into a clever 'blend of art and café in the heart of the town centre.

Designer: Trish Young

Client: Art and Grind



Refitted Commercial Office:

3000 CATHEDRAL HILL WINNER



The Project is a 1990's office building which has been stripped out and completely refitted to the requirements of a science and technology company. The new interior office space provides a relaxed and inspirational workplace for a new company to Guildford.

Architect: SPACE

Client: PE Ltd

New Commercial Office:

CHARTERS YARD WINNER



A purpose-built new office for a technology company located on a riverside site. The building is meticulously detailed exposing much of the concrete structure. This project is a superb example of creating a new building specifically tailored to the needs of a business whilst also blending in with its riverside location.

Architect: KGA Feakes

Executive Architect: Ivett Design and Build

New Shop

MARKS & SPENCER FOOD HALL **WINNER**



A reconfiguration of two former retail units on a retail park to provide a single shop. This project utilises a rebranding of Marks and Spencer food and drinks offer. It provides a distinctive and welcoming new addition to the retail park and incorporates the character of a traditional food market with clear displays and wayfinding.

Architect: Lewis and Hickey

Client: Marks and Spencer

PUBLIC BUILDING

The Public building short list was diverse in nature and monetary value of the projects; so this category is divided into 'Large' and 'Small' Public Buildings.

Large Public Building

GENESIS CARE CENTRE COMMENDATION

This contemporary new building stands alone with the upper floor clad in aluminium shingles and a brick base. The building accommodates diagnostic and treatment technologies. The reception and treatment areas are contemporary and naturally lit providing an informal interior for the patients.

Architect: CSM Architects

Client: Genesis Care



YVONNE ARNAUD THEATRE COMMENDATION

The theatre has modernised all of the internal public spaces including the foyers, bars, box office and toilets with accessibility improvements between the three floors. The improvements have sensitively acknowledged the original character of the 1960's building.

Architect: Reed Watts Architects

Client: Yvonne Arnaud Theatre



Small Public Building

GUILDFORD LIDO WINNER.



The project involved the rebuilding of the original changing rooms to this 1930's listed public swimming pool. The changing rooms have been renewed along the length of the Olympic size pool in a series of distinctive timber structures which articulate each entranceway and provide natural daylight and ventilation above the new colourful lockers.

Architect: Lytle Associates

Client: Guildford Borough Council

INDIVIDUAL HOUSE

This category is divided into two sub- categories: Refurbishment and Extensions to existing houses, and New Build houses.

Refurbishment and Extension

BEECH LANE COMMENDATION

The project took a tired 1950s bungalow and completely transformed and extended it opening up the plan, maximising natural light and views and creating internal and external spaces for modern family living.

Architect: Whiteman Architects
Client: Emma Blackmore and Tom Hunt



4 PEWLEY HILL COMMENDATION

The house is a carefully reworked and subtly enlarged Edwardian house with an exciting and carefully designed extension of kitchen and dining areas opening the house to the garden.

Architect: Stedman Blower

Client: Mr and Mrs Gilroy



New Build

There were three luxurious new house projects each of which is located on a semi-rural site and replaced an older property. One house is a traditional design using high quality natural materials and the other two are contemporary houses set in the Surrey Hills.

MELBURY HOUSE COMMENDATION

Melbury House is inspired by the Arts and Crafts style and has been built using a range of high-quality natural materials beautifully crafted. Spacious living rooms on the ground floor enjoy rural views through stone framed windows.

Architect: Mitchell Evans

Client: Mr and Mrs Breach



HIDDEN HOUSE **WINNER**



The house is skilfully set into the sloping site maximising views from all the main rooms out into the countryside to the north whilst enclosing a semi-formal garden to the south. The success of the design is apparent from first glimpse of this low contemporary house with black charred ash cladding and a green roof, then immediately when entering the delight of the stunning views and relationships between the open plan internal living spaces.

Architect: Duncan Foster Architects

Client: Mr and Mrs Squire

New Build Modern Method of Construction

The Judging panel agreed to award a special award to recognise achievement using Modern Methods of Construction (MMC)

MONKSHATCH WINNER



This new house uses large areas of glazing to fully satisfy the clients brief to connect with nature allowing views from all the living areas to the beautiful site in which the house sits. The gardens have been carefully landscaped to be integral with the house.

Monks Hatch received a special Individual House Award for using modern methods of construction with the house being predominantly fabricated off site and subsequently taking just 8 months to build.

Architect: Peter Huf

Landscape Architect: Rosebank

Client: Andrew and Karen Jackson

MULTIPLE HOUSING

This category of Multiple Housing is divided into two sub-categories to account for the different size of development in this category.

Up to 30 Homes

DRYDEN COURT COMMENDATION

This terrace of houses proves with careful design, in a tight urban street, how to integrate a new mansion block to a high standard. This familiar style used the best of the site whilst providing a good residential density comfortably set in the street scene.

Architect: Fluid London Ltd
Client: SearchField Homes /
Runnymede Homes



1-4 THE MEWS COMMENDATION

This small mixed use development is set in a restricted village setting with constrained access and is designed with a reference to the arts and craft style. It forms a charming yet carefully planned mews development. This is well considered housing with careful consideration to the fabric of the houses.

Architect: Fletcher Crane
Architects

Client: Castellum



More than 30 Homes

There was only entry in this category. None-the-less it is an exemplary example of shared living provided in four carefully scaled blocks which form a welcome urban intervention in the town centre.

GUILDFORD PLAZA WINNER



This development sits well with its surrounding neighbours and yet achieves a solution in a town centre at a high density delivering housing with individuality to a very high standard. The development shows with careful design and planning a high density can be achieved without compromising its surroundings and whilst achieving a sense of place for its inhabitants.

Architect: Ruff Architects

Client: Bowmore Operating Limited Partnership (Partners Group and Tiger Developments)

CONSERVATION PROJECT

The Conservation Project category is especially relevant in a heritage town such as Guildford. There was considerable variety in the size of the short-listed projects in this category. There are two sub-categories.

Major Conservation Project

GUILDFORD HOUSE COMMENDATION

Guildford House is one of Guildford's High Street gems and carefully conserving and repairing the geometric bricks to such a building is important. The repair work to the upper floors has been successfully completed.

Building Surveyor:
Mark Graham, Assets and
Property Team, Guildford
Borough Council

Client:
Guildford Borough Council



41 BURYFIELDS COMMENDATION

This building is on a major pedestrians route accessing the town. The judges were delighted that this Georgian house has been brought back to excellent condition with skill and imagination.

Architect: Rathbone Miller Ltd

Client: GU Real Estate



BRIDGEFOOT FARM COMMENDATION

This renovation has been carried out tastefully, and with imagination and conserves a historic traditional Surrey Barn.

Architect:
Nye Saunders Ltd

Client: Mr James Platt
and Mrs Clare Platt



Small Conservation Project

A single project was short listed, consisting of the meticulous repair and restoration to a charming entrance porch to a Victorian cottage.

STOKE COTTAGE WINNER



The Cottage , although on a busy street, is definitely in the category of a ‘tucked away’ architectural treasure and the judges unanimously felt the careful conservation of the trelliswork to the porch of this Victorian cottage was very worthy of an award, consisting of meticulous repair and restoration to a charming entrance porch to a Victorian cottage.

Architect: Anna Hummel

Design Consultant/ Craftsman: Paul Smith

Client: Russell and Lisa Strutt

REGENERATION PROJECT

Five projects of considerable variety were entered in this category. The judges chose three to be short listed and to accommodate the variety we have three sub- categories.

Office Regeneration

3000 CATHEDRAL SQUARE

COMMENDATION

The Office Building Regeneration involved a modernised and refitted 1990's office building with the addition of a central atrium. 3000 Cathedral Hill has responded to the post Covid office market creating 50,000 square feet of modern open plan office space with a sophisticated fit out of open plan office space and meeting spaces.

Architect: SPACE

Client: PE Ltd



Public Building Regeneration

YVONNE ARNAUD THEATRE **WINNER**



This project involves the sympathetic modernisation of an iconic 1960's listed theatre transforming its public spaces into those suitable for the 21st century. The project has sustainably and sensitively regenerated the charming internal space of this much loved 1960's listed building.

Architect: Reed Watts Architects

Client: Yvonne Arnaud Theatre

Urban Regeneration

GUILDFORD PLAZA **WINNER**



The Urban Regeneration project is a sensitively designed urban intervention which redevelops the site of historically a former bottling factory and brings vitality to a town centre area.

Guildford Plaza uses a brownfield site and has been redeveloped to comfortably nestle into the historic street pattern of the town centre with a nod to its historic use as a bottling factory through the use of green glazed bricks to selected parts of the fabric of the building.

Architect: RUFF Architects

Client: Bowmore Operating Limited Partnership (Partners Group and Tiger Developments)

PUBLIC REALM

The three shortlisted projects for the Public Realm were very diverse and all of a very high quality which made the judges decisions difficult.

GENESIS CARE CENTRE COMMENDATION

At the care centre the well landscaped garden provides an important therapeutic environment for cancer patients both walking and sitting in the garden; but also as it is viewed from the waiting and other patient areas in the Centre.

Architect: CSM Architects
Landscape Architect:
Stride Treglown

Client: Genesis Care



GUILDFORD PLAZA COMMENDATION

This site with its central courtyard provides Guildford with a new public space. The new courtyard is at the centre of the four blocks and forms the hard and soft landscaped focus of the development. The space encourages interaction of residents but also use by the public.

Architect: RUFF Architects

Client: Bowmore Operating
Limited Partnership
(Partners Group and Tiger
Developments)



LOUDOLF LANDSCAPE WINNER



At the Oudolf Landscape at RHS Wisley, Piet Oudolf the world renowned landscape designer, returned to rejuvenate his design for the hillside in front of the Glasshouse. His design renews the borders by creating a flowing network of pathways through grids of naturalistic planting in island beds, where plants are chosen for both their structure as well as their flowers. Planting with over 162 perennial varieties providing interest throughout the year.

Designer: Piet Oudolf

Client: The Royal Horticultural Society

PUBLIC ART

In the Public Art category we had two exemplary short-listed entries each being distinctly different types

Urban art

MURAL CHAPEL STREET

WINNER



We commend Experience Guildford for commissioning this delightful work which has enlivened a very unattractive wall. Nathalie Scott has created an engaging representation of this charming riverside scene which stops passers by in their tracks with its unexpected colour and fun. The Mural Chapel Street received the Urban Art Award .

Artist: Nathalie Beauvillian Scott

Client: Experience Guildford

Building Art

MEMORIAL WINDOW ST MARTINS CHURCH **WINNER**



The artist Derek Hunt has worked with the congregation to produce a moving and contemplative series of windows which delight with their colour and subtle imagery. The references to locally significant themes and the natural world are a source of pleasure to everyone who views this beautiful contemporary addition to an historic church.

Artist: Derek Hunt

Client: Revd. Renos Pittarides

WINNER OF THE WINNERS

GUILDFORD PLAZA



The chosen project had received an award in two of the categories and a commendation in a further category. This project which has been skilfully designed to break down the scale of a large building is a welcome major residential insertion in the town centre and positively contributes to the townscape of the surrounding streets.

The Winner of Winners award was unanimously given to **'Guildford Plaza'**.

Architect: RUFF Architects

Client: Bowmore Operating Limited Partnership (Partners Group and Tiger Developments)

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The Guildford Society is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

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