

# Excellence in construction

More than 200 delegates and invited guests attended the LABC 2009 South West Building Excellence Awards at The Palace Hotel, Torquay in February. The awards recognise the best quality projects built in the South West during the last year

**N**ominations from across Dorset, Somerset, Devon and Cornwall, and supported by 17 local authorities, resulted in a record number of entries this year.

In all, there were 65 nominated short-listed entries, spread across thirteen different categories, ranging from Domestic Extensions through to Major Commercial Developments.

Andy Carpenter, from Teignbridge District Council (part of the Devon Building

Control Partnership), and this year's Chairman of the South West LABC, said: "The LABC Building Excellence Awards are a national initiative, divided into regions – our event is the showcase for the best quality construction in the South West. Good results stem from good design, and an efficient design team, translated into quality buildings by an effective construction team.

"Local authority building control officers monitor the construction process throughout the various stages, from conception to

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completion. By working closely with all stakeholders in the design and build chain, we can encourage and contribute to successful projects, and reward the results.

"It's not just about brand new developments – it's about technical innovation, and sustainability. Extensions and sympathetic renovations are also a major part of the work we look at each year, and traditional building techniques are particularly important in this rural region.

"This year's entries were impressive, and prove just how

skilled our local craftsmen are. These awards show that, even in the current economic climate, people are still building, and to a high standard. Work will always go to quality designers and craftsmen, and we in building control will do whatever we can to support them."

All of the South West award winners will now be entered into the National LABC Building Excellence held later this year.

The winners and Highly Commended projects were as follows:

#### **BEST DOMESTIC EXTENSIONS AND ALTERATIONS**

Holbeam Devon  
Architect – Minale and Minale  
Contractor – Bovey Construction  
Engineer – Paul Carpenter Associates  
Local Authority – Devon BCP

#### **BEST INDIVIDUAL HOUSE**

Buckleuch Road Poole  
Architect – Anders Roberts and Associates  
Developer and Contractor – Greener Homes Ltd  
Local Authority – Borough of Poole

#### **BEST PARTNERSHIP WITH A LOCAL AUTHORITY**

GJR Architects  
Local Authority – Devon BCP

#### **BEST TECHNICAL DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION**

Riverhouse Dartmouth  
Architect – Robert Seymour and Associates  
Contractor – Midas Construction

Local Authority - Devon BCP

#### **BEST SMALL HOUSING SITE**

Oversands, Livermead Hill, Torquay  
Architect, Contractor and Developer – OJ Developments  
Local Authority – Torbay Borough Council

#### **BEST VERNACULAR BUILDING**

Lyon House  
Architect – Bedford and Jobson Ltd  
Contractor – Kevin McCabe  
Developer – P Unitt  
Local Authority - Devon BCP

#### **BEST SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

Stanpit Marsh Visitor Centre  
Architect – White Design Associates  
Contractor – Baron G Levine  
Developer and Local Authority – Christchurch BC

#### **BEST HEALTHCARE BUILDING**

Newton Abbot Hospital  
Architect – Murphy Philipps  
Contractor – Rydon Construction  
Developer – Devon Primary Care Trust  
Local Authority – Devon BCP

#### **BEST SOCIAL OR AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

Ochre Court, Kings Drive, Brixham  
Architect – Narracotts Architects  
Contractor – Coyde Construction  
Developer – Westcountry Housing Association  
Local Authority - Torbay Borough Council

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#### **BEST SMALL COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

Retallack 365  
Architect – Designzone Ltd  
Contractor and Developer – Queenswood Group  
Local Authority – Restormel Borough Council

#### **BEST LARGE HOUSING SITE**

Evolve Scotts Meadow Torquay  
Architect – Narracotts Architects  
Contractor and Developer – Cavanna Homes South West  
Local Authority – Torbay Borough Council

#### **BEST EDUCATION BUILDING**

Falmouth School Design and Technology Block  
Architect – Urban Salon Architects  
Contractor – Cowlin Construction  
Developer – Falmouth School  
Local Authority – Carrick District Council

#### **BEST MAJOR COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

Bovington Tank Museum  
Architect – Kennedy O'Calaghan Architects  
Contractor – Norwest Holst  
Developer – The Tank Museum  
Local Authority – Purbeck District Council

#### **CHAIRMAN'S AWARD**

This year the LABC South West Region chairman, Andrew Carpenter, gave an award to the shortlisted nomination that he considered worthy of special recognition. The award was selected from all the shortlisted entries, and so was not necessarily the

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# Barn goes down a storm

The team behind Haselbury Mill's newly built Great Tithe Barn had reason to celebrate after the building was hand-picked for an award at the South West Building Excellence Awards



Winning team... (from left) David Durrant, Building Control Manager, South Somerset District Council; Robert Wheelwright, Saunders and Wheelwright Architects; Rodney Jeffery of RL Jeffery Building Contractors; Carpenter Matthew Browning; Roger Bastable, owner of the Great Tithe Barn; and Richard England of Ham and Doulling Stone Quarry

The building was chosen out of 65 exemplary entries from across the region to receive the Chairman's Award for its "excellent quality, unusual design and for being a structure that is unlikely to be unmatched for decades to come".

South Somerset District Council's Building Control Team nominated the building in the Best Vernacular Building category after having supervised the project throughout construction.

The Hamstone barn – the first structure of this nature built for more than 400 years – required the services of nine local stonemasons, three structural engineers, and 480 tonnes of stone from Ham Hill.

Cllr Peter Seib, Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, Planning and Transport, commented: "As one of the council's 'Heritage Champions', I congratulate the owners, their architects and the builders on their achievement. This is a

building of the highest standard and the recognition is well deserved.

"South Somerset District Council's Building Control team has also met a significant challenge ensuring that traditional craft skills and traditional design elements will still meet current building requirements, even on this scale."

David Durrant, Building Control Manager at South Somerset District Council, who endorsed the building, explained: "It was constructed in the traditional way, shaped by local stone masons, with a traditional oak cruck-arch rafter frame roof covered with 830m<sup>2</sup> of slate and built to a very high standard by the builders R L Jeffery Building Contractors of Crewkerne."

The barn's fireplace was a feat of engineering as the mantle shelf above the fireplace was one piece of stone weighing nearly three tonnes.

David added: "It did not win in its nominated category, which included four shortlisted entries, but instead it was

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chosen for special recognition by the Chairman of Local Authority Building Control South West out of 65 excellent constructions – which says it all."

Roger Bastable, owner of the Great Tithe Barn, said: "I was excited when we were initially formulating the plans, but in the flesh, it is awe-inspiring and a real credit to the dedicated craftsmen and all who worked on it."

The barn was designed by Dorset-based architects Saunders & Wheelwright.

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winner of one of the categories (see separate story above).

Winner: Great Tithe Barn, Haselbury Mill  
Architect – Saunders and Wheelwright  
Contractor – RL Jeffery Building Contractor  
Developer – Haselbury Mill Ltd  
Local Authority – South Somerset District Council

**HIGHLY COMMENDED PROJECTS**  
**BEST SOCIAL OR AFFORDABLE HOUSING**  
Orchard Court Newton Abbott

Architect – Heighway Field Associates  
Contractor – Mansell Construction  
Developer – Affinity Sutton  
Local Authority – Devon BCP

**BEST SMALL COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT**  
Axium Centre  
Architect – Trinity Architecture  
Contractor – Banyard Construction  
Developer – Banyard Developments  
Local Authority – Purbeck District Council

**BEST SMALL HOUSING SITE**  
Sunrise and Sunset Torbay  
Architect, Contractor and Developer –

Martin Developments  
Local Authority – Torbay Borough Council

**BEST INDIVIDUAL HOUSE**  
Riverhouse Dartmouth  
Architect – Robert Seymour and Associates  
Contractor – Midas Construction  
Local Authority – Devon BCP