

Over the Moons

The stunning renovation of Moons Hill House on the Isle of Wight scooped top prize in small domestic category of the 2009 LABC South East Building Excellence Awards, held in June in Brighton



Nestled in a gently sloping valley adjacent to the boundary of the designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, this Victorian country house is a Grade 2 listed building. The project was to completely renovate, extend, alter and generally upgrade the property throughout to the highest possible standards, whilst being mindful that all works should be fully

sympathetic to the age, style and character of the building.

The works were designed by Rainey Petrie Architecture who are based at offices in Wootton and the project was overseen by Isle of Wight Council Building Control.

Local builders J R Bucket and Sons Ltd. from Brighstone worked on the project from groundworks to completion and their high standard of workmanship and work ethic has been rewarded with this

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prestigious accolade.

Director Colin Hibberd, who ran the project, commented: “We are very proud to have won this award. This project was a joy to work on and just goes to demonstrate what can be achieved when the owner architect, builder and building control work together as a team with a common purpose.”

Over its lifetime the house had been maintained to varying standards. By 2006 it was, architecturally, a





◀ hotchpotch of styles.

The 20-month refurbishment project had to combine conservation, structural strengthening, two ground-floor extensions and updating, both internally and externally, to modern standards of building and energy efficiency.

In addition, the original narrow, straight staircase was removed to be replaced by a curved staircase sweeping along one side of the hall and a roof lantern inserted above the new double-height hall.

Isle of Wight Council Building Control provided

specialist technical advice, particularly in respect of overcoming unexpected difficulties encountered as works progressed.

This is another major award for Moons Hill House which was also a winner in the Isle of Wight Society 2009 Conservation Awards.

The judges presenting the award said this was a project of exceptional quality, achieved without compromising regulatory requirements, and at the same time, fully meeting the goals and aspirations of the client.

