

## DOOLAN AWARD 2011: RECEPTION



In challenging times it is all the more important to look for opportunities to celebrate achievement. The annual RIAS Andrew Doolan Best Building in Scotland Award provides an important moment therefore in the Scottish calendar. It gives opportunity for entrants to showcase their work, provides valuable recognition for the client, development team and project sponsors, and it promotes architecture more broadly to the nation.

This year's winner was Gareth Hoskins Architects Ltd for their work at The National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh. In reaching their decision, Professor Andy MacMillan FRIAS and his panel were particularly impressed by the 'big moves' of opening up new street level entrances, the works to the previous basement store to provide new gallery spaces and the ingenuity of the building's new circulation which draws visitors up and through its superbly restored spaces. Already one of Scotland's architectural gems, there is no doubt that the building's interior spaces have become more breathtaking as a result. The scheme demonstrates how dialogue between an informed architect and a widely loved historic building can lead both to improved functionality but also exceptional character.

Presenting the richest architectural prize in the UK and one of the most significant awards in Europe were Fiona Hyslop MSP, the Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs and Mrs Margaret Doolan Hon FRIAS (the late Andrew Doolan's mother). Accompanied by the Director of the National Gallery and client for the scheme, Gordon Rintoul, Gareth Hoskins and his team accepted a specially commissioned, gold lined, silver tumbler by internationally renowned Scottish jeweller, James Brent Ward and a cheque for £25,000.

In addition to selecting the winning project, the annual event provides a valuable showcase for architecture in Scotland as a whole. A further seven projects from the shortlist of 13 were identified for special mention during the ceremony: 10 Pearce Street, Govan (Austin-Smith:Lord LLP), Grödians (Richard Gibson Architects), Hillcrest Housing Association HQ (Nicoll Russell Studios), Hillhead Primary School (jmachitects Ltd.), The Houl (Simon Winstanley Architects), Linlithgow Burgh Halls (Malcolm Fraser Architects) and Phoenix Flowers (7N Architects). Each of these and the other entrants, have benefitted from the publicity generated by the award.

One of the key priorities for RIAS is to ensure that architecture is kept to the fore at Holyrood. The Doolan provides a key opportunity for this. The reception was generously sponsored by Linda Fabiani MSP Hon FRIAS and numerous other enthusiastic and engaged MSPs joined the nominees, their clients, the Incorporation's guests and RIAS Fellows in the Garden Lobby during the presentation. Tavish Scott MSP accepted the RIAS' Honorary Fellowship earlier in the evening. One senses that there is a growing enthusiasm for architecture within Holyrood. The ceremony followed hot on the heels of a Parliamentary debate on architecture.

While 2011 has been very challenging year across the architectural profession as a whole, the Doolan Award provides a moment to reflect on what has been achieved. The phrase 'triumph in adversity' comes to mind and all the entrants are to be congratulated for their work.

ALL PHOTOS: MALCOLM COCHRANE

MALCOLM COOPER HON FRIAS

## DOOLAN AWARD 2011: SHORTLIST

### 10 PEARCE STREET, GOVAN AUSTIN-SMITH:LORD LLP

On first sight this block is quite unlike most housing association provision. The brick structural grid of its exterior is formal, elegantly detailed and appropriate to the scale of its historic neighbours. The development sits on a tight corner site within the historic core of old Govan. Adjacent to the Pearce Institute and close to other category 'A' Listed buildings, the site looks over the Clyde, across a landscape once occupied by shipyards.

The generously proportioned flats within are accessed off wide communal corridors which also incorporate "sun space" sitting areas where the residents, many of them in single occupancy dwellings, regularly gather.

The twenty seven apartments occupy the whole footprint of the site up to the boundary. Consequently accommodation is set within the north and west elevations fronting the street and benefiting from the views. The common areas, lifts and circulation are in the south elevation with windows recessed back from the boundary, allowing sunlight into the sitting areas. An open, south-facing loggia enables residents to enjoy fresh air.

This project breaks the mould for housing association developments with good levels of accommodation and generous circulation spaces. Part of the regeneration of central Govan, it sets a new standard.



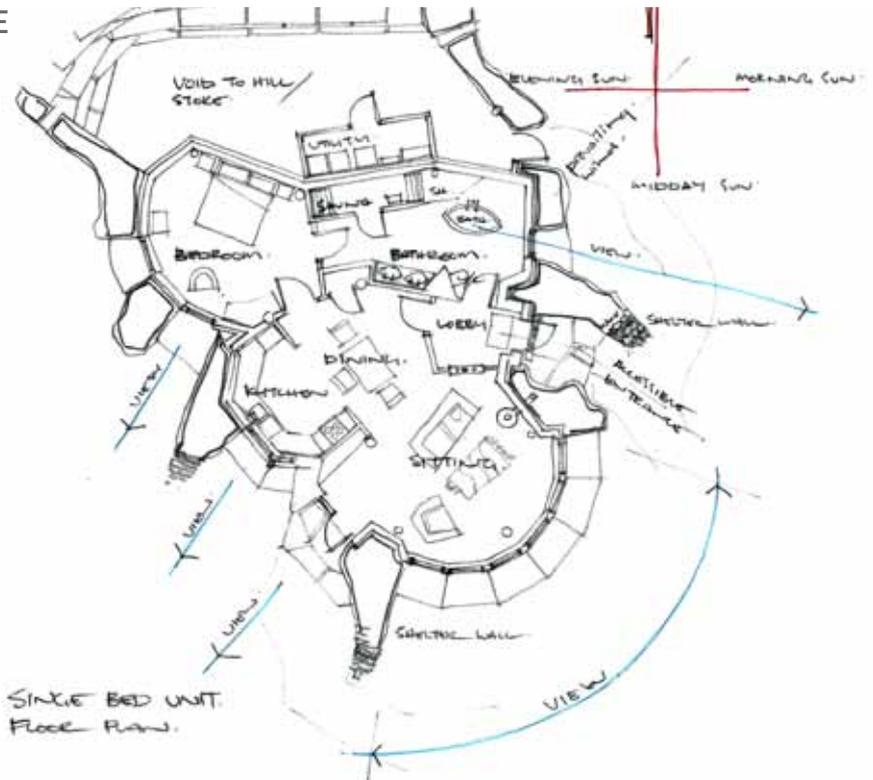
KEITH HUNTER

**THE BROCHS OF COIGACH, ACHILTIBUIE**  
 SBA ARCHITECTS LTD

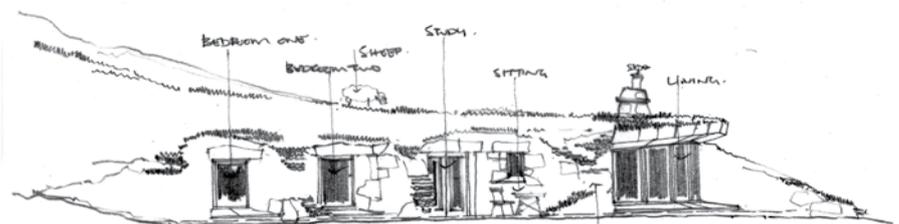
These two cottages on the croft at Polbain are currently used as holiday lets, although the client intends to use one as their permanent residence. Set within a national scenic area, they are built into an escarpment amid low, wind-blown trees and bracken. Facing south-east the cottages enjoy superb views towards the Summer Isles and the Minch.

The development of these subtle and unobtrusive new dwellings brings credit to architect, client and to the planners who understood the appropriateness of this alternative approach. They fulfil the brief to fit their environment, to be in harmony with their surroundings and to provide comfortable and unobtrusive accommodation.

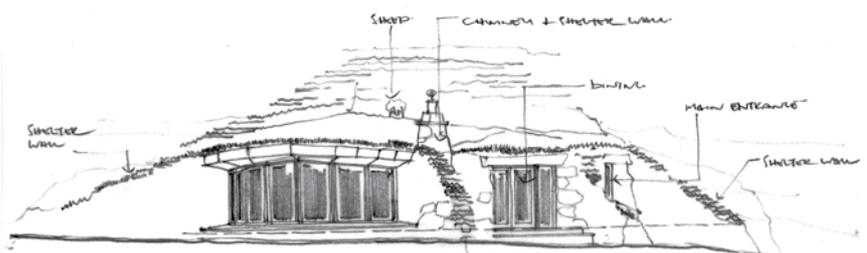
These new homes are sophisticated in their provision of shelter and enhance the locale. The use of local and traditional skills in their execution and the training inherent in the process will deliver long-term benefits. The materials excavated from this site are retained on-site and although quite substantial dwellings have been formed, they fit into the natural slopes of the escarpment and are largely concealed from view beneath their turf roofs. In significant contrast to the trend for kit housing, these homes blend into their setting and are built into the landscape with great care.



REINER LOYKEN



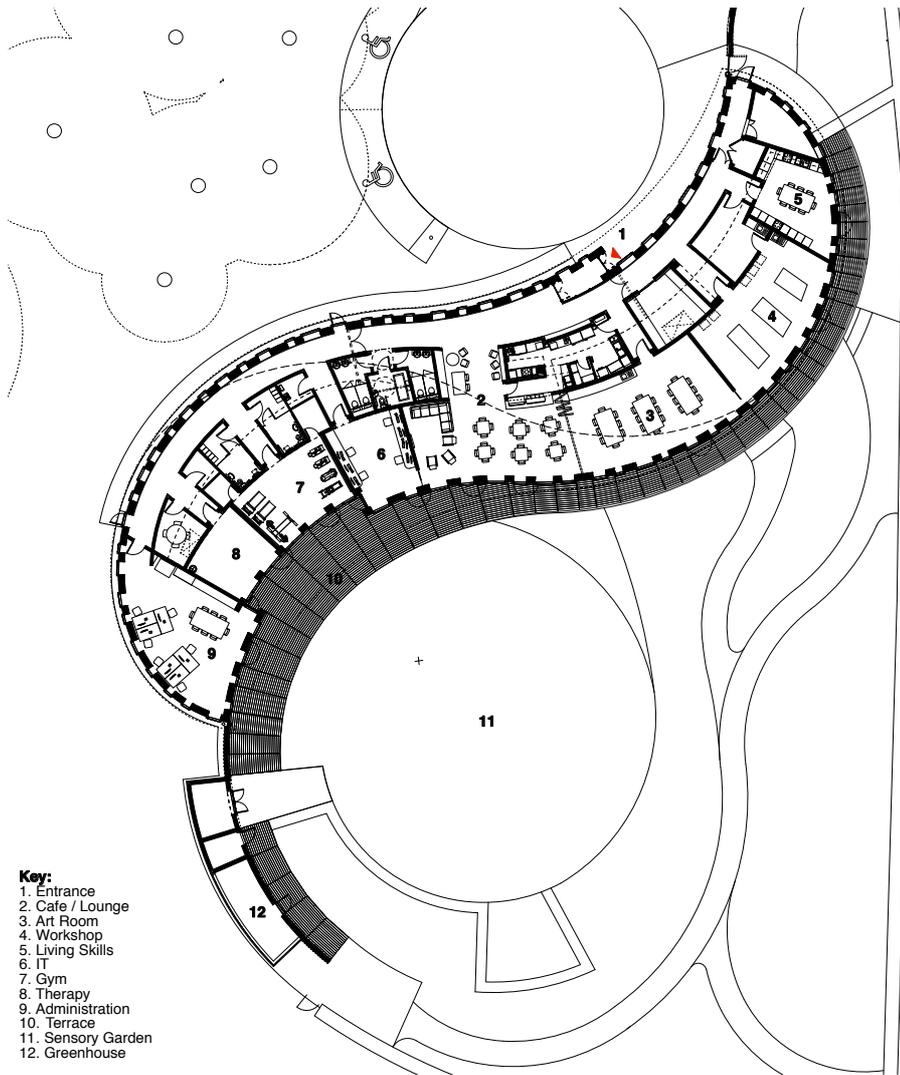
TWO BEDROOM UNIT. SOUTH WEST ELEVATION.



TWO BEDROOM UNIT. SOUTH EAST ELEVATION.

# DOOLAN AWARD 2011: SHORTLIST

**CENTRE FOR THE SCOTTISH WAR BLINDED, KIRKNEWTON**  
PAGE\PARK ARCHITECTS



This new facility replaces historic 1950s ward-like structures which occupied an adjacent site. The sinuous plan of the single storey structure is topped off with the serpentine double curve of an undulating zinc roofscape which forms an attractive new feature both close to and in distant views.

Operating as a day care centre with workshop, training areas, a gym, therapy spaces, cafe and administration, the building opens out into a terrace and landscaped sensory garden to the south, greatly enhancing the attractions of this environment for both users and staff. Internally the plan and organisation is legible to users with varying degrees of visual impairment, with colour coding and tactile cues enhancing their orientation within its various different spaces.

This is a restrained and elegant building, utilising a simple and attractive palette of materials nestling between a semi-mature woodland and an open landscape vista. Feedback from the building's users, both clients and staff, emphasises the contribution this new facility has already made to improving their daily lives. The care and quality evident in this project respects the dignity of its users. Far removed from the institutional norm, this building makes a significant positive contribution to the lives of its users.

ANDREW LEE





# DOOLAN AWARD 2011: SHORTLIST

## GLENTRESS PEEL VISITOR CENTRE, PEEBLES GAIA ARCHITECTS



MICHAEL WOLCHOVER



Providing facilities for an estimated 300,000 visitors per annum, the collection of new buildings at Glentress Forest provides a café, bike shop, osprey viewing area, education and exhibition spaces, showers, WC's and substantial offices and ranger facilities. The Forest, widely recognised as the best mountain biking facility anywhere, draws visitors from across the globe. High quality new facilities were a necessity to help balance sporting amenity with nature conservation.

The three public buildings utilise shallow, mono-pitch roofs, the repeated bold motif of a giant timber support and a shared palette of materials. The Douglas Fir which forms the structural trusses, external cladding, ceiling lining panels and decking was selected from the forest adjacent to the site. The stockier edifice which sits on the mound behind the public buildings, providing a base for the Forestry Commission rangers and additional education and conference facilities, is

constructed from a similar palette of materials.

This healthy, low impact development provides high levels of insulation and airtightness while being robustly detailed and constructed. This unique grouping of buildings is designed to provide all the facilities which visitors to this important site will require in an appropriate, easily accessible and elegant form. Its popularity is evident.

## GRÖDIANS, LERWICK

RICHARD GIBSON ARCHITECTS



This carefully composed housing development combines a variety of differently sized buildings set at varying angles to the street and the sloping site. A sensitive palette of colours contributes to the delivery of a strongly urban composition, unusual and perhaps pioneering for this type of development.

Accessibility is a key consideration. Virtually all of these dwellings provide easy ambulant and wheelchair access. Sustainability is delivered by the use of excavated materials for the retaining walls within the development and the employment of local consultants, contractor and sub-contractors to support local employment and maintain high standards within the local skills base. Standards of air-tightness are well above the legislative requirement and the connection to the Lerwick District Heating Scheme will deliver long-term benefits.

This development provides safe and attractive homes for over 100 local people. Great care has been taken in creating a pleasant and safe environment. Planters and a 15mph speed limit enhance public safety. Specialist care accommodation for children has been built within the development in an inclusive way.

This careful yet engaging new addition to the Lerwick landscape is understated in form but highly visually appealing. These new homes brighten the landscape and enhance the amenity of Lerwick.

PHATSHEEP



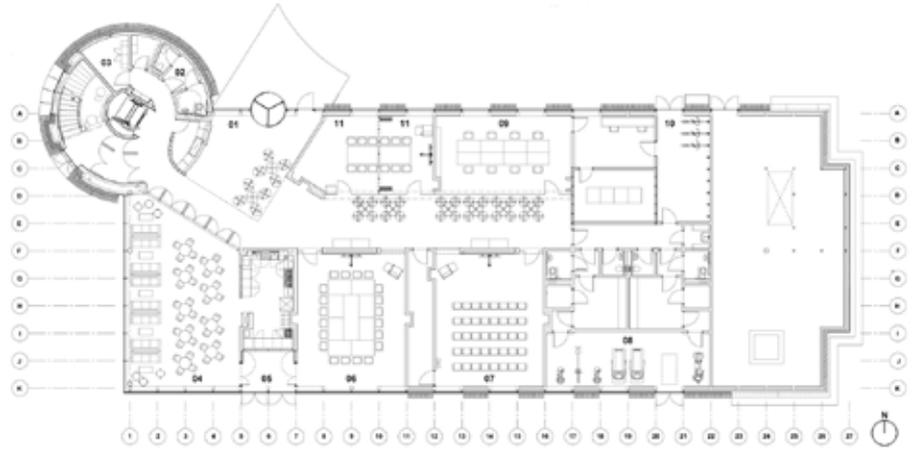
# DOOLAN AWARD 2011: SHORTLIST

## HILLCREST HOUSING ASSOCIATION HEADQUARTERS, DUNDEE NICOLL RUSSELL STUDIOS

Utilising a restricted palette of concrete, glass, aluminium, local stone and timber, this building is set within a mature landscape, on a base formed from local stones, within wire gabions. The fact that these carefully crafted elements, along with other aspects of the building, were constructed under Hillcrest's apprenticeship scheme indicates the quality of thought and care in this building.

Internally a gutsy glulam timber structure forms the roof and upper floors with prefabricated timber panels forming floor and roof decks. While the bulk of the space provides open plan offices, the ground floor accommodation incorporates conference, training and meeting rooms around breakout social spaces including a café area. The environmental approach is focussed on creating a flexible, low stress workplace with an emphasis on natural ventilation within a building which is very environmentally efficient.

This substantial new building provides an attractive and appropriate HQ for one of Scotland's largest housing associations. By consolidating its accommodation on this new site, Hillcrest has greatly increased efficiency within a building in keeping with its mission to provide attractive, high quality, living environments. The building is filled with light. Its welcoming interior is a credit to a skilled architect and an enlightened client.



**ground floor plan**  
hillcrest housing association headquarters dundee

- |                 |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 01 entrance     | 08 IT dept        |
| 02 wc           | 09 cycles         |
| 03 prayer rm    | 10 meeting        |
| 04 social space | 11 workshop       |
| 05 kitchen      | 12 private office |
| 06 store        | 13 store          |
| 07 training rm  | 14 classrooms     |
| 08 gymnasium    | 15 bike boiler    |



**west elevation and east elevation**  
hillcrest housing association headquarters dundee



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## HILLHEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL, GLASGOW

JMARCHITECTS

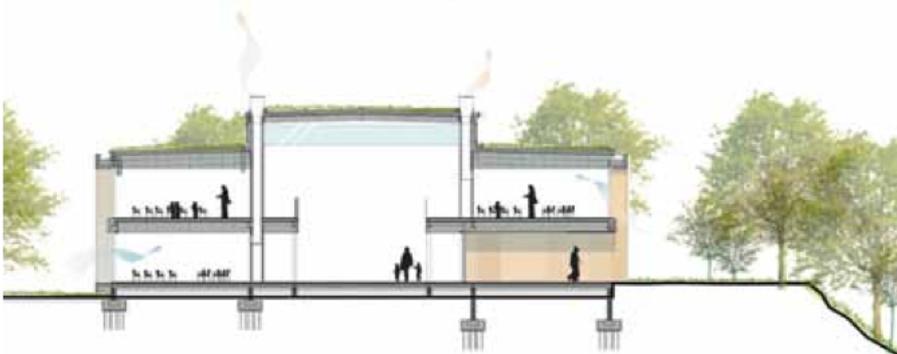
ANDREW LEE



Replacing four primary schools and two nurseries in the Hillhead and Woodside areas and set on a prominent urban site within Glasgow's west end, this new development is unusually prominent. The school sits above the River Kelvin to the east with views over the river and southwards into Kelvingrove Park. Two substantial structures provide extensive community and teaching accommodation in buildings which, although visually connected, are different in their materials and character.

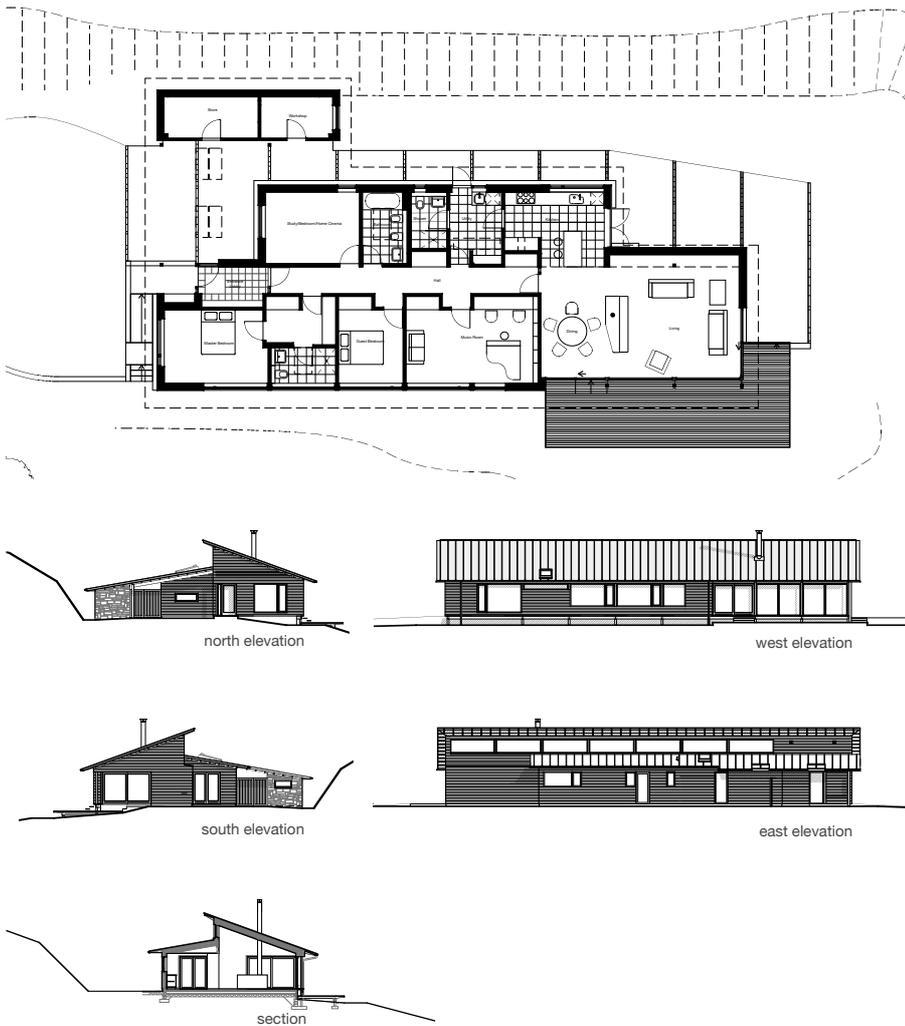
The fronting, more civic, structure uses the incline of the site to provide car parking and servicing. This "urban box" accommodates the dining and games halls, opening on to a playground which doubles as a public 'plaza' during festivals and holidays. The teaching building behind, with its sedum roof, commands views of the dramatic skyline of Glasgow University to the west.

The two blocks are linked by a boldly engineered, glass-clad bridge, highlighting the different roles of the building, public and communal at the front of the site and more traditionally subdivided classrooms to the rear. This unusual and exemplary new school, procured through a traditional process, will enhance the everyday experience of its users through the quality of its spaces and its unique setting within the community.



# DOOLAN AWARD 2011: SHORTLIST

**THE HOUL, CASTLE DOUGLAS**  
SIMON WINSTANLEY ARCHITECTS



This contemporary, single-storey “long house” is sustainable in its construction, very low in energy consumption and designed to be carbon neutral. Set into a hillside, the slope of the roof follows the contours of the landscape. The design utilises a lightweight steel and timber frame construction with external cladding in cedar weatherboarding which will, over time, weather to a natural silver-grey. The roof finish is pre-weathered, grey standing-seam zinc.

Sustainability was central to the brief. Insulation levels are to Passiv House standards. A zero carbon rating is achieved through the incorporation of this insulation, heat recovery ventilation, an airsource heat pump and a wind turbine.

The entrance at the north-east side provides shelter from the prevailing wind. As the house nestles into the embrace of the hillside it is well sheltered and protected from the drama of the weather within its wide landscape vista. All the principal rooms are situated along the front elevation to enjoy the magnificent and ever changing views across the River Ken valley to the Rhinns of Kells opposite.

Built for the most exacting of clients, this superb home commands some of Scotland’s finest views. This is an elegant and understated contemporary dwelling of great distinction.

ANDREW LEE



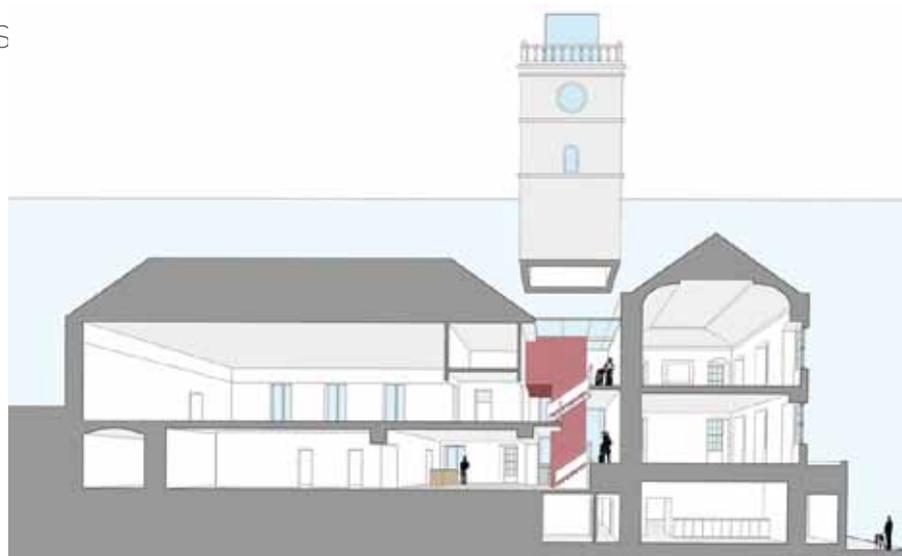
## LINLITHGOW BURGH HALLS

MALCOLM FRASER ARCHITECTS

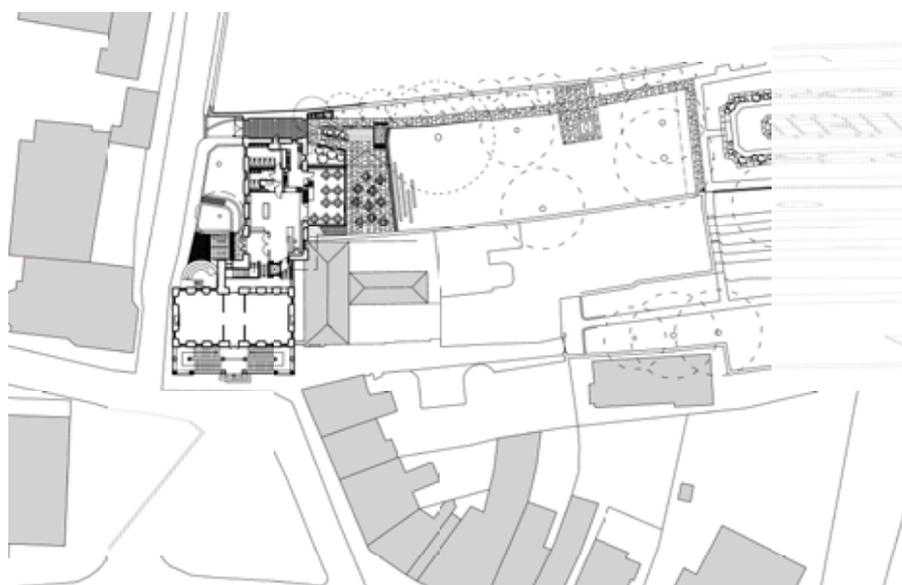
Much amended over the centuries, this important building, originally dating from 1668, was a jumbled confusion of unattractive halls, offices and ancillary rooms. Over time much of its space had been given up to a clutter of storage. Ad-hoc adaptation, outdated décor and patch repairs contributed to an impression of an unloved relic whose glory days were long past. Its adaptation provides two large function halls, gallery space and education suites, alongside tourist information, historic interpretation and a café. The building has also been reconnected with its sheltered, south facing garden, enhancing its attractiveness and its amenity.

After substantial repairs to the fabric, replacing dangerous stonework and rotten timbers, a new, light-filled, stair was constructed to provide legible and attractive access to all of the building's facilities.

Right in the heart of Linlithgow, the Burgh Halls are second only in architectural importance to the Palace itself. This major refurbishment provides facilities which, while respecting the building's rich history, are amenities of which the town can truly be proud. Elegantly and attractively renovated, this reconstruction has brilliantly transformed what was a confusing jumble of tired spaces to form a building with real integrity, an attractive and welcoming asset for the town.



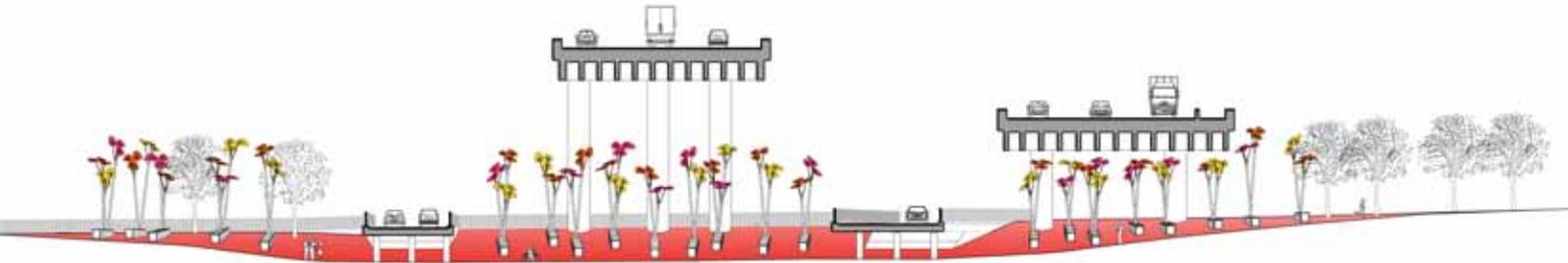
DAVE MORRIS



## DOOLAN AWARD 2011: SHORTLIST

### PHOENIX FLOWERS, GLASGOW

7N ARCHITECTS



DAVE MORRIS

Anyone who doubts the credentials of this development as “architecture” should simply go there. The transformation of the previously unwelcoming townscape below the M8 motorway flyovers near to Speirs Locks is ingenious, colourful and welcoming. It is also technically innovative, makes intelligent use of advanced lighting technology, has utilised the skills of a team of construction professionals from a range of disciplines and transforms space – all remarkably consistent with the accustomed remit of the architect.

Whereas this very direct pedestrian route into the city centre was previously avoided, unless absolutely necessary, this radical landscaping, sculptural and lighting scheme greatly enhances public safety and transforms what was once forbidding into

something pleasurable. 50 brightly coloured giant aluminium flowers, rendering visitors Lilliputian, deliver a smile, even in the most inclement weather.

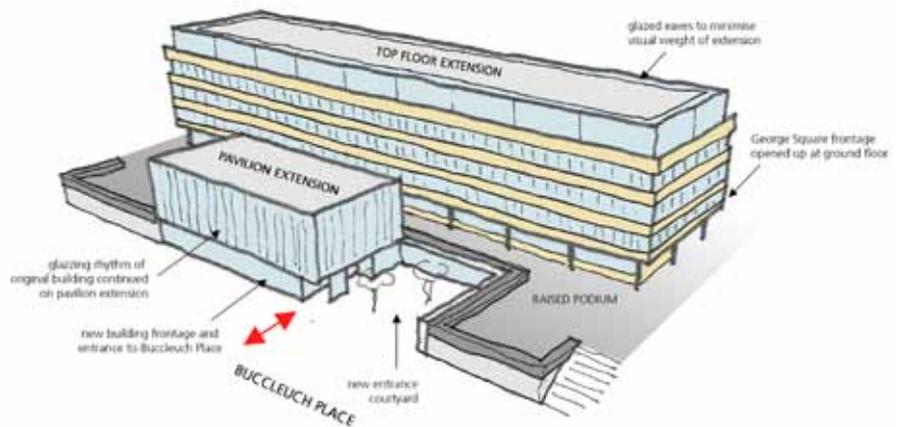
The challenge of re-making the landscape below motorways has perplexed and challenged local authorities for decades. This project has widened the underpass from a single dark, narrow path into a flowing, red resin, surface whose slightly surreal landscape and sculptural features draw visitors through the space. Aptly named, Phoenix Flowers reclaims this territory for pedestrians, skateboarders and cyclists and transforms a wasteland into a quite literal and powerful piece of placemaking.

## UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH BUSINESS SCHOOL LDN ARCHITECTS

The University's radical re-ordering of George Square was the focus of much debate in the 1960's. It is now recognised as one of the most significant groupings of education buildings of the modern period in the UK. This re-working of one of these listed University buildings has transformed an outmoded facility, prone to overheating and with 'racetrack circulation', into a welcoming and attractive contemporary environment. The refurbishment and extension has created an effective interior with clear circulation routes and good visual connections to its setting.

New foyer and large teaching spaces have been provided. Although the architectural integrity of the original building has been carefully retained, its extension and re-working adds a new storey of accommodation, including a boardroom, offices, attractive teaching rooms and staff facilities. A new light well brings natural daylight into the centre of the building's plan and enhances the substantially naturally ventilated space within.

A formal raked lecture theatre has also been added to the building's substantially improved accommodation. A new pavilion entrance provides a welcoming double-height concourse, café, the 150 seat lecture theatre and a library. The adaptation of this important building is delivered with great care however the interventions have their own distinct personality.



PAUL ZANIRE

