

GIA

THE GLASGOW INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

A chapter of the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland



GIA ANNUAL DESIGN AWARDS 2006

Entries to the 2006 GIA Annual Design Awards are now invited.

The annual GIA Awards are recognised at a local and national level and are one of the main highlights of the annual GIA programme.

Entries to the Awards will be featured in the revamped website.

Entries will also be short-listed to feature in the GIA Annual Awards Exhibition.

GIA AND THE ANNUAL DESIGN AWARDS

Under the Convenorship of M Kirsteen Borland, the Environment Committee of 1977 put forward a proposal to Council that GIA should examine the possibility of an annual award for the best new or adapted building in the Chapter area. Council Minutes record that the Environment Committee were of the firm view that only those buildings which achieved an exceptionally high standard should be considered, setting the criteria that the award would be for examples of "good architecture and buildings, whether new or adapted, which express good design in terms of function and effectiveness as well as aesthetics". At this early stage, it was agreed that the objective would not necessarily be to find the best building, but to promote public interest in good buildings. This objective survives today, with the promotion and publication of entries to the public at large every bit as important as selecting a winner.

Seven entries were received for the 1978 GIA Award, the outcome of which was that the judging panel ruthlessly dismissed all seven as being insufficiently "excellent" (this without visiting them!) and refused to make an award. Concerned that this might deter Chapter members from entering in subsequent years, Council re-visited the assessment criteria, although in the event retained the requirement of "excellence", and in 1979 from the twenty entries received, awards were made to six buildings – including King, Main and Ellison's Scottish Amicable Headquarters on St. Vincent Street and Cowie, Torry and Partners' MacLaurin Museum and Gallery in Ayr. The entries were exhibited in the Design Centre which, until its demise as a viable venue, hosted the GIA Design Awards Exhibition on an annual basis.

In recent years, categories under which buildings can be submitted have been introduced, commendations and "high" commendations have been awarded, and – from time to time - there have been Sponsor's Awards, a President's Award and a People's Choice Award. All these have been as a result of the continuing support and interest of the Chapter practices who enter regularly, and the panels of judges whose enthusiasm for their task has over the years remained undiminished. Critically, also, the Awards Exhibition has gone from strength to strength helping fulfil the original objectives of the initiative as devised twenty-nine years ago.