

Canterbury Society Design Awards 2021











FELICITY ATEKPE

Felicity is an architect and the founder of White Table Architects, a Kent and London-based practice in sustainable design, interiors, architecture and landscape through enjoyment of the everyday, schemes of micro/small scale housing, theatres and galleries. She is also a lecturer and the course leader for Interior Design Environment Architecture (IDEAs) programme at Ravensbourne University.



KEITH BOTHWELL

Keith is a retired architect and senior lecturer, most recently working as deputy head at Kent School of Architecture, University of Kent. He specialised in teaching low-energy sustainable architectural design, which has been a focus of interest since the early 1970s, when he worked as a volunteer at the Centre for Alternative Technology in Wales.



CLIVE BOWLEY

Clive is an architect and director of the Canterbury practice Anthony Swaine Architecture, specialising in traditional architectural work and the conservation and adaptation of historic buildings. Clive has a particular interest in urban design, historic timber frame buildings, traditional shop fronts and signs and the history and topography of Canterbury and its district, and was formerly Conservation Officer at Canterbury City Council.



DAVID LANE

David is a planner and heritage professional with considerable public sector experience both in Central London and Canterbury. David currently leads Canterbury City Council's Heritage Team and has a hands-on role in major projects that affect the historic environment across a wide range of sectors.



PRIYA MARTIN

Priya is an alumnus of the University of Kent, graduating with Bachelor of Arts with Honours, and Master's degrees in Architecture. She qualified as an architect in 2018, completing her Diploma at University College London, and she currently has been working as a Senior Project Architect for multi-disciplinary construction company, Mace, since 2016 within the public estates' Justice projects team.



REUBEN POWELL

Reuben recently completed his studies for his MArch degree (ARB/RIBA part 2) from the University of Kent in July this year — graduation ceremony pending. Reuben also studied for his undergraduate degree at the University of Kent and has previously worked in London on both residential and refurbishment projects.



JOHN WALKER

John is a founder member and former Deputy Chair of The Canterbury Society and, until 2016, was a Trustee and Deputy Chairman of Civic Voice, the national organisation for civic societies in England. John led for the Civic Voice Board on a number of projects including the Civic Voice National Design Awards and The Historic Cathedral Cities Alliance, and has a strong interest in the quality of the public realm and the importance of good design in the built environment.

INTRODUCTION

The Canterbury Society Design Awards aim to recognise and celebrate buildings, spaces and places that are of value to our community. The Awards celebrate projects nominated by the people who live alongside them, use them and who have a real understanding of their impact on the local area.

This year, despite the coronavirus pandemic, the Canterbury Society received a large number of nominations, 27 in all, which are all located in Canterbury or the surrounding area, and are split across seven categories:

New Housing projects

New Buildings in a Conservation Area

New Buildings outside a Conservation Area

Renovation, Retrofit or Refurbishment projects

Shopfronts and Signage

Public Realm and Open Space projects

Most Innovative Solution to our Climate and Ecological Emergency

We were delighted by the number of entries as it shows a continuing interest by the community in the quality of the spaces and places around us. Good design not only has a powerful effect on local pride, but also on wellbeing and local economic prosperity. We have much to celebrate with these Awards.

The Awards not only celebrate good built design but also offer lessons for current and future projects that will hopefully enhance the quality of our city and surrounding villages. They also show the value of community engagement in the built environment.

We are making a new award this year — for the Most Innovative Solution to our Climate and Ecological Emergency — and are pleased to see many schemes beginning to address this issue seriously, aiming to reduce environmental impact, carbon emissions and embodied carbon too. Retrofitted buildings have featured in the Awards from the start and represent an ideal opportunity to reduce damage to the environment by reutilising the majority of construction material, in preference to rebuilding. Clearly much much more needs to be done if we are to get through the crisis.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the entrants, our sponsors, my fellow judges and all the Canterbury Society volunteers who work tirelessly to make these Awards a success. A special mention must go to John Yard who was the driving force behind the organisation of this year's Awards — working tirelessly publicising the scheme and chasing up the contestants to submit their nominations in good time for the judging deliberations.

Keith Bothwell, chair of the judging panel



NEW HOUSING: WINNER

THE TREE HOUSE, IFFIN LANE

On Architecture for Private Client

The house sits in a large woodland plot to the south of the city, replacing a derelict bungalow. It is designed in a modern style with an interplay of horizontal interlocking elements using a limited palette of materials.

Cantilevered elements, corner windows, the variety of materials and sedum roof all contribute to the character of the building. The interior is arranged as a series of informal, interlinking living spaces with large areas of glazing and sliding doors exploiting views into the woodland and out to the surrounding countryside.

The judges said: This is a delightful building —the use of white planar surfaces, cedar-clad cuboid forms and natural stone, in this case flint, are reminiscent of the qualities of some of the best early modern architecture, seen in the houses of Alvar Aalto and Louis Kahn.

It is good that the structure is designed to high environmental standards with modern levels of insulation and uses heat pumps to minimise the environmental footprint of the building.







NEW HOUSING: HIGHLY COMMENDED

LITTLE CATTS FARM, UPPER HARDRES

Anthony Mauduit, architect for Private Client

The new building sits next to an original modest farmhouse, which has mediaeval origins. The link to the farmhouse is built using flints foraged from the site. The form, materials and detailing of the new works are entirely traditional — conceived as a barn-like structure with a steeply pitched pegtiled, half-hipped roof.

Although somewhat larger than the original farmhouse, the low eaves and positioning of the new building ensure that it remains subsidiary to the diminutive farmhouse — an important consideration as the complex is clearly visible from a distance in its rolling downland setting.

The judges said: The form and design of the building is entirely traditional with carefully detailed roof, eaves, brickwork and joinery, all consistent with the overall traditional character of the farm.

The design, materials and workmanship are exemplary, such that in time, the new building will seamlessly blend into its historic setting.









NEW HOUSING: COMMENDED

THE OBSERVATORY, HOLLOW LANE

Claque LLP for Pentland Homes Limited

The Observatory is a new housing development built on the western edge of the urban area of Canterbury. About 50 three and four-bedroom houses are arranged in clusters around a series of cul-de-sacs.

The houses use a yellow stock brick with areas of render, grey painted joinery and a mix of both slate pitched plus flat roofs with distinctive raised lantern elements which together create a strong individual architectural identity to the estate — giving rise to the name of the development.

The judges said: The houses have a modern architectural character with contemporary forms and details, which makes a very refreshing change from the usual developer fare.

Rather than incorporating standard house types — often the norm for developer-led housing — the houses have been specifically designed for this location, which is to be commended. Additional greenery, planting and private open space would be welcome, as roads, pavements and hard surfaces dominate the streetscape.



NEW BUILDING IN A CONSERVATION AREA: WINNER

INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE, THE KING'S SCHOOL

Walters and Cohen Architects for The King's School

This college for international students lies within a new campus on the edge of the historic city, also containing a new theatre and a fencing centre, both in retrofitted buildings.

The building is arranged as a traditional quadrangle around an open courtyard. It provides bedroom accommodation on the upper floors and a series of subdividable social and teaching spaces arranged around the courtyard on the ground floor.

Materials include an exposed concrete structure, polished joinery internally and Corten steel (forming a protective rust surface) cladding to the upper storeys.

The judges said: This is an outstanding new building of great quality. The simple traditional courtyard form combined with unashamedly contemporary materials and detailing create a building of great assurance and presence.

The soft and hard landscaping of the courtyard garden is elegant and inviting — offering a safe haven for informal study and an ideal venue for whole house gatherings.





NEW BUILDING IN A CONSERVATION AREA: HIGHLY COMMENDED

DAPHNE ORAM BUILDING, CANTERBURY CHRISTCHURCH UNIVERSITY

Nicholas Hare Architects (plus executive architects BDP Architects) for Canterbury Christ Church University

This creative arts building is located within the historic St Augustine's Abbey precincts, to the east of the old city wall. The large volume is broken down in a series of three staggered steeply-pitched forms, responding to the roofscape of the locality.

The design celebrates its surrounding heritage by its orientation, framing views of the cathedral, and by revealing the archaeology of the abbey wall below through a series of floor vision panels both within and outside the building. Vertical fins help to frame the views and at the same time protect the adjacent houses from overlooking.

The judges said: This building is well-sited, sitting in its context comfortably, both within the campus and from the street. The staggered volumes play a key role in reducing the visual impact of this large building. Detailed in a crisp modern fashion, the strong geometric forms make a striking addition to the campus, yet the traditional materials keep the building grounded in its surroundings.

Some of the interiors are very austere, no doubt for budget reasons, but the top floor rooms are delightful and dramatic open spaces rising to the underside of the steeply pitched gable roofs.









NEW BUILDING IN A CONSERVATION AREA: COMMENDED FOR INTERIORS COMMENDED

CATHEDRAL WELCOME CENTRE

Hamish McMichael Architects for The Dean & Chapter of Canterbury Cathedral

The new cathedral visitor centre, which has been conceived as a part of the Canterbury Journey Project re-purposes the ground floor of the former Sun Inn, and links this through to new buildings constructed within the precincts at the rear.

The centre welcomes modern-day pilgrims with a ticket office, interpretation space and retail area and includes a multi-purpose room for use by the local community groups. A notable feature is the large window which affords a dramatic view of the Cathedral.

The judges said: The scheme presents a complex series of attractive, visually-linked internal volumes at various levels.

Internally, materials are carefully handled both in the sensitively restored historic brickwork within the former Sun Inn, and into the new building with its contrasting black metalwork and light-coloured joinery. Ceilings rise into the roof spaces creating a sense of space, and framing views out to the cathedral.











NEW BUILDING OUTSIDE A CONSERVATION AREA: WINNER

GREAT HALL, KENT COLLEGE

HMY Architects for Kent College Canterbury

This space creates a new focal point for the school and acts as the central hall for assemblies and chapel services as well as providing professional-quality music and theatre facilities for the school and community. The hall can accommodate up to 600 seated but can be adapted to suit a smaller audience of 350 for either music or drama performances.

The building is contemporary in form but references the existing buildings of the original school with the use of an orange/red brick with stone dressings. Buffer spaces separate the interior spaces from road noise, which can be adapted for a variety of uses with differing acoustic requirements.

The judges said: The gable form with flat-roofed side wings is carefully handled to reduce the dominance of the building so that the overall scale balances that of the old school buildings alongside.

The brickwork detailing exhibits particular skill. The building generally has an assured presence both in its confident exterior composition and within the dramatic auditorium space.





NEW BUILDING OUTSIDE A CONSERVATION AREA: HIGHLY COMMENDED

KENNEDY BUILDING, UNIVERSITY OF KENT

Bond Bryan Architects for the University of Kent

This large L-shaped teaching and economics research building comprises a flexible and adaptable series of spaces. Clad in dark charcoal-coloured brickwork, enlivened by gold anodised aluminium feature panels and window surrounds, the building is constructed using a lightweight steel structure with CLT (cross-laminated timber) floor plates, shear walls and staircases.

The rapid and cost-effective construction system also significantly reduces embodied carbon. The interior space is arranged for maximum flexibility with raised access floors and lightweight partition walls allowing partial or complete dismantling and rearranging of the interior spaces as need changes over time.

The judges said: This attractive building, with extensive floor to ceiling windows and uplifting atrium spaces, is naturally ventilated. The many tall windows have the added benefit of providing multiple views out to the green spaces around the building.

Refreshingly, the internal structural system has been honestly exposed, with steel floor joists and timber surfaces of the ceilings, shear walls and staircases forming the essential aesthetic of the interiors.









RENOVATION, RETROFIT OR REFURBISHMENT: WINNER

THE MALTHOUSE, THE KING'S SCHOOL

Tim Ronalds Architects for The King's School

Built as a large oast and malthouse in the late 19th century, this building was later used as a garage car parts depot until acquired by its present owners. A good example of the functional tradition, it is massively constructed in red brick, cast iron windows and structure, and slate roofs. The building had suffered much alteration especially with widened windows in the 1960s.

The retrofit creates a professional-standard 300-350 seat theatre which can be switched from thrust-stage, to proscenium arch, to flat floor modes. In addition to the usual theatre ancillary spaces, the building includes drama and dance studios, and a dining hall and science classrooms for the adjacent International College

The judges said: Despite major alterations to create the new theatre space, the original structure and character of this building shines through. Materials and surfaces have been retained wherever possible, and the original structural system of metal beams and joists is clearly revealed and celebrated.

Original window forms have been reinstated and new brickwork is detailed with a distinct pointing so that the extent of the rebuilt areas is clearly discerned. The reuse of the original perforated clay pavers, used originally in the hop drying process, and the packing-case stencil graphics align perfectly with the industrial aesthetic.

This conversion project is exemplary in every way.





RENOVATION, RETROFIT OR REFURBISHMENT: HIGHLY COMMENDED

THE JUXON ROOM, EASTBRIDGE HOSPITAL

Jonathan Care of Insalls Architects for The Trustees of Eastbridge Hospital

The Eastbridge Hospital straddles the River Stour at the very centre of the historic city. It was founded in the 1170s to provide succour and accommodation for pilgrims visiting the shrine of St Thomas.

The Juxon room, located within the later part of the building, was built in the 17th century on a deck of oak timbers which have required repair, restoration and strengthening. The accommodation, previously refurbished in the 1970s, had become outdated and has been reconfigured with a far more open-plan layout, revealing much more of the original structure.

The judges said: Following the best practice principles of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, the repairs are clearly distinguishable from the original work. The newly opened up area allows for clearer views of the architectural features of the historic building and the interior finishes are chosen to be sympathetic to the character of the building.

A glazed panel allows glimpses of the arched structure and river below the refurbished room. A change in floor finish informs the visitor where the line between solid ground and bridge occurs.





RENOVATION, RETROFIT OR REFURBISHMENT: COMMENDED

PLATFORM, 27 ST DUNSTAN'S STREET

Bryter Digital, trading as Platform

Platform is located in a late 17th century building in St Dunstan's Street, on the historic approach to the city from London. It survived the construction of the railway which penetrated the street in 1847. The gable end of the building abutting the railway is buttressed by brickwork constructed of oversized bricks imported by rail from the north of England.

For many years the building was allowed to deteriorate, and then stood empty for some time before being acquired by the current owners, who have renovated the property.

The judges said: It is great to see this property completely renovated with ancient features retained and exposed and with the exterior redecorated in a sympathetic colour with attractive hand-written signs.

The refurbished building creates an attractive shop which enhances the street scene, while adding to the retail offer of the area.





PUBLIC REALM AND OPEN SPACE: WINNER

THE FRANCISCAN GARDENS

Sarah Morgan Gardens for The Trustees of Eastbridge Hospital

The site of the first Franciscan settlement in the UK, at the centre is the iconic Greyfriars Chapel, the only surviving part of the ancient foundation. The building and setting have for centuries been the subject of attention by artists. Access was formerly via an obscure gateway, but is now through a shop directly off the High Street and alongside the river.

The planting is rooted in Franciscan traditions and based on organic principles. Works included extensive repairs and stabilisation to a Tudor boundary wall and gateway.

The judges said: Garden plantings have been treated in a sensitive traditional manner with an absence of intrusive signage, and part of the area has been sown as a wild-flower meadow, providing a perfect setting for the Greyfriars Chapel, as well as a haven for wildlife.

The new entrance creates a dramatic contrast between the bustling noisy High Street and the peaceful secret sanctuary within. The sensitive redevelopment of these gardens is most welcome, and it is hoped that entrance fee will enable the garden to be carefully managed and the historic features to be cared for and conserved into the future.







PUBLIC REALM AND OPEN SPACE: HIGHLY COMMENDED

LEGACY PARK

Taylor Wimpey South East with Canterbury City Council and CSA Environmental — due for transfer to Howe Park Trust

This new park is in an area that was until recently within the Howe Barracks military compound, inaccessible to the public. The park is the first of the community assets being provided by the developer as a benefit of the housing development, and has been progressed in negotiations with Canterbury City Council.

The landscape design of the park is simple and natural, including pathways, informal grassy areas, including a play space and a lookout mound providing stunning views looking west over the city and cathedral.

The judges said: This is the first new park in Canterbury in many decades and is a most welcome addition to community facilities for those in the south-east of the city, an area that lacks this kind of provision. The park is naturalistic and includes semi-wild areas as well as the more formal areas for people. The two ponds, new tree planting and semi-wild areas are already helping to increase biodiversity.



PUBLIC REALM AND OPEN SPACE: COMMENDED

ST DUNSTAN'S UNDERPASS

Henry Cockburn (Artist) / St Dunstan's Residents' Association / Network Rail

The railway underpass is of Victorian origin, and comprises a vaulted brick tunnel under the tracks reached by flights of stairs on either side of the railway which are covered by curved corrugated iron canopies,

The underpass had become blighted by rubbish, general decay and misuse, and had large and ugly graffiti tags. This all contributed to the feeling that the space was unsafe.

The treatment of the underpass is kept simple with the walls redecorated white, with a series of figurative images painted directly onto the brickwork, giving the appearance of an exhibition gallery.

The judges said: The repainted underpass has proved popular with residents and the artwork has been respected and is graffiti-free! Its character has changed dramatically as a result of the works and it is now much more friendly and welcoming.

It is hoped that additional funds can be procured so that restoration work can extend to the beautifully minimal and elegant roof canopy structure, in order to complete the project.











BID VINYLS, HIGH STREET AND ENVIRONS

Canterbury Business Improvement District (BID): Various owners

The retail sector has been hit extremely hard in the last few years. Structural changes caused by the migration to online shopping and the burden of rates and other expenses has led to the closure of two large department stores and many other significant frontages in the city.

The coronavirus pandemic has exacerbated the situation and caused the closure of further shops. The Canterbury Business Improvement District group (BID) has responded by commissioning a series of graphic vinyl panels pasted over the windows of the vacant units.

The judges said: These vinyl displays show attractive scenes from around Canterbury — the Westgate, historic buildings and recent events, etc — which successfully create the sense that Canterbury is a city with a rich and interesting heritage and vibrant modern life. This important initiative gives the message that the city is still very much in business! Without these murals the impression would have been that it was struggling economically and neglecting its heritage.







SHOPFRONTS AND SIGNAGE: COMMENDED

CROWTHERS, NO 1, THE BOROUGH

Ian Crowther

Crowthers is an independent music and musical instrument shop. The building itself is 17th century with an attractive multi-pane traditional shopfront. The shopfront has recently been renovated and repainted with the fascia sign written by a skilled signwriter.

Although the shopfront itself is unchanged, Crowthers is as a good example how the character and appearance of the city centre shopping streets can be transformed by the simple application of a well decorated coat of paint and the use of the signwriter's art on a traditional fascia.

The judges said: The work has been carried out very well, and in a tasteful deep crimson colour. Although a modest project, is to be commended for using traditional materials and signwriting skills. These help to preserve the historic character and quality of the shopfront — qualities that are so easily lost without this care and attention to detail — which also contributes positively to the character of the street as a whole.



SHOPFRONTS AND SIGNAGE: COMMENDED

33-37 PALACE STREET, KINGS SCHOOL

Andrew Wittich Architects for The Kings School

The terrace had suffered over the years with ad hoc alterations, had become rundown and in need of repairs. A scheme for replacing the shopfronts was dropped and repairs have been carried out instead, replacing decayed woodwork and reinstating stallrisers and doors to original designs.

Although no longer in active retail use, the shops comprise the frontage of one of the Kings School's boarding houses. Maintained with the appearance of shopfronts, the areas behind the glass allow for the display of advertisements for the school, school shop and theatre

The judges said: Canterbury retains an enviable legacy of historic shopfronts – both original and reinstated. The row of shops at the north-east end of Palace Street is amongst the best of these – a continuous run of ten — dating back to the 1820s. This restoration work retains the overall authentic appearance of these significant early shopfronts.



MOST INNOVATIVE SOLUTION TO OUR CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY: WINNER

GREAT HALL, KENT COLLEGE

HMY Architects for Kent College

The design for the auditorium uses a completely natural system of ventilation, using passive cooling from the thermal mass within the below-ground 'labyrinth'. Following the natural ventilation techniques developed on smaller buildings, this provides a comfortable environment without the need for large, energy-hungry, mechanical air handling plant and air conditioning. Ventilation cowls on the roof help control the natural stack-effect within the auditorium and provide the required air changes without large fans, which would also normally require acoustic dampening

The judges said: The passive cooling and ventilation system employed here is very rare for a performance space of this size, which would normally be served by carbon dioxide emitting air-conditioning equipment. This approach is exemplary in that it saves on energy costs, reduces harmful emissions, and also offers an example of how to adapt to a heating climate.



OVERALL JOINT WINNER

THE INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE AND MALTHOUSE, THE KING'S SCHOOL

Walters and Cohen Architects and Tim Ronalds Architects for The King's School.

Located on a new campus for the school, these two buildings of radically different natures are each by a different architect. One is a conversion of a large former malthouse building, the other entirely new. One of them the retrofit of a Victorian industrial building, the other one unashamedly contemporary in design.

The functions of the two buildings are interrelated — dining areas and art and science teaching spaces within the adjacent Malthouse are used by pupils in the college — and the space between and around them has been relandscaped.

The judges said: These two buildings, which are clear and distinguished winners in each of their respective categories, also complement each other perfectly. The master-planning of the new campus, undertaken by Walters and Cohen, is restrained yet elegant, giving each building a grounded presence in the beautifully landscaped setting. The Corten cladding of the new college, in a similar hue but darker than the brickwork of the Malthouse, helps tie the two buildings together into a single composition.





THANK YOU

Thanks to Ptolemy Dean for presenting the awards and for his talk to us today.

Ptolemy is the President of the Canterbury Society and is well known for his appearances on two BBC television series, Restoration and The Perfect Village. He is currently the nineteenth Surveyor of the Fabric of Westminster Abbey — a post first held by Sir Christopher Wren!

Thanks to our judging panel and all the Canterbury Society volunteers who have helped with these design awards over the past year. Special thanks go to John Yard who has tirelessly worked to organise the awards and done a huge amount of persistent lobbying work to bring in all the nominations.

And finally, thanks go to our sponsors, listed below, for their support in staging these awards and publishing this brochure.



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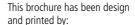
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