Best Use of Timber Awards

Celebrating Five Years of Timber Architecture in Scotland
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Since 2012, as part of the annual RIAS Awards scheme, Forestry Commission Scotland and Wood for Good have combined to sponsor an award aimed at encouraging innovative and creative use of timber in new buildings in Scotland. The award seeks also to stimulate greater appreciation of home grown timber and its potential for use in construction, with added consideration given to thoughtful and appropriate use of different species. Technical competence is of course paramount and the design and detail of how the timber is used was as much a part of the assessment criteria as imagination and overall architectural excellence. There is no restriction on building type or scale of project – from small to large and from domestic to commercial, the challenge is to show how suited the use of timber is to the development of new architecture in Scotland.

This publication collates winning projects, shortlisted entries and winners in the six RIAS chapters to offer a portrait of timber architecture in Scotland over the past five years.

Judging Panels

2012
Sholto Humphries, RIAS President
Dr Anne Lorne Gillies, Scottish singer, songwriter, broadcaster, author and academic
Robert Dye, Robert Dye Associates
Peter Wilson, Wood Studio, Edinburgh Napier University

2013
Iain Connelly, RIAS President
Dr Joyce Deans CBE PPRIAS
Lori McElroy MBE, Architecture and Design Scotland
Kathy Li, Mackintosh School of Architecture
Roger Stephenson OBE

2014
Marjorie Appleton FRIAS
Doug Read PPRIAS
Liz Davidson OBE Hon FRIAS
Craig White RIBA
George Oldham RIAS RIBA

2015
Iain Dickson PPRIAS (Chair)
Julia Barfield RIBA
Karen Cunningham, Director of 2016 Festival of Architecture
Hugh Dutton Hon FRIAS of Hugh Dutton Associés
Stuart Goodall, Chief Executive Confor

2016
Willie Watt PRIAS
Denise Bennetts FRIAS
Alan Jones PPRSUA Hon FRIAS
Andy Leitch, Forestry Commission Scotland
Stuart McKill, Saint-Gobain
2013 Commended
The Turf House
Rural Design
Image: Nigel Rigden
Foreword

The projects in this publication are diverse in scale and design approach but all are inspiring at a number of levels. They have been drawn together and celebrated through the Timber Awards, established in 2012 to recognise the best use of timber and consider its contribution to the development of new architecture in Scotland.

Five years on and in reviewing the winners and shortlisted projects for the award it is patent that Scotland’s best designers are fully exploiting the technical, aesthetic and tactile quality of timber, and that it allows them to do some of their best work and demonstrate their design and innovation skills.

The projects highlighted show just how versatile, characterful and, most importantly, sustainable timber is. It can be raw and robust, full of rural character as in the cladding of the projects by Rural Design, Icosis, A449 and Sean Douglas and Gavin Murray. It can be bespoke and perfect; creating interiors of cabinet-like precision as in Nord’s GFT project. It can be used innovatively, structurally, and is easily prefabricated and constructed on constrained sites. It is wonderful at small as well as large scale, lending its unique tactile character and its inherent warmth to interiors as crafted as Maggie’s Lanarkshire and the Arcadia Nursery. As LDN demonstrate at their Abbotsford building, timber can be used comprehensively from building structure to finishes and fittings, and when properly detailed and treated, it is inherently much more healthy than manmade materials.

All of the architects included in this publication have clearly enjoyed working with timber. They have recognised the pleasure of learning about, and the potential of exploiting, the myriad qualities of different timbers from home-grown Larch, and Scottish hardwoods, to composite and engineered timber products. Timber not only provides a huge palette of architectural possibilities, but comes with the added joy of being fully renewable and recyclable.

The selection of a particular timber for a component of a building, and the detailing of it in construction, is important not only aesthetically and technically, but because it draws the designer into a particular relationship with the supplier of the timber and the craftsman or constructor who will work with the material. Again this can be at all scales and skill levels, indeed some architects set out with an express desire to make architecture from timber using unskilled hands, demonstrating just how forgiving, as well as how beautiful timber can be.

I would like to thank Forestry Commission Scotland and Wood for Good for their work and support for the awards as this is an important initiative that has become influential as well as celebratory. I hope this publication will inspire more designers to see just how much they can achieve architecturally using timber, and will highlight to them the potential to support the virtuous chain of using Scottish timber helping manufacturers and suppliers to diversify and develop. Finally I look forward to seeing the skilled and creative use of timber demonstrated here increase every year, and continue to flourish as, at the end of the day, it is my experience that above any other, a timber building is enjoyed and valued by its users – naturally.

Karen Anderson
Chair - Architecture and Design Scotland
2012 Winner
Model ‘D’ House
Gokay Deveci Chartered Architect
Image: Stuart Johnstone Photography

2013 Winner
Abbotsford Conservation and Visitors Building
LDN Architects
Image: Paul Zanre Photography
2014 Winner
The Inn at John O’ Groats
GLM
Image: Pip Rustage

2015 Winner
Arcadia Nursery
Malcolm Fraser Architects
Image: Angus Bremner

2016 Winner
Blakeburn
A449 LTD
Image: A449 LTD
Model ‘D’ House

Location: Old Rayne, Insch, Aberdeenshire
Date Completed: October 2011
Building Type: Residential
Architect: Gokay Deveci Chartered Architect
Client: Sylvan Stuart Ltd
Contract Value: £140,000
Main Contractor: Sylvan Stuart Ltd
Timber Supplier: James Jones & Sons Ltd

The Project
This house is designed to demonstrate an alternative to the type of properties on offer by volume developers. The design aims to provide an approach to rural living that is innovative, contextual and can be replicated on a larger scale. It also seeks to change our current thinking on rural house design, including an increased ecological awareness and use of local materials.

The client, Sylvan Stuart Ltd, is a timber frame building company, specialising in log buildings in rural areas. The client’s aims were to develop alternative contemporary designs that would facilitate the provision of affordable, good quality and low-energy housing utilising home-grown timber.

Use of Timber
The Model ‘D’ House is constructed almost entirely from home-grown timber, and designed to meet the government’s ‘Zero-Carbon’ targets in new housing developments for 2016. It is built with an innovative double-stud system for wall and roof construction, which also accommodates a continuous use of polythene sheeting for maximum air tightness to meet the ‘Passivhaus’ standards.

Durability and a homogeneous appearance are achieved by the meticulously detailed external rain screen which provides shading and privacy where required. The rain screening is oven-treated homegrown Larch with a long life, and it protects the inner Pine wall cladding, while providing the house with its own microclimate.

The structural frame, including joists, rafters and panel and wall framing, is fast-growing Elite Sitka Spruce from Dumfries and Galloway. The rain screening posts and slats are heat-treated selected Scots Pine from Upper Deeside, and the decking is Scots Pine from Cairngorm National Park. First floor flooring is Scots Pine, and the ground floor flooring is Douglas Fir. External wall cladding and soffits are Larch.

Judge’s Comment
‘This alternative contemporary design draws upon the architectural language of traditional agricultural buildings. Large windows in the south façade take advantage of solar gain and maximise views. An external rain screen provides shading and privacy. This highly energy efficient home utilises its setting and natural daylight to radically reduce costs. The Model ‘D’ House is a model for affordable housing stock in the countryside.’
**Bogbain Mill**

**Location:** Loch Ussie, by Maryburgh  
**Date Completed:** September 2011  
**Building Type:** Residential  
**Architect:** Rural Design  
**Timber Supplier:** Cromartie Timber and Russwood

**The Project**
This project celebrates the relationship between old and new; between crisp timber forms and the massive stone ruins of a former mill. Existing walls create a variety of sheltered courtyards, some re-inhabited by nature. The architects created a large family house by re-imagining the building in a progressive manner. The flexibility of timber construction enables a series of forms to be layered over the ruins, engaging with the building’s past without replicating its traditional forms.

**Use of Timber**
A three-storey timber ‘tower’ sits at the southernmost part of the house – rising from formal dining room, to sitting room, to master bedroom with a high level view of the surrounding countryside.

Native Scottish Larch ‘board on board’ cladding has been used externally and is offset by using native Oak internally, expressed in the structure and finishings. All timber has been sourced from Highland-based suppliers, and built by local contractors.

Image: Andrew Lee

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**Grödians**

**Location:** Quoys, Lerwick, Shetland  
**Date Completed:** May 2010  
**Building Type:** Residential  
**Architect:** Richard Gibson Architects  
**Client:** Hjaltland Housing Association  
**Contract Value:** £4.5m  
**Main Contractor:** E&H Building Contractors  
**Timber Supplier:** James Donaldson Timber Ltd and International Timber

**The Project**
Grödians is a new-build social housing development comprising one, three and four bedroom dwellings in flatted, semi-detached and detached housing, placed within a ‘Homezone’ based road layout. As the Shetland winter months are prolonged and harsh, planting and landscaping interventions have been designed to define the site, provide shelter and reduce wind chill. The colour scheme was chosen to maintain visual warmth in winter. Close attention has been paid to energy use and sustainability, and the scheme is connected to Lerwick District Heating System.

**Use of Timber**
Grödians builds on a Shetland tradition of timber construction originating from the islands’ links with Norway, which encouraged the importation of prefabricated boats and buildings. Rather than the brown stain generally associated with timber, bright colours were introduced, emphasised by dark-grey tiled roofs.

Timber is used extensively in landscaping: in sleepers employed for vehicle proof planters; for furniture in amenity areas; and for boarded fences, which link the houses. Timber used for these purposes is left unpainted, providing robust forgiving surfaces.

Image: Phatsheep Photography
Heriot’s Centre for Sport and Exercise

Location: George Heriot’s School, Edinburgh
Date Completed: January 2012
Building Type: Education
Architect: LDN Architects
Client: George Heriot’s Trust
Main Contractor: John Dennis and Company Ltd
Timber Supplier: Finnforest Merk of Germany

The Project

Located in a conservation area adjacent to Greyfriars Graveyard, this building attempts to imitate the mass of the previous building and the form respects the stepped nature of the site.

Previously, physical education at George Heriot’s was taught in a variety of spaces of varying appropriateness. The objective was to create a first-class indoor sports facility, enabling the school to teach physical education in custom-made, modern spaces.

Use of Timber

The client wanted these spaces to have a feeling of richness and warmth often lacking in sports halls, which led to the use of timber.

Engineered timber was utilised for the structural frame and a laminated structural timber panel system for the roof deck, both of which are exposed. The spaces are clad in Birch plywood with solid panels at low level and perforated acoustic panels above. This materiality is continued through other spaces to provide a unified palette.

Image: Photography Paul Zanre
House at Borreraig

Location: Glendale, Isle of Skye
Date Completed: September 2010
Building Type: Residential
Architect: Dualchas Building Design
Contract Value: £470,000
Main Contractor: Donald MacKenzie of Dunvegan
Timber Supplier: Caley Timber

The Project
This building consists of three separate elements, each containing a distinct function: the living accommodation, the bedroom wing and a studio space. These elements share a common form and external finish – simple pitched roofs with horizontal timber cladding. Their arrangement on the site forms a sheltered entrance terrace.

Use of Timber
Externally, the building is horizontally clad in Siberian Larch, concealing the gutters, rone-pipes and sliding shutters. The window openings, framed simply in Larch, are carefully lined through. As the timber weathers, it will silver, echoing the profiled metal roof finish.
Also consistent are the internal finishes. Oak-faced plywood lines the walls and ceilings throughout, and panel joints are carefully lined through with Caithness stone tiles. The wall panelling in the living spaces and bedrooms conceals cupboards, wardrobes and doors. The warmth of the Oak finish is heightened by the use of horizontal concealed lighting in the living area.

Image: Andrew Lee

Loch Leven Bird Hide

Location: West shore of Loch Leven, Fife
Date Completed: October 2011
Building Type: Tourism/Leisure
Architect: Icosis Architects
Client: The Rural Access Committee for Kinross-shire (TRACKS) and Scottish Natural Heritage
Contract Value: £12k foundations £22k timber elements
Main Contractor: Hutton & Read Ltd
Timber Supplier: Russwood

The Project
The bird hide was commissioned as part of works to provide barrier-free access to the Loch Leven Heritage Trail. This small, but carefully crafted structure – part hide, part bridge and part screening – provides an enclosed viewing platform overhanging the loch, reducing noise and visual disturbance to wildlife from the path.

Use of Timber
Three types of Scottish timber were specified for their qualities. The main beams for the floor, roof and bridge utilise the strength of Douglas Fir; the frame, louvres, cladding and decking are in Larch; and elements requiring a higher quality finish – viewing apertures, shelves and benches – employ Oak.

The foundations sit on the shoreline, so a temporary water-filled cofferdam was required to enable installation of the pre-cast concrete bases. Large Douglas Fir beams are bolted to these, onto which the bridge and hide are secured. The hide was constructed off-site to reduce time and minimise disruption for the wildlife.

Image: Icosis Architects
2012 Shortlist
Bogbain Mill
Rural Design
Image: Andrew Lee
Abbotsford Conservation and Visitors Building

Location: Abbotsford, Melrose  
Date Completed: July 2012  
Building Type: Visitors Centre  
Architect: LDN Architects  
Client: Abbotsford Trust  
Contract value: £3.2 million  
Main Contractor: Border Construction Ltd  
Timber Supplier: Metsa Wood UK Ltd

The Project
The Reception Building welcomes visitors to Abbotsford, the former home of Sir Walter Scott. Conceived as a modern gate lodge and sited at the eastern edge of Abbotsford’s outstanding landscape, it is built partly into the hillside to reduce its scale. It has a calm, contemporary appearance and open-plan layout, which contrasts with the highly decorated Scottish Baronial architecture of Abbotsford.

The building incorporates a reception, café, shop, toilets and interpretation facilities. The flat roof is finished with a sedum blanket, minimising the impact of the building’s footprint and reducing rainwater run-off. The building’s main spaces are naturally lit and ventilated, and a heat recovery air-handling unit serves the exhibition space. Underfloor heating is provided using a ground source heat pump connected to boreholes under the carpark.

Use of Timber
Timber construction is used in every aspect of the building: structural elements; cladding and linings; and fixtures and fittings. The use of this natural material acknowledges the fact that timber is, arguably, the only truly sustainable construction material.

The building’s timber portal frame structure consists of laminated timber columns and beams. This frame supports Cross-Laminated Timber panels that form the intermediate floor and roof structure. All structural timber is made of FSC-certified Finnish Spruce. The system allowed for off-site fabrication and was erected on site within approximately three weeks.

All timber in the building has been left with a natural finish. Open-jointed, horizontal, untreated European Oak boards clad all external solid walls. The wall construction, which features wood fibre insulation panels, is breathable both to help control the internal environment and to avoid pathologies often associated with water trapped in fabric during construction. Oak is used internally, as lining to finish ceilings and walls, in the feature staircase, and for internal fittings including the reception desk.

Judge’s Comment
‘This building was selected on the basis that it demonstrates the use of timber at a large scale in a public building. The strength of the project lies in that it showcases the potential to use timber in Scotland, not just at an aesthetic/craft level but also in full-scale structural components.’
The Turf House

Location: Kilmuluag, Isle of Skye
Date Completed: November 2012
Building Type: Residential
Architect: Rural Design
Client: Indi and Rebecca Waterstone
Contract value: £132,000
Main Contractor: Donald Lamont
Timber Supplier: Russwood

The Project
The Turf House was designed as an affordable family home for a local couple who desired an environmentally responsible house with two other key specifications – a turf roof was essential and the house had to be perpendicular to the north view.

The tapered form expands in the middle to accommodate the kitchen, bathroom and entrance space. A wood-burning stove is the only heat source, and whole-house ventilation with heat recovery, coupled with high levels of insulation and airtightness, ensures even distribution of the heat.

Use of Timber
This project considers a new typology for timber construction in the Highlands. It uses forms that cannot be constructed in any other material – demonstrating the possibilities and flexibility that timber offers.

The house was built by roughing kit joiners using skills native to the West Highlands. Timber-clad externally, using native Larch ‘board on board’ cladding on a timber frame, the detailing is simple and uniform.

Image: Nigel Rigden

The Glad Café

Location: Pollokshaws Road, Glasgow
Date Completed: August 2012
Building Type: Café
Architect: ATW Architects (In association with Eggmachine)
Client: The Glad Café
Main Contractor: Eggmachine
Timber Supplier: Waste offcuts and existing timber sourced by Eggmachine and other designers from various local businesses

The Project
The Glad Café is a refurbishment project with an emphasis on the use of recycled materials. It is comprised of two main spaces: a café, and a venue for a variety of events and performances. The premises were originally built as a single-storey bakery attached to a tenement.

The performance space was acoustically separated to minimise any disturbance to neighbours. Two boarded-up windows were opened up, transforming the café into a bright welcoming space. The existing heating and ventilation system was upgraded to suit the café layout.

Use of Timber
All existing timber flooring was uplifted, treated off site and reused for fixed furniture and floor coverings. Some timber floor coverings were salvaged from a local gym and court markings are still visible. The timber balustrades, shelving and venue bar are made up of plywood and plastic offcuts supplied by local designers. All furniture is second hand, gifted by local people.

Image: Grant Hugh Jones
4 Linskiadar

Location: 4 Linskiadar, Isle of Lewis
Date Completed: June 2011
Building Type: Residential
Architect: Studio KAP Architects
Client: Ms M. McLeod
Main Contractor: Neil McKay & Co Ltd
Timber Supplier: Exterior timber - Russwood, Structural timbers - Bain Morrison Stornoway, Lewis

The Project
Meshed into the archaeology of a former croft, this new home hunkers down, cut into a site which slopes gently down to the sea. Its materials are elemental, its windows set deep within its dark-stained timber skin.

The new building engages with the ruined shell, re-inhabiting and preserving its footprint with a raised sheltered garden, greenhouse and a tower for reflection on the wider landscape. The shape and location of the windows respond to the surrounding views.

Use of Timber
The external envelope has a simple robust character. Timber cladding is a knotty, heavy-gauge Scottish Larch used off the saw and fixed shiplap. Care was taken to maintain the coursing of the boarding around the unconventional form of the building, with the skilled joiner creating stepped details at level changes.

Engineered Oak flooring in two different finishes works in conjunction with a light-coloured stone tile to define distinct places in the house.

Image: Keith Hunter
Sugarhouse Close

Location: Sugarhouse Close, Edinburgh
Date Completed: August 2012
Building Type: Residential – Student Accommodation
Architect: Oberlanders
Client: Corporate Residential Management Ltd
Main Contractor: Watkin Jones
Timber Supplier: Finnforest Thermowood

The Project
Providing accommodation for up to 300 students, Sugarhouse Close is embedded within the Edinburgh World Heritage site in the Old Town. The northern half of the site, steeped in the medieval history of the Royal Mile, appropriates the adjacent architectural language. The low-rise units have a patinated, mottled red-brick masonry base course, overhung by timber cladding on upper stories, topped with pitched slate roofs.

This project benefits from various sustainable initiatives: the re-use of slate and stone; the refurbishment of historic buildings; the promotion of biodiversity with the introduction of trees and a green roof; and the implementation of a central communal heating system.

Use of Timber
The overhanging timber cladding is made of kiln-dried timber, selected for its low maintenance attributes. The ‘board on board’ configuration is designed to accentuate the verticals through the play of shadows created by the depth of the gaps.

Image: Michael Wolchover

Rosslyn Chapel Conservation & Visitors Centre

Location: Roslin, Midlothian
Date Completed: November 2011
Building Type: Visitor Centre
Architect: Page\Park
Client: Rosslyn Chapel Trust
Main Contractor: CBC (Glasgow) Ltd
Timber Supplier: Carpenter Oak & Woodland

The Project
The visitor centre is set within the site of a Scheduled Ancient Monument. It offers space for visitors, an interpretive exhibition, education, retail, a café and staff accommodation. The warm timber tones complement the restrained palette of locally sourced materials: copper roofing; Caithness floors; Clasach stone; and tan leather sliding screens.

The portal frames achieve a tie-free volume. The arrangement of stepping side-aisle beams and columns define the spatial quality of the single volume from a lofty entrance, towards the cosy café.

Use of Timber
In response to the craftsmanship of the chapel stonework, the decision was made to use Green Oak. It was selected from European sources with seasoned Scottish Oak used for display furniture.

Traditional Oak framing techniques and stainless steel mechanical jointing methods have been exploited to create a contemporary design. Shakes and fissures add to the tactility of the Oak, enabling visitors to sense the life of the tree that it once was.

Image: Andrew Lee
2013 Shortlist
The Glad Café
ATW Architects (In association with Eggmachine)
Image: Grant Hugh Jones
The Inn at John O’ Groats

Location: John O’ Groats, Caithness
Date Completed: September 2013
Building Type: Hotel
Architect: GLM
Client: Natural Retreats
Contract value: £2.5 million
Main Contractor: GLM
Timber Supplier: Timber cladding - Russwood,
Timber kit - Norscot

The Project
As the most northerly point on the mainland, John O’ Groats is one of Scotland’s best-known places. However, it has lacked a landmark building to celebrate its reputation. The design of the new Inn at John O’ Groats responds to its harbour-front location, with a street frontage of brightly coloured gables contrasting with the stark white of the restored Victorian Hotel. Inspiration came from Scandinavian fishing villages and traditional British beach huts.

The building is an evolution of the ‘aparthotel’ concept, using arrangements of locking doors which allow variable configurations: studios, one-to four-bedroom apartments and separate hotel-style rooms. The fenestration provides different framed views from each apartment – dramatic sea views from the living spaces, quieter inland views from the bedrooms, and angled glimpses framed in small square openings.

Use of Timber
The new-build element of the Inn is a highly insulated timber frame with timber cladding. Timber, a local natural material, was chosen to meet the client’s requirements for sustainability, the tight budget and programme, and the conceptual references.

Traditional timber frame construction proved to be most economical. The timber kit was manufactured 15 miles from site, and small local contractors erected it.

The timber selected for the cladding was Scottish Larch from the supplier Russwood, meaning it was locally sourced, durable and economical. The paint was vacuum applied in the factory to achieve the most durable finish for such an exposed location. A variety of cladding patterns were also used in varying width combinations, including shiplap, square-edged and open rain screen. Each pattern required custom detailing for openings and corners, and for junctions between the different cladding patterns. These were developed in consultation with Russwood’s technical expertise to allow for movement over time and adequate ventilation.

Judge’s Comment
‘This symbolic, much-visited location was, for too long, down at heel. Brightly coloured pavilions extend the restored Victorian hotel to create a whole new attraction and a highly visible landmark.’
Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation

Location: Edinburgh
Date Completed: September 2013
Building Type: Academic
Architect: Malcolm Fraser Architects
Client: University of Edinburgh
Contract value: £6.1M
Main Contractor: Graham Construction
Timber Supplier: Metsäwood

The Project
The Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation is a research facility focusing on climate-related challenges facing society. It occupies the refurbished and extended Old High School. The accommodation includes generous circulation space, teaching space, lecture facilities, meeting rooms, staff offices, a student hub and a café.

Landscape regeneration removed all parking and introduced external spaces improving the site’s engagement with the city. The building was designed to be 38% better (CO₂ emissions) than a new building.

Use of Timber
The use of timber, a natural material, was a principle design decision as it locks in more carbon than it takes to produce.

The primary structure is a Cross-Laminated Timber frame and floor panel system. The external wall construction is supported by composite timber studs.

Timber is also used internally – in partitions, flexible wood fibre batts, and rigid fibreboard insulation with an Oriented Strand Board. Wall construction is vapour-open and low in volatile organic compounds benefiting the health of building users.

House at Camusdarrach Sands

Location: Morar, Inverness-shire
Date Completed: November 2013
Building Type: Residential
Architect: Raw Architecture Workshop
Client: Mr and Mrs Lemons
Main Contractor: Knoydart Construction
Timber Supplier: External Cedar Cladding – Knoydart Construction; Internal finishes – Travis Perkins

The Project
This part-subterranean, new-build house is located on steeply sloping, former rough grazing land. Designed to capture the spectacular views of the sunrise and sunset offered by its location, it also considered various environmental aspects such as renewable energy, insulation, and local labour, skills and materials.

Use of Timber
The timber superstructure is a series of deep ribs with v-shaped plywood gussets fixed either side, connecting opposing rafters and studs. No structural bracing is visible, allowing for large spans.

Internally, progressing up through the building via the Birch ply staircase, spaces enlarge, daylight levels and ceiling heights soar and materials have a lighter finish.

The use of timber on external planes unifies the building as an object in the landscape. The external walls and roof employ locally grown Cedar and cladding details allow for expansion and contraction. The external stain was chosen to reflect the peat, gorse and stormy skies.

Image: David Barbour
House No. 7

Location: Isle of Tiree
Date Completed: August 2013
Building Type: Residential
Architect: Denizen Works
Client: Mrs L. Kerr
Main Contractor: John MacKinnon Builders
Timber Supplier: Glulam – Donaldson’s Timber, Markinch;
Remaining timber – Jewson

The Project
Sited on Blackhouse ruins, this three-bedroom house enjoys sea and landscape views. The concept comprises two houses – a living-house and guesthouse – linked by a utility wing.

The guesthouse is a reconstructed Blackhouse, while the architecture of the living and utility areas draws on agricultural buildings, combining soft roof forms and corrugated cladding.

The layout maximises shelter from the wind, enabling natural ventilation and introducing sunlight for warmth.

Use of Timber
The cottage is built using traditional timber frames, while the roof uses a glulam frame. With curved roof forms agreed on, construction methods best for sustainability, strength and ferry transportation had to be considered. The solution split the roof portions along the apex enabling quick and safe erection in inclement weather.

Internally, Pine tongue and groove boards prevalent throughout the Highlands and Islands have been used – in a Pitch-Pine worktop, Pine skirting boards used as ceiling cladding, and in Pine sculptural stairs.

Image: David Barbour
Arcadia Nursery

Location: Edinburgh
Date Completed: August 2014
Building Type: Nursery
Architect: Malcolm Fraser Architects
Client: The University of Edinburgh
Main Contractor: Balfour Beatty
Timber Supplier: Cross-Laminated Timber Supplied by Eurban and manufactured by Stora Enso, Wood fibre insulation - Natural Building Technologies, Cladding - Russwood

The Project
Arcadia Nursery was created to provide early-years education for up to 113 children. The proposal was designed to facilitate the ‘free-play’ concept, which helps develop children’s confidence, independence and creativity by encouraging a choice of activities and learning environments.

Externally, the pavilions holding each playroom are identifiable as welcoming, contemporary domestic forms creating a sense of belonging. These are linked together by a single-storey building, with large roof lights offering views to the tree canopy above. Respect for the façade of an adjacent building led to a compact footprint with raised mezzanines and a first-floor area for offices, staff and family rooms. Each of the three playrooms opens out onto a covered terrace to allow for outdoor time.

The nursery has been designed to be low energy. It is connected to a Combined Heat and Power network, uses no mechanical cooling or ventilation and has highly efficient lighting. The specification of all materials was carefully considered, with renewable materials chosen with low embodied energy and a minimal carbon footprint.

Use of Timber
Timber is used throughout the project: the Cross-Laminated Timber main structure and interior; timber acoustic ceilings; external timber cladding, including breathable wood fibre insulation; and in the garden.

A project challenge was the extensive tree cover and a desire to retain healthy trees. This led to a floating, lightweight structure which could be built within a restricted site compound. Cross-Laminated Timber answered many needs of the project, providing the perfect combination of a warm, tactile interior, using a natural product that can structurally achieve the clear roof volumes required for the mezzanine spaces.

Cross-Laminated Timber uses recyclable materials that enable a vapour open, breathable building fabric that’s extremely airtight. The design team avoided using fire retardants and varnishes to ensure good air quality was not compromised.

Judge’s Comment
‘Arcadia Nursery is inspiring in its imaginative use of wood throughout the building, using Cross-Laminated Timber and wood cladding for its structure and external finish. The wood interior provides a seamless connection with the external use of wood in the nursery playground. The result is a functional, attractive and welcoming series of spaces that provide the perfect environment for learning and play. Everyone connected with this project is to be congratulated.’
Beach House

Location: Morar
Date Completed: July 2014
Building Type: Residential (Holiday home)
Architect: Dualchas Architects
Main Contractor: AN Fraser Joinery
Timber Supplier: Russwood

The Project
The Beach House overlooks the White Sands of Morar, with the Small Isles as a scenic backdrop. To address this site’s conditions, the house consists of two stacked perpendicular volumes. The cantilevered first floor establishes a connection to the distant scenery, while the ground floor creates a focused view of the immediate surroundings. The ground floor has been sunk at entrance level giving the dwelling the appearance of a single-storey volume.

Use of Timber
The building is finished with a timber rain screen. A feature of its use in this building is the scale; the boards are sawn in half and repeated along the entirety of the facade. Rainwater run-off is controlled by a single ply membrane, set back from the bedroom windows.

White-washed internal walls provide a blank canvas for the interior, giving dominance to natural light as it is projected across all walls and mirrored on the lacquered concrete floor.

Image: Andrew Lee

GFT Cinema 3

Location: Glasgow
Date Completed: January 2014
Building Type: Cinema
Architect: NORD Architecture
Client: Glasgow Film Theatre
Main Contractor: Morris and Spottiswood
Timber Supplier: SPA Laminates

The Project
Glasgow Film Theatre, Scotland’s first art house cinema, opened in 1939. The alteration works, alongside a new entrance box office, introduced a 60-seat digital auditorium – Cinema 3.

To optimise the screening layout and to accommodate the seating, careful excavation and stripping-back works were required. A ‘box in box’ construction and tiered seating were introduced.

The approach to the internal treatment combines the demanding acoustic requirements with rich architectural expression. The palette of materials reflects the original design, including brass, bronze mirror, sustainably sourced Teak and terrazzo.

Use of Timber
Timber appears throughout in structural elements, solid balustrade and railings, veneered paneling and furniture.

Local wood manufacturing expertise allowed for precision. An independent structure was formed using a timber joist portal frame. The new timber acoustic ‘hood’, with celebrated Teak-edge trims, defines the room, concealing all equipment, lighting and ventilation components. Bespoke leather seats with Teak backings were designed in collaboration with the Glasgow Film Theatre.

Image: Dapple Photography
Highland Steading

Location: Perthshire
Date Completed: January 2014
Building Type: Residential
Architect: Marcus Lee and cameronwebster architects
Main Contractor: W.H Brown Ltd, Dundee; Hadden Construction Ltd, Perthshire
Timber Supplier: Siberian Larch - Russwood, Oak flooring - Havwoods

The Project
This project comprised the demolition of a Victorian farmhouse and reconfiguration of the surrounding steading to create a series of spaces to accommodate family and friends for holidays.

The service accommodation includes spaces for changing outerwear, boot storage and drying rooms. The large south-facing public rooms are linked by an interconnected group of rooms formed by sliding doors. The bedrooms are accessed by a grand stair and, at each turn, a view is captured through carefully placed windows.

Use of Timber
Externally, vertical Siberian Larch cladding contrasts with the adjacent stone wall. Construction is timber frame, with engineered timber beams for cantilevers.

The materiality of the service spaces is simple with vertical untreated Larch. Internal timber boarding to core areas is painted softwood, which is mirrored in the vertically clad central separating cores of pantry, storage and cloakroom. The games room interior is clad in Beech ply, and the internal flooring and stair is wide Oak-engineered board with a white-wash oil finish.

Image: Dapple Photography

Rosefield

Location: Portobello, Edinburgh
Date Completed: April 2014
Building Type: Residential
Architect: A449 LTD
Client: Format Scotland Ltd
Main Contractor: Truebuild Trade Services Ltd
Timber Supplier: International Timber

The Project
This refurbishment and extension of a small stable/coach house sought to save, and sympathetically extend, a deteriorating property. Respecting the character of the building was a priority.

This intervention reinstated the original opening to create a front door, reinforcing the existing building as the dominant element and rationalising the internal hierarchy. Principal rooms are accessed from a central hallway, making the most of the narrow original space.

Use of Timber
Materiality was a key consideration. The architects wanted to retain the existing brickwork but believed another material would give the extension a clear identity.

Larch cladding was chosen to distinguish new elements and reference timber stable doors that formed a portion of the building’s principal elevation. The building was also used as a coal merchant’s yard, and the blackening of the timber loosely reflects this. Scorching also increases the longevity of the Larch, while highlighting the patterns and texture of the wood grain.

Image: Matthew Johnson
Maggie’s Lanarkshire

Location: Airdrie, North Lanarkshire
Date Completed: September 2014
Building Type: Health
Architect: Reiach and Hall Architects
Client: Maggie’s Cancer Caring Centre
Contract Value: £1.8M
Main Contractor: John Dennis Ltd
Timber Supplier: John Dennis Ltd

The Project

Garden walls conceal a modest, low building that gathers together a sequence of domestic-scaled spaces. Visitors enter a quiet, simple space defined by a low brick wall and two trees.

The building plan is perforated with four sheltered courts, intimate external rooms embedded in the plan. Metal light catchers above these spaces reflect sunlight onto the floor. A simple, repetitive framed structure allows for spaces to either open up to the central sequence of public rooms or close down to create private moments. The journey through the building emerges into a walled garden.

Use of Timber

All joinery is bespoke. A simple steel-framed structure disciplines this plan by creating a forest of slender columns. This is in-filled in timber, creating a fine gridded canopy, which spans between the columns, strengthening the idea of a forest canopy overhead.

The timber material palette is muted – blonde Finnish Birch to walls, limed Oak to floors and white-stained Pine to ceilings.

Image: David Grandorge

Theatre Royal

Location: Glasgow
Date Completed: December 2014
Building Type: Theatre
Architect: Page\Park
Client: Scottish Opera
Main Contractor: Sir Robert McAlpine
Timber Supplier: Sheet materials - Lathams; solid Birch - Bryceland Total Timber Solutions; specialist joinery manufactured by Scottish Opera’s joinery workshop and Alex Forsyth Ltd joinery assisted with installation.

The Project

This project focused on the audience's journey from 'street to seat' through an improved approach, entrance, and intuitive wayfinding. The demolition of the former café building made way for a dramatic extension addressing the street corner. The aim was to 'democratise' the theatre experience with the creation of a single central staircase rising through all levels.

Use of Timber

A large part of the interior palette is Birch ply, chosen to add warmth to the exposed concrete frame. Suspended Birch ply ceilings follow the elliptical geometry, carefully integrating acoustic panels and recessed lighting, while hiding cabling and services.

Perimeter ‘vent boxes’ are positioned between structural columns. Constructed from Birch ply and solid Birch, they contain natural ventilation intakes, the heating system, and function as drinks shelves and exhibition displays. Also clad in Birch ply is the sculptural self-supporting stair, each panel individually cut and shaped to follow the structural steel beneath. Scottish Opera’s joiners manufactured these elements to extremely tight tolerances.

Image: Andrew Lee
Blakeburn

Location: Roxburghshire
Date Completed: September 2015
Building Type: Residential
Architect: A449 LTD
Client: Anna Karczewska
Main Contractor: Ainslie Contracting Ltd
Timber Supplier: Rembrand Timber Ltd

The Project

Originally a non-descript mid-20th century dwelling, Blakeburn cottage was completely overhauled and extended to create a unique and elegant home in a rural location.

The visual impact of creating a larger building on this prominent site was minimised by referencing the simple gable form of the existing building and utilising a restrained, sympathetic material palette. The entire building was over clad in scorched Larch, allowing it to blend perfectly into the woods to the east of the site.

The client works from home so the internal arrangement was conceived as a series of cellular spaces particular to their daily activities. To the east end of the building, the writer’s studio has picture windows to view the morning light filtering through the woods. The kitchen and dining space to the west capture the late afternoon and evening sun. A corridor links the rooms, running the length of the north elevation.

Use of Timber

A449 LTD formed the extension to Blakeburn cottage from a softwood frame with rigid insulation between and across the studs, while the existing building was stripped out and relined to form a completely insulated timber frame.

The external cladding is formed from open-jointed vertical Larch battens, reverse-fixed through a horizontal cross Larch batten. This forms a panel that is then lifted into place and fixed through gaps to a sub frame fixed to the timber kit structure. Having no visible fixings contributes to the aesthetic.

Scorching Larch emphasises the grain in the timber, accentuating the individuality of each piece, but it also seals in the extracts in the wood that resist decay. The natural preservatives in the wood were supplemented with a clear UV lacquer to further increase durability and longevity of appearance. The use of timber here truly complements the cottage’s environment.

Judge’s Comment

‘The winning project demonstrates a good use of a combination of timber products from the structural timber frame to the hardwood flooring and scorched-Larch cladding finishes. The use of scorched Scottish Larch cladding, with very good detailing for both the external finish of the house and garage, and its use as an internal feature as a part screen for a full-length window, makes a very innovative connection with the adjacent woodland.’
Laggan Locks

Location: North Laggan
Date Completed: February 2016
Building Type: Tourism/Leisure
Architect: Sean Douglas and Gavin Murray
Client: Scottish Canals
Main Contractor: A.N. Joinery
Timber Supplier: Rembrand Timber Ltd

The Project
This unique ‘stopping off’ point at Laggan Locks on the Caledonian Canal allows visitors travelling the Great Glen Way to engage with Loch Lochy and its woodland surroundings.

The simple sheltered space includes a café/kiosk and toilet/shower facilities, separated but unified by one roof to create a covered platform within the structure.

Camping pods share silhouette-like forms with the café, eroded and sculpted from cubic volumes and identically clad to create an architectural family on the canal side.

Use of Timber
Concrete slabs form the solid foundation for these otherwise entirely timber structures.

Timber cassette wall panels, reflecting the character of the project and its setting, were prefabricated in Glasgow then assembled on site.

The charred Larch exterior cladding, carried over to the roof, creates a unified form and provides a protective envelope for the building. And a traditional charring process ensures sustainability and durability. White-stained timber cladding to the interior provides a stark contrast, reminiscent of typical monochromatic canal architecture, and an easily maintainable finish.

Image: David McKenna

Forsinard Lookout Tower

Location: Sutherland
Date Completed: May 2015
Building Type: Tourism/Leisure
Architect: Icosis Architects
Client: The Peatland Partnership
Main Contractor: O’Brien Construction
Timber Supplier: Forestry Commission Scotland

The Project
Commissioned to provide visitors views across the Dubh Lochan peat bogs, pools and the Forsinard Flows, this tower introduces peatland habitat conservation to mitigate climate change. It is also a destination for stargazing.

The organic form is clad in untreated, locally sourced timber, the design concept providing a blank elevation to the road and opening up at two levels to provide focused views across the landscape.

To minimise disruption to the peat, all main materials were delivered by helicopter and the construction was built off hollow piles driven to a solid base below the surface. The ground floor is raised to mitigate carbon dioxide build up.

Use of Timber
Untreated Scottish Larch is used as hit-and-miss battens, cladding the timber and steel structure inside and out. Larger battens are used externally, smaller internally, with different gaps for subtle demarcation. Matching battens form a handrail and a bench.

Non-slip Scottish Larch boarding is used for upper viewing decks. The ground floor finish is Caithness stone.

Image: Maciej Winiarczyk
**The Pyramid Viewpoint**

**Location:** Inveruglas  
**Date Completed:** May 2015  
**Building Type:** Tourism/Leisure  
**Architect:** BTE Architecture  
**Main Contractor:** Land Engineering  
**Timber Supplier:** Russwood

**The Project**
This viewpoint is located on a peninsula overlooking Loch Lomond. Its form is a triangular platform positioned at the end of a long curved path. It is first seen as a narrow vertical stack among the trees, with a glimpse towards the loch visible through a long narrow tunnel, marking the viewpoint entrance.

Having passed through this entrance and then looking back, the viewpoint manifests itself as a steep rising platform, accessed by steps going up and around the perimeter of the form. Benches, between the steps, create the central core.

**Use of Timber**
The sculptural character of this project is strengthened by using a single material. Both walls and the horizontal steps and benches are finished with a vertical timber rain screen. Its bold appearance contrasts with, and complements, the various greens of its natural surroundings, and the usable enclosure of the structure invites the visitor to have a seat on a warm tactile material.

Images: Andrew Lee

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**The Saunders Centre**

**Location:** Glasgow  
**Date Completed:** August 2015  
**Building Type:** Education  
**Architect:** Page\Park  
**Client:** The Glasgow Academy  
**Main Contractor:** Dunne Group Building & Civil Engineering

**The Project**
This new building, in a conservation area, includes an auditorium and support facilities. Surmounting a ground floor of teaching and catering spaces, is a floor each for Physics, Biology and Chemistry. Upper-floor labs are arranged along a glazed break-out area and bay-windowed passage overlooking the historic main school.

The reinforced concrete structural frame is clad in a pattern of precast polished finishes. This modular assembly rises from a ground-floor, pilaster-faced open foyer, through a sequence of bay windows to a reinterpretation of the Glasgow dormer.

**Use of Timber**
The ground floor was intended to have a warm, natural, civic feel complementing views to the courtyard garden. The auditorium exterior walls are clad with vertical timber slats, improving the foyer acoustics. Built-in seating and exhibition panels use matching timber.

Auditorium walls are lined with absorbent-slatted acoustic and veneer-faced plywood panels. Plywood veneer continues up the main stair walls, bringing the timber aesthetic throughout. All timber is solid Oak or Oak-veneer finished with a matt chalky white lacquer.

Image: Andrew Lee
Aberdeen Society of Architects

**New Weaver’s Studio (The Colour Bothy)**

Location: Aberdeenshire  
Architect: Glen A Strachan Architect  
Client: Mr and Mrs Rose  
Main Contractor: R&B Joinery (Grampian) Ltd  
Timber Supplier: Russwood

This studio, adjacent to a traditional farm steading, creates a sheltered courtyard garden. The clients were keen to use timber, so the building is timber framed with the Glulam structure expressed. Brightly stained Scottish Larch has been used for cladding – along with Siberian Larch which clads the service pod. The main studio is located in the north of the building, with glazing and a veranda for outdoor working. Clerestory glazing introduces sunlight from the south.

Image: Stuart Johnstone Photography

Dundee Institute of Architects

**Tudor Cottage in the grounds of Methven Castle**

Location: Perthshire  
Architect: Murdoch CA  
Client: Methven Castle  
Main Contractor: Carpenter Oak and Woodland  
Timber Supplier: Carpenter Oak and Woodland

Built in the sheltered walled garden of Methven Castle, the Tudor Cottage reflects the history of the site. An exposed Oak frame, held together by projecting Oak dowels, is the structural support. Oak is also used as a flooring material. Externally, timber is apparent in the Cedar cladding used alongside Duke’s sandstone, chosen for its similarity to Perthshire Sandstone. The cottage is well insulated and heating is provided by a wood-burning stove and a gas boiler.

Images: Murdoch CA
Edinburgh Architectural Association

**Chapel of St Albert the Great**

*Location: Edinburgh*  
*Architect: Simpson and Brown*  
*Client: University Chaplaincy and Friary for The Order of Preachers, the Dominican Order*  
*Main Contractor: Ashwood (Scotland) Ltd*  
*Timber Supplier: Various*

This chapel, in the garden of a townhouse, provides a functional and accessible space for peace and worship. Materials chosen connect it to its natural setting. Four tree-like Corten Steel columns support a curved, Oak-lined roof. The vaulted roof is formed and shaped by two parallel timber beams. Oak is used extensively in the interior: the foyer formed by untreated oak frames; Oak-veneered plywood providing a structural skin; handmade Oak benches, chairs and choir stalls; and engineered floorboards.

*Image: Chris Humphreys*

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Glasgow Institute of Architects

**East Whins, Eco Village**

*Location: Findhorn*  
*Architect: John Gilbert Architects*  
*Client: Duneland Ltd*  
*Main Contractor: Kier Construction*  
*Timber Supplier: Cladding and Sundry Timber - Russwood; Scottish Timber Frame - Stewart Milne Timber Systems; Cross-Laminated Timber Floors – MM Kaufmann*

This project is a mixture of two-bedroom flats and two- and three-bedroom houses, designed with community involvement. Scottish timber was used for both structure and cladding, with Cross-Laminated Timber for the intermediate floor sourced from Germany. Passive solar design is at the heart of the development. Underfloor heating is fed by an air source heat pump and solar thermal panels. East Whins is connected to Findhorn’s wind turbine supply, making the community zero carbon.

*Image: Tom Manley Photography*

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Stirling Society of Architects

**Middlestrath Mill**

*Location: Avonbridge*  
*Architect: Arka Architects*  
*Client: Private Client*  
*Main Contractor: Crannog Construction (Stirling) Ltd*  
*Timber Supplier: JC Timber Mouldings Ltd*

This project rationalises the living area of a private dwelling by providing a dramatic new dining space. An extrusion of the existing gable, stone and white render have been used to define a robust form with Larch cladding set within the reveals of the stone walls. Oak is a main feature internally: in the staircase that wraps around a double height space; the integrated bookcase lining the ascent; the deep spindled gallery balustrade; and the shutters integrated into the window reveals.

*Image: Douglas Gibb*
Dundee Institute of Architects

3 Old Orchard

Location: Kirkton of Craig, Montrose
Architect: Garry Adam Architect
Main Contractor: D.B Christie, Carnoustie
Timber Supplier: Russwood

This project forms part of a bespoke development of four low-energy houses located within a walled garden just outside Montrose. 3 Old Orchard – a new house with a separate home studio – uses the curved-roof form of local barns as a basis for its innovative design. The building has large south-facing windows to take advantage of solar gains, a well-insulated building fabric, and uses a biomass system for heating and hot water.

Image: Neil Verow

Edinburgh Architectural Association

Helix Cafe Pavilion

Location: Falkirk
Architect: Keppie Design
Client: The Helix Trust
Main Contractor: R J Mcleod Ltd
Timber Supplier: Russwood

The Helix Café Pavilion overlooks the lagoon in the heart of the Helix Park. Shaped to respond to surrounding elements and orientated to provide shelter from the prevailing wind, the plan wraps the accommodation around a covered seating area.

Structural Cross-Laminated Timber, used for both the walls and roof, is exposed internally. Variable-width vertical Larch cladding is used externally, concealing services. Open-jointed, Larch-clad bi-fold screens and shutters draw filtered natural light into the seating area and internal accommodation.

Image: Keppie Design and Ben Williams

Glasgow Institute of Architects

Noust Boathouse

Location: Isle of Tiree
Architect: Tog Studio
Client: Tiree Maritime Trust Main Contractor: Tog Studio
Timber Supplier: BSW Timber, James Latham, and Russwood

Noust Boathouse was delivered as part of a live-build summer school, teaching practical skills and providing hands-on experience. Robust and lightweight, the Boathouse utilises a plywood box portal frame structure, imagined as an upturned boat. The structural solution was designed to be constructed by hand and showcase the qualities of Scottish timber.

Structural components were prefabricated off-site, accelerating construction time and improving accuracy. Siberian Larch cladding was charred to create a dramatic colour and brushed to bring out the wood grain texture.

Image: Sebb Hathaway
Inverness Architectural Association

Ben Wyvis Primary School

**Location:** Conon Bridge, Inverness-shire  
**Architect:** The Highland Council  
**Client:** The Highland Council  
**Main Contractor:** Barr Construction  
**Timber Supplier:** Russwood

Ben Wyvis Primary School encompasses the Highland traditions of building robustly with the materials you have, or those that can be acquired and transported cheaply.

The school’s steading arrangement forms an open courtyard, inviting sunlight and providing wind protection. The building was assembled efficiently using a cross section common to locally available timber-frame construction. Clad in stainless steel, contrasting vertical timber recessed cladding creates sheltered areas. Classrooms clad in Cedar shingles provide a soft contrast and alternative texture.

Image: Chris Humphreys

Stirling Society of Architects

South Doll Farmhouse

**Location:** South Doll, by Airth  
**Architect:** The Pollock Hammond Partnership  
**Client:** Mr and Mrs L. Dick  
**Main Contractor:** Hannigan Construction Ltd  
**Timber Supplier:** Oak Buildings Stirling Ltd

The semi-derelict agricultural steading at South Doll Farm was restored and converted into a single house. The main building was retained, the collapsed octagonal horsemill reconstructed, and two single-storey extensions added.

Timber-framed and insulated inner leafs are used in both the existing and new-build structures. The horsemill’s roof structure and the frame of the new sunroom were constructed in green Oak. Traditional hardwood sash and case windows and glazed screens have been installed throughout, with Oak used for doors.

Image: The Pollock Hammond Partnership
Aberdeen Society of Architects

Portsoy Boatbuilding Centre

**Location:** Portsoy, Aberdeenshire  
**Architect:** Brown + Brown  
**Client:** The Scottish Traditional Boat Festival  
**Main Contractor:** G&K Construction  
**Plywood Supplier:** Bsp Timber

This project comprises a modern timber building, slipped inside a reconstructed stone skin. Due to the historic harbour setting, no new openings were permitted, resulting in natural light entering via a ridge roof light.

Volunteers played a large part in the project, and partially constructed the building. Timber internal linings were selected because the client body are boatbuilders, expert at working with timber. The panels can be unscrewed and replaced at a later date, enabling customisation and repair by the client.

Image: Nigel Rigden

Dundee Institute of Architects

National Nature Reserve Visitor Facility

**Location:** Isle Of May, Firth Of Forth  
**Architect:** James F Stephen Architects  
**Client:** Scottish Natural Heritage  
**Main Contractor:** Kdm Shopfitting Ltd  
**Timber Supplier:** Glulam Solutions Ltd

The Isle of May National Nature Reserve is of great importance for its seabird and seal colonies. The design is deliberately low and horizontal to sit comfortably within its surroundings, minimising the visual impact on the landscape. The character of the structure is emphasised by the exposed timber and glass. Ultimately, the centre provides a high-quality visitor experience, offering not only essential facilities but a unique vantage point to observe the spectacular wildlife unobtrusively.

Image: James F Stephen Architects

Stirling Society of Architects

21 Frobisher Avenue

**Location:** Falkirk  
**Architect:** Arka Architects  
**Client:** Mr and Mrs Beattie  
**Timber Supplier:** Beatsons

This project entails the comprehensive upgrade of a 1960s house to create a modern family home. The house was stripped back to the original brickwork and extended with an ‘L’ shaped rear extension of glass, brick and timber slats.

Scots Larch vertical slats break up the linear nature of the elevation and offer a rich warmth, contrasting with the muted render and brick. Areas of slats were taken across windows to enable the rich tone and texture to be felt internally.

Image: Arka Architects
Curated by Architecture and Design Scotland, Scotland’s champion for architecture and the built environment, on behalf of Forestry Commission Scotland and Wood for Good.

Design: James Cargill / Production: Eastern

If you want to view samples, or find out more about the timber technologies in this publication you can visit:

**Material Considerations: A Library of Sustainable Building Materials**
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