

With the plaudits bestowed by The Herald Property Awards now held in such high esteem by the industry, category sponsorship is viewed as a prestigious honour

**T**HE Herald Property Awards for Scotland in association with Burness Paull are the most coveted by every developer in the country, they have become recognised by house buyers as a mark of excellence in new property design.

There are 14 separate categories in this year's awards, aimed at everything from one-off individual designs to large-scale developments – and two of the most hotly-contested categories are those that cater for family buyers.

Just as no two families are identical, neither are the homes designed to meet their needs but in both categories the judges will be looking for affordability, good value for money and homes that meet the needs of a family with both young and older children. Adaptability will be a key criterion, along with space saving ideas, safety and the convenience of a well-located property that has been designed and built with the family in mind.

The award for Best Family Home for developers building more than 50 units per year is sponsored by Peace Recruitment, an independent recruitment company specialising in the construction, property and engineering sectors. Chris Peace, managing director, said: "We are delighted to be sponsoring The Herald Property Awards for the first time and further endorsing our support for the property and construction industry. We look forward to seeing all the nominees for the prestigious award ceremony, especially those for Best Family Home."

The Best Family Home award for developers building less than 50 units per year is sponsored by Lowther Homes, part of Wheatley Group, and Lowther Director Gillian Lavety said: "We're delighted to be part of The Herald Property Awards this year. One of our key priorities at Wheatley Group, our parent organisation, is increasing the supply of affordable, quality housing for people in our communities."

"At Lowther, we are building – in partnership with our sister organisations such as GHA and Cube – a range of homes for mid-market and full market rent. These are proving very popular with our customers. But we are always keen to learn from what has been successful in other developments. There is no better way to do that than through these awards, which recognise and celebrate the most innovative work in the property sector in Scotland."

"The rental market in Scotland is very buoyant and demand is high for good quality affordable homes in communities that people want to live in."

"Location is really important, as people are staying in their tenancies for longer. In our experience, our customers are telling us they are delighted with the quality of homes we provide in great locations with good transport links and local facilities."

"There is also a high demand for affordable homes for families of all shapes and sizes. Our recent development in Croftfoot was a great example of supplying family homes at an affordable rent in a desirable location. It proved so popular that people were queuing round the block to snap them up as soon as they became available. We are doing all we can to build new developments and sustain communities where people want to live and raise their families."

It is not just brand new homes that are in

line for plaudits – the Best Renovation / Conversion category recognises enterprising development or sympathetic conversation of dated or derelict properties which retain the best features of the original building while creating a modern home appropriate to 21st century living. In considering the contenders for the Individual New Build or Small Development award, the judges will choose a winner based on the quality of design, layout, location, features, specification and energy efficiency.

Meanwhile, the Best Regeneration Project will recognise a development of any scale or size, in either the public or private sector, which revitalises a dilapidated building, housing schemes or town centre. Here the jury will be looking for innovative use of brown field sites as well as architectural design and consideration for green issues, as well as clear evidence that the project has a positive impact on those who live and work there.

This category is sponsored by Scotland's Towns Partnership, which was established by the Scottish Government in 2014 as the national "go-to" agency – offering funding, support, advice, evidence and guidance for town centres.

Phil Prentice, Chief Officer of STP said "The Herald Property Awards is one of our most prestigious awards ceremonies; it provides us with a national platform to showcase the best property and regeneration projects across Scotland, and to reward those whose efforts improve our towns and communities. STP recognises the strength and quality of The Herald brand and welcomes the opportunity to work together to make Scotland stronger."

"With 69 per cent of our population and more than half our jobs and businesses in towns and villages, our main purpose is to declutter a complex landscape, provide clear leadership and to start building new collaborations and approaches to get towns delivering their future sustainable visions. We have direct contact with 130 strategic bodies (members), 250 professional sector agency contacts, 7,000 key towns contacts, 34 BIDs and 22 under development, 479 towns and reach to 4m of the population and growing."

"We are Scotland's largest towns' collective, representing and promoting the diversity of our towns and places, and supporting those organisations and groups that have an interest in or ownership of them. Our deep-rooted knowledge of the towns landscape and our extensive range of services support the Scottish Government's ongoing commitment to secure a positive future for Scotland's towns."

"Our work ensures better informed policy makers, more effective practitioners, better connected governance mechanisms, better value investment decisions, and critically, more sustainable and attractive towns across Scotland."

"We are tasked by Scottish Government to support delivery of the Town Centre Action Plan and promote Scotland's Town Centre First Principle. This principle applies to decisions taken by those in central and local government as well as national agencies and public bodies."

"Alongside the Scottish Government, we wish to encourage new town centre development which simultaneously raises the standard of urban design, supports a range of activities and generates positive economic and community benefit for the local area."



**HISTORIC REINVENTION:** Last year's ward for Best Renovation / Conversion was presented by Alison Glen of Barham Glen Architects to Morgan McDonnell Architecture for their project at 53-57 Queen Street, Edinburgh, left and above.



## This year's categories

### BEST SHOW HOME

SPONSORED BY DAW SIGNS

Design and style that is appropriate for the property and its potential purchasers. Judges will be looking for a design scheme which enhances the home's interior space. Style, colour, fabrics, fixtures and fittings and unusual features are some of the qualities being rewarded.

### BEST LUXURY HOME – FOR DEVELOPERS BUILDING MORE THAN 50 UNITS PER YEAR

SPONSORED BY ROSS AND LIDDELL

This category rewards spacious and stylish properties at the top end of the market. Design, quality of finish, landscaping, fixtures and fittings and location will be combined to create a spacious and well-designed home in the ideal location.

### BEST FAMILY HOME – FOR DEVELOPERS BUILDING MORE THAN 50 UNITS PER YEAR

SPONSORED BY PEACE RECRUITMENT

Affordability, good value for money and meeting the needs of a family with both young and older children are key criteria in this category. Judges will be looking for adaptability, space saving ideas, safety and convenience in a well located property that has been designed and built with the family in mind.

### BEST FAMILY HOME – FOR DEVELOPERS BUILDING LESS THAN 50 UNITS PER YEAR

SPONSORED BY LOWTHER HOMES, PART OF WHEATLEY GROUP

Affordability, good value for money and meeting the needs of a family with both young and older children are key criteria in this category. Judges will be looking for adaptability, space saving ideas, safety and convenience in a well located property that has been designed and built with the family in mind.

### BEST APARTMENT

This category will reward a single, one-off building or scheme comprising apartments. Judges will consider the layout, design, storage, built-in features and interior specification and target market. The apartment should offer flexible living and convenience and successfully meet the needs of the target market.

### BEST RENOVATION / CONVERSION

This recognises enterprising development or sympathetic conversation of a dated or derelict property which retains the best features of the original building while creating a modern home appropriate to 21st century living. Judges will consider the exterior and interior appearance as well as interesting adaptation of original features.

### INDIVIDUAL NEW BUILD OR SMALL DEVELOPMENT

An individual new build property or small development (maximum of 10 units) in any style and setting will be rewarded in this category. Entries will be judged on the quality of design, layout, location, features and specification and energy efficiency.

### BEST REGENERATION PROJECT

SPONSORED BY SCOTLAND'S TOWNS PARTNERSHIP

Open to projects of all scales as well as public and private sector firms and partnerships, examples of such projects could include the regeneration of dilapidated buildings, housing schemes or town centres. Entries should show innovative use of brown field sites as well as architectural design and consideration for green issues. They should demonstrate value for money and how the area has been revitalised for those who live and work there.

### PROPERTY TEAM OF THE YEAR

SPONSORED BY SPACE AND TIME MEDIA

This category will reward an outstanding sales, marketing, construction or management team within the property development industry. This could also be a supplier to the industry who can demonstrate great success. Judges will be looking for evidence on how the team has distinguished itself from the competition and how their efforts have contributed to the overall company's success.

### RESIDENTIAL SALES TEAM OF THE YEAR

Buying and selling property is recognised as one of the more stressful activities in life. A good sales team can do much to ease the stress as well as achieving a successful outcome for all parties. This category will reward an outstanding sales team in the residential market. Judges will be looking for evidence of how the team has distinguished itself from the competition and how their efforts have contributed to the delivery of a high quality, cost effective service to buyers and sellers alike. Innovation and commitment to the industry are also important.

### RESIDENTIAL LETTING TEAM OF THE YEAR

SPONSORED BY SAFEDEPOSITS SCOTLAND

An active private sector letting market is now a recognised feature of the Scottish property market. A good lettings team can do much to not only achieve lettings but manage the tenancy to achieve a successful outcome for all parties. This category will reward an outstanding letting team in the residential market. Judges will be looking for evidence of how the team has distinguished itself from the competition and how their efforts have contributed to the delivery of a high quality, cost effective service to landlords and tenants alike. Innovation and commitment to the industry are also important.

### AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT OF THE YEAR

This category is open to registered social housing providers, charity, trust or public body in partnership with a local authority and/or a developer for rent and/or shared ownership. The judges will be looking for evidence of how the development has impacted positively on the lives of local residents and contributed towards the regeneration of the area. Consideration will be given to the use of sustainable materials and green building techniques, as well as the development's impact on the local environment.

### COMMERCIAL PROJECT OF THE YEAR

SPONSORED BY BURNESS PAULL

The aim of this category is to recognise a commercial property which meets the needs of its target market. Open to projects of all sizes and scales as well as both public and private sector companies and partnerships. This could be a new build, renovation or fit out project. Entries should show innovative use of materials and building techniques as well as architectural design and consideration for green issues. Entries will be judged on how well the property meets the needs of its target market along with the quality of design, layout, location, features, specification and energy efficiency.

### DEVELOPMENT OF THE YEAR

SUPPORTED BY SCOTLAND'S HOMES

Site layout, design, range of house types and local amenities are key criteria in this category. Judges will be looking for a development which has been carefully planned to make the most of its location, resulting in a pleasant and desirable place.

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Closing date: **Friday, June 3**

To enter The Herald Property Awards for Scotland 2016 in association with Burness Paull, download a form from [www.herald-events.com/propertyawards/](http://www.herald-events.com/propertyawards/) or contact Claire Hunter on 0141 302 7319 or email [claire.hunter@heraldandtimes.co.uk](mailto:claire.hunter@heraldandtimes.co.uk).

Closing date for entries is Friday, June 3, 2016.