

16.06.11

RIBA Awards 2011



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Houses

The longlist for the RIBA Manser Medal 2011



Nearly one in five RIBA Awards were given to the architects of one-off houses this year. Two of them, the *Shingle House* and *Balancing Barn*, were designed for philosopher Alain de Botton and his *Living Architecture* programme. These had the luxury of large (undisclosed) budgets, but few others struggled with tight budgets. The *Hampstead Lane* refurbishment for example, weighs in at £2,500 per square metre. For sheer romanticism, one project stands out: the *White House on the Isle of Coll* by WT Architecture. The most interesting however, is Marsh:Grochowski's *Meat Factory*, a low-carbon exemplar with no fridge and no oven required. RORY OLCAYTO

1 THE MEAT FACTORY MARSH:GROCHOWSKI ARCHITECTS

CLIENT: Julian and Judy Marsh
 CONTRACT VALUE: £500,000, £2,252/m²
 CITATION: The Meat Factory is a domestic experiment in sustainable living, located in a deprived area of Nottingham and occupied by the architect owner who is practising what he preaches. The house will no doubt act as a catalyst for change and increase awareness of sustainable issues in the neighbourhood. See AJ 10.03.11 and AJBuildingsLibrary.co.uk
 EAST MIDLANDS

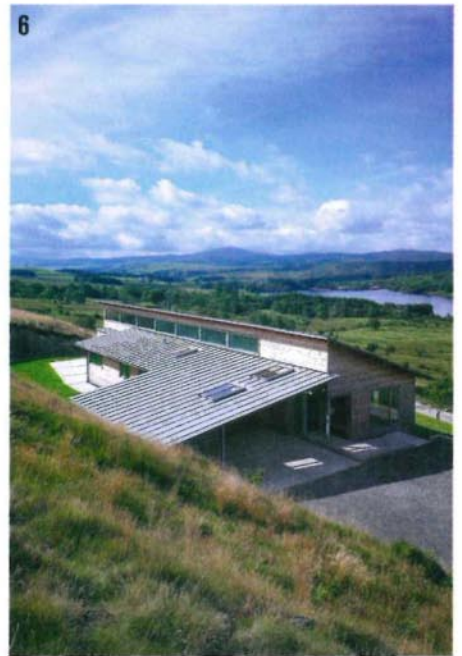
2 HOXTON HOUSE DAVID MIKHAIL ARCHITECTS

CLIENT: Private
 CONTRACT VALUE: £200,000, £1,612/m²
 CITATION: The lower-ground and ground floors have been unified by the addition of a double-height extension, just one metre deep. This has allowed the ground floor to be pulled away from the existing rear wall, uniting both floors with a double-height volume. There is a delightful sense of space and light. See AJBuildingsLibrary.co.uk
 LONDON



5 CARNATHAN LANE TWENTY TWO OVER SEVEN

CLIENT: Robert and Bernie Service
 CONTRACT VALUE: £330,000, £943/m²
 CITATION: Retaining the memory of the Donaghadee site's former 1970s house, the design features a thoughtful plan phrased within a fresh interpretation of a Celtic vernacular. Detailing is consistent, robust and thoroughly executed throughout, while the use of porcelain stone floors and oak gives Carnathan Lane a sense of quality that belies its modest budget.
 NORTHERN IRELAND



3 SHADOW HOUSE LIDDICOAT & GOLDHILL

CLIENT: David Liddicoat and Sophie Goldhill
 CONTRACT VALUE: £210,000, £2,658/m²
 CITATION: A thoughtful, rigorous, inspirational house on a tight site built with a limited budget. It's rich and inviting, with a sense of durability that will mellow the house with age. The backdrop to the intimate living area is a picture window onto a miniature courtyard. This is minimum scale, maximum effect.
 See AJBuildingsLibrary.co.uk LONDON

4 STRANGE HOUSE HUGH STRANGE ARCHITECTS

CLIENT: Hugh Strange and Adriana Ferlauto
 CONTRACT VALUE: £160,000, £2,133/m²
 CITATION: This enduringly likeable house is dropped into a tight housing hinterland, surrounded by backs and boundaries. Above a highly glazed timber-framed base sits a set-back upper tier clad in profiled rigid board. This industrial-looking top gives a sense of historic continuity of use, belying the function and sophistication of the concealed base. See AJBuildingsLibrary.co.uk LONDON

6 THE HOUL SIMON WINSTANLEY ARCHITECTS

CLIENT: Simon Winstanley
 CONTRACT VALUE: £306,000, £1,654/m²
 CITATION: This elegant single-storey zero-carbon 'long house' commands wide views over the surrounding countryside of Castle Douglas, its roof plane following the line of the hillside, reducing the building's impact. Walls are highly insulated timber-framed panels clad in cedar weatherboarding. Detailing throughout is immaculate, with particularly light and spacious interiors.
 See AJBuildingsLibrary.co.uk SCOTLAND

11



13



12



11 BLUE DOOR HALL AND BEDNARCZYK ARCHITECTS

CLIENT: Mr and Mrs M Milling
 CONTRACT VALUE: £430,000, £1,680/m²
 CITATION: This new-build dwelling for a retired couple is cut into a steep elevated site in the Wye Valley. Clad in oxidised copper-coated ceramic tiles and horizontal cedar boarding, the building is a confident piece of architecture that has provided the clients with a visually quiet and delightfully understated home.
 See AJBuildingsLibrary.co.uk
 WALES

12 TY-HEDFAN FEATHERSTONE YOUNG ARCHITECTS

CLIENT: Jeremy Young and Sarah Featherstone
 CONTRACT VALUE: £550,000, £2,300/m²
 CITATION: Mimicking a traditional Welsh long house, Ty-Hedfan (which means 'hovering house' in Welsh) cantilevers over its site to avoid the planning constraint of not building within seven metres of a river. The design also features a striking nine metre tall dry-stone wall with generous full-height glazing and intriguingly detailed interiors. See 14.04.11 and AJBuildingsLibrary.co.uk
 WALES

13 NEW MISSION HALL ADAM RICHARDS ARCHITECTS

CLIENT: Nicholas Taylor and Dean Wheeler
 CONTRACT VALUE: Not disclosed
 CITATION: On the site of a sunken Baptist chapel in West Sussex, two slim offset buildings are joined by the house's entrance and stair. The lower level is solid, secure and cave-like, with black stone, white brick barrel-vaults and oak cupboards. The upper floor is airy and light, with four-metre windows in deep reveals. A beautiful design for a difficult site; simultaneously complex and simple.
 SOUTH EAST



14

16 BALANCING BARN
MVRDV WITH MOLE ARCHITECTS

CLIENT: Living Architecture
 CONTRACT VALUE: Not disclosed
 CITATION: The holiday home was designed as one of Alain de Botton's Living Architecture projects. The walls, floors and ceilings give a carved quality to the interior, cleverly at odds with the visual cues that remind visitors they are suspended in mid air. The overall composition evokes peaceful feelings of obscure but pleasurable unease. See AJ 21.10.10 and AJBuildingsLibrary.co.uk
 EAST



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16



17

14 HAMPSTEAD LANE
DUGGAN MORRIS ARCHITECTS

CLIENT: Private
 CONTRACT VALUE: £500,000, £2,500/m²
 CITATION: A self-built structure with compromised spaces has been transformed into a delightful house that truly lifts the spirits. The character and qualities of the original Brutalist structure remain intact, taking on an altogether different quality when set against the sensitive interventions that define the project. This has evidently been a labour of love. See AJ 17.02.11 and AJBuildingsLibrary.co.uk
 LONDON

15 LOVE SHACK
SUTHERLAND HUSSEY ARCHITECTS

CLIENT: Karen Guthrie and Adam Sutherland
 CONTRACT VALUE: £100,805, £2,458/m²
 CITATION: This rural retreat is an essay in doing much with very little. It is a highly skilled architectural piece that demonstrates how a small domestic residence might touch the earth lightly. This building works with its locale by preserving what is there, and exploiting for pleasure the local Lake District resource of timber, topography and views. See AJBuildingsLibrary.co.uk
 NORTH WEST

17 BAVENT HOUSE
HUDSON ARCHITECTS

CLIENT: Lucy and Richard Turvill
 CONTRACT VALUE: £600,000, £2,069/m²
 CITATION: The success of *Grand Designs* has spawned a new generation of would-be housebuilders who are prepared to fight the planners to create their dream homes in idyllic rural settings. This home is part of the local Suffolk vernacular, a mix of timber and metal cladding expressed through a series of pitched forms that could easily have been modified over time. See *AJS* May 2011 and AJBuildingsLibrary.co.uk
 EAST