

Unprecedented sixth BALI Grand Award for Willerby Landscapes

Written by Luke

Tuesday, 06 December 2016 16:24 -



Today (2nd December) at the 40th BALI National Landscape Awards, BALI Registered Contractor Willerby Landscapes took the Grand Award for an unprecedented sixth time. This incredible achievement recognised the work carried out by the leading landscape contractor on the regeneration of King's Cross, London.

Held annually at London's Grosvenor House in Park Lane the BALI National Landscape Awards, in association with Horticulture Week and headline sponsor Green-tech, recognise excellence in landscape design, construction and maintenance, and Affiliate customer service, achieved by registered members of the British Association of Landscape Industries (BALI). 127 entries were received this year and a total of 102 awards made. This year's Awards ceremony was hosted by writer, broadcaster and former MP Gyles Brandreth, who was invited back this year to host BALI's 40th celebratory Awards after his hugely popular hosting of the Awards in 2011. In his inimitable style he addressed the audience of a record-breaking c. 950 BALI members and guests during the luncheon and joined Awards sponsors on the stage to present the Principal and Special Awards to 22 BALI members. The presentation of the Grand Award to John Melmoe, Managing Director of Willerby Landscapes, was made by headline sponsor Green-tech's Chairman, Richard Kay.

VIP guests this year included Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at Defra, The Lord Gardiner of Kimble; Co-Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Gardening and Horticulture Group, The Baroness Fookes DBE; Chief Executive of the Horticultural Trades Association, Carol Paris; Chief Executive Officer of the Landscape Institute, Daniel Cook; President of the Chartered Institute of Horticulture, Andrew Gill; and Chairman of RICS Rural Professional Group, John Lockhart.

Willerby Landscapes, who are based in Kent, were awarded the Grand Award - BALI's highest accolade - at this year's ceremony for their landscaping of the King's Cross, an area to the north of King's Cross station in London that has seen enormous investment to create a vibrant new city quarter. This mixed use development, which has sensitively incorporated some of the area's historical industrial architecture, has attracted some of the world's leading companies who have chosen to locate their headquarters there and the stunning landscaping has been instrumental in helping to market the area.

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Willerby Landscaping have once again displayed their mastery of the range of landscaping disciplines across this scheme, which is an exemplar for the landscape industry. Commenting on the company's record achievement, chair of the adjudication panel Greg Allen said: "This is a wonderful scheme, expertly executed by Willerby Landscapes. The company is, without doubt, the country's leading landscape contractor with an enviable reputation for excellence and attention to detail, which has been demonstrated yet again at King's Cross. The landscaping works were complex and challenging and it is apparent that the huge success of the scheme is down to Willerby's emotional as well as operational investment to ensure it is the best that it could possibly be. As an example of public realm landscaping it is outstanding and a worthy winner of what is Willerby's sixth BALI Grand Award. On behalf of the BALI Awards judges I offer the company, and in particular John Melmoe who has led it for 33 years, my very sincere congratulations and admiration on their achievement."

The Special Award for Design & Build was won by Northumbrian Landscaping for the second year in succession and the Affiliate Exceptional Service Award was won by Harrod UK for the third year in succession, both impressive achievements.

BALI's chosen charities - Perennial and the BALI Chalk Fund, two industry charities that exist solely to support those working across the horticulture and landscape sectors – benefitted from a collection at the event. The BALI Chalk Fund supports education and training in the landscape industry and Perennial provides support and advice to those working in the industry, and their families, at times of crisis.

2016 BALI National Landscape Awards - Grand, Special and Principal Award Winners

The 2016 Grand Award winner – sponsored by Green-tech

- Willerby Landscapes for Regeneration of King's Cross, London

The 2016 Special Award winners:

- **Design & Build – sponsored by British Sugar TOPSOIL**

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Northumbrian Landscaping for Beach Bears

- **Best Newcomer to BALI – sponsored by Wienerberger Penter**

Swinburne Horticultural Services for Wynyard Hall Rose Garden

- **Precision Civil Engineering in a Landscaping Project – presented by the BALI Chalk Fund**

Land Engineering (Scotland) for The Maze, Dumfries House, Ayrshire

The 2016 Principal Award winners are:

- **Domestic Garden Construction - cost under £30k – sponsored by Ground Control**
Northumbrian Landscaping for Beach Bears

- **Domestic Garden Construction - cost between £30k – £60k – sponsored by Green-tech**

The Cotswold Garden Company for Private Residence in Hatherop

- **Domestic Garden Construction - cost between £60k – £100k – sponsored by Johnsons of Whixley**

Landscaping Solutions for Private Residence, London Borough of Richmond

- **Domestic Garden Construction - cost between £100k – £250k – sponsored by Makita UK**

Water Gems (Alba) for Private Residence, Merchiston, Edinburgh

- **Domestic Garden Construction - cost over £250k – sponsored by Europlants UK**
Living Landscapes for Private Residence, Kingston upon Thames

- **Soft Landscaping Construction (Non-Domestic) Cost under £300k – sponsored by Paynes Turf**

Acre Landscapes for Serpentine Sackler Gallery, Hyde Park, London

- **Soft Landscaping Construction (Non-Domestic) Cost between £300k - £1.5m – sponsored by Bourne Amenity**

In-Ex Landscapes for Woodberry Down (Kick Start Site 3)

- **Hard Landscaping Construction (Non-Domestic) Cost under £300k – sponsored by Woodscape**

The Outdoor Room for Mayfair Roof Terrace

- **Hard Landscaping Construction (Non-Domestic) Cost between £300k – £1.5m – sponsored by Quinton Edwards**

Swinburne Horticultural Services for Wynyard Hall Rose Garden

- **Hard Landscaping Construction (Non-Domestic) Cost over £1.5 million – sponsored by MCM**

idverde for Exchange Quay, Salford

- **Community and Schools Development – sponsored by Brett Landscaping**
Ground Control for Alexandra Road Park

- **Regeneration Scheme under £500k – sponsored by Rigby Taylor/Topgreen**
Ground Control for Woodhouse Urban Park

- **Regeneration Scheme over £500k – sponsored by idverde**
Willerby Landscapes for Regeneration of Kings Cross

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- **Grounds Maintenance – Free Public Access – sponsored by Harrowden Turf**
idverde, entry submitted by Quadron Services for Queen's Park, Loughborough
- **Grounds Maintenance – Limited Public Access – sponsored by The Toro Company**
Nurture Landscapes for Farnborough Business Park
- **Grounds Maintenance – Private, value under £50k – sponsored by ICL and**

Monsanto

Gavin Jones Group for Portman Square

- **BALI Registered Contractor's and Designer's Joint Submission – sponsored by**

Easigrass

ESSE Landscapes & Louisa Bell for Holly House

- **Sports Grounds and Leisure Facilities – sponsored by Springbridge Direct**
Blakedown Sport and Play for Greenwich Peninsula Golf
- **Interior Landscape – Maintenance only – sponsored by Adtrak**
Nurture Landscapes for Swiss Re Offices, London
- **Best Innovation/Technology used in a Landscape Scheme – sponsored by Kubota**
Land Engineering (Scotland) for The Maze, Dumfries House, Ayrshire
- **Green Roof Installations and Roof Gardens – sponsored by Willerby Landscapes**
Elite Landscapes for Fulham Riverside
- **International Award – sponsored by CED Natural Stone**
Beijing Tsinghua Tongheng Urban Planning & Design Institute for Poetic Reinterpretation –
Landscape Design of DULE Garden, Mandarin Palace
- **Design Excellence Award, Overall scheme over £50k – sponsored by Adtrak**
Anne Jennings of Viridian Landscape Studio, for Private Residence, Chelsea
- **Affiliate Exceptional Service – sponsored by Adtrak**
Harrod UK
- **Employer Excellence – Turnover over £2.5 million - sponsored by Andersplus**
Ground Control