

Aluminium Imagination Awards 2003



Roll of honour

● £10,000 (shared) First Prize – The Imagination Award

Joint winners: Wilkinson Eyre Architects – Royal Ballet School 'Bridge of Aspiration', Covent Garden, London; Knox Bhavan Architects – Le Bordage, St Peter Port, Guernsey

Highly commended: Studio Daniel Libeskind – Imperial War Museum North; Arup Associates – City of Manchester Stadium, Manchester

● Award for the best use of extruded aluminium, £1,000

Winner: Berlin London – IQ Locker

● Award for the best use of aluminium by a new architectural practice established within the past 10 years, £1,000

Winner: Bryant Priest Newman – Eric Hollies Stand, Edgbaston, Birmingham

● Award for the most exciting use of colour in a building, £1,000

Winner: Penoyre & Prasad Architects – Charter School, Dulwich, London

Commended: Harwood Architecture – New House, St Kilda, Melbourne, Australia

● Award for the most innovative use of aluminium in a structure or building element, £1,000

Winner: Wilkinson Eyre Architects – Royal Ballet School 'Bridge of Aspiration', Covent Garden, London

Commended: Knox Bhavan Architects – Le Bordage, St Peter Port, Guernsey

● The Architects' Journal Award for the best use of aluminium in an international building, £1,000

Winner: Melvyn Rowberry Welding Services – Ypenburg, Holland

● Award for the most innovative use of aluminium that contributes to its sustainability, £1,000

Winner: Wilkinson Eyre Architects – Empress State Building, London

● Specialist award for the subcontractor that demonstrates 'Best Practice', £1,000

Winner: Schmidlin UK – Government Communications Headquarters, Cheltenham

Highly commended: Carlton Building Services – Spinney House, Church Street, Liverpool

Commended: GIG Fassadenbau – Royal Ballet School, 'Bridge of Aspiration', Covent Garden, London; WW Roofing and Cladding Contractors – Lowestoft Waste Water Treatment Centre; Glamalco – Project Shelter, Temple Quay, Bristol; 3 Brindley Place, Birmingham

Award judges

Ian Ritchie – chairman of judging panel
Paul Finch
Tim Macfarlane
Rod Milicevic
James Pickard
Deborah Saunt
Michael Stacey



Chairman's report

This year's submissions were of a very high standard. This, I suspect, reflects not only the improving quality of architecture generally in this country, but also the prestige of these awards.

The judging was intense but good humoured and our reward was to enjoy the commitment to quality by so many designers. There were several entries that in previous years may well have been outright winners. However, such was the standard this year that, regrettably, not all could receive the recognition that they perhaps deserved.

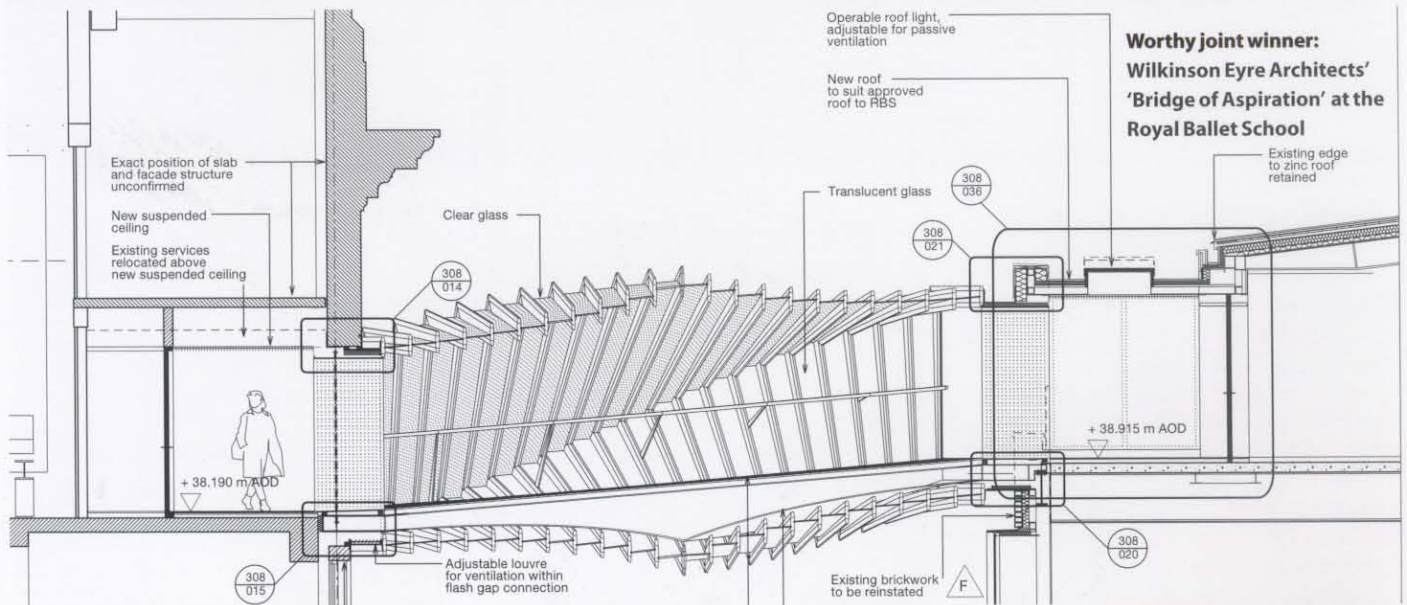
Several projects were highly deserving and these have been reflected in the awards given.

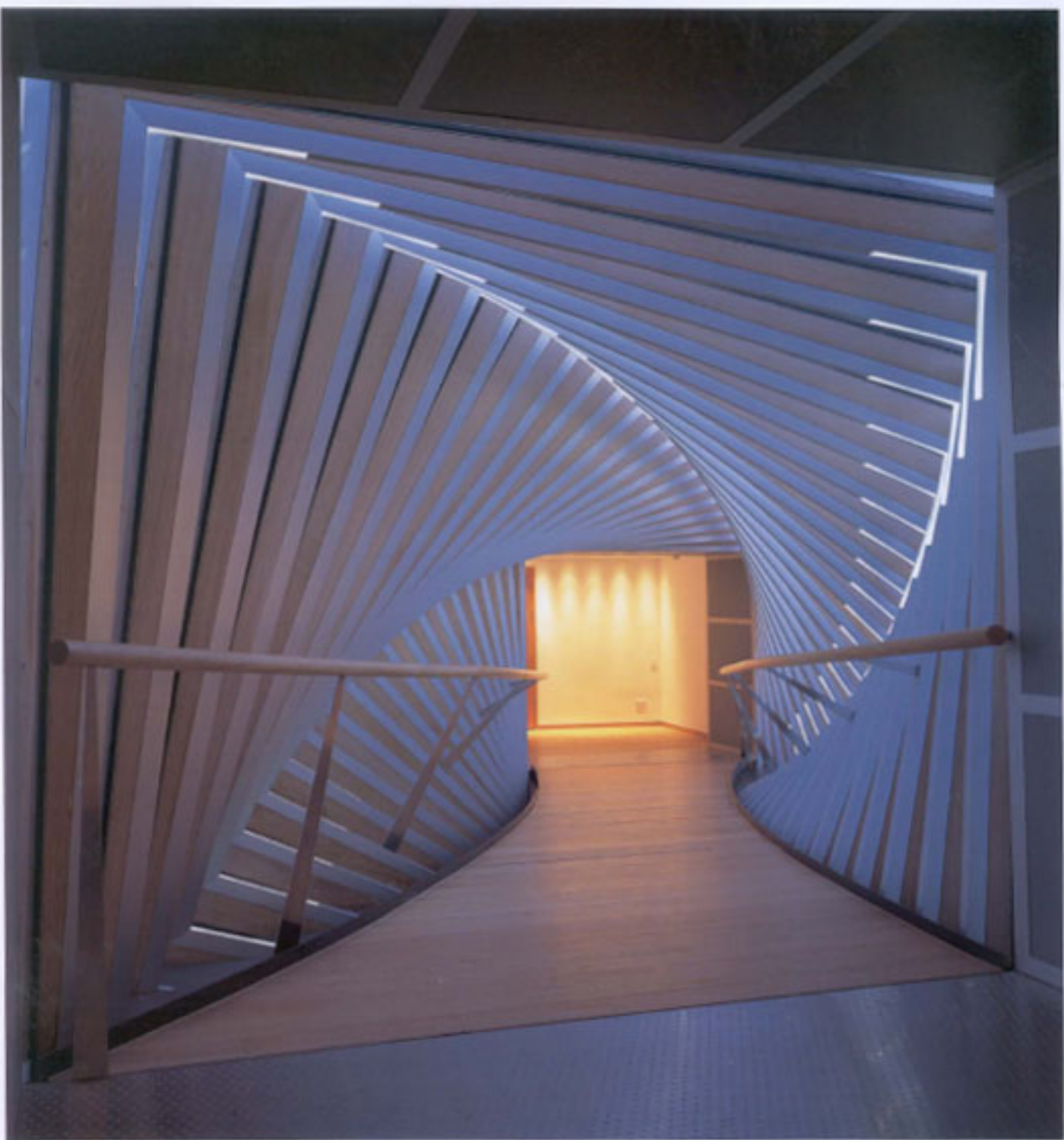
The judges felt that there should be an

award for refurbishment. Many of the projects showed how aluminium as cladding and as extrusion offers a very appropriate contemporary material to help ensure the extended life of buildings. This presents an alternative sustainable architecture to some of the contemporary interpretations of it.

The joint winners reflect the extraordinary potential of aluminium while the projects themselves could not be more different. One uses extruded aluminium as a key structural component; the other is a tour de force that demonstrates how both scope and technique can be applied to aluminium in the pursuit of art and architecture.

Ian Ritchie





'Bridge of Aspiration', Royal Ballet School, Covent Garden

This brilliant design, by Wilkinson Eyre with engineer Flint and Neill, has produced an exquisite bridge across a narrow street, bringing to reality the ballet school's desire to have a link expressing movement. The simple idea of a rotating box was a complex structure to achieve; aluminium played a key part in it.

The material was preferred to stainless steel in relation to the spine beam, which carries the bridge, after a weight/strength/cost analysis. The beam comprises

an aluminium box made from plates welded into sections, which are then bolted together. It was produced using complex CAD geometry and hand-crafting, initially in Austria and then at Park Royal. The accuracy of the design and the quality of the prefabrication allowed installation of the bridge as a single piece in under two hours. The specialist cladding supplier was GIG Fassadenbau.

Aluminium was also used for portal frames that support the glazing – anodised extrusions in effect form I-section beams to

which laminated glass and timber are fixed. Externally the extrusion is capped to present a fine edge; internally it provides a self-finished conduit for light fittings in each frame. The aluminium beam acts as a supply and return plenum in winter, when fan-coil units located within the bridge floor void warm the space.

● This entry also won the Award for the most innovative use of aluminium in a structure or building element.



'Bridge of Aspiration', GIG Fassadenbau

GIG Fassadenbau's contribution to Wilkinson Eyre Architects' bridge at the Royal Ballet School in Covent Garden went beyond 'good installation' to realise a unique,

complex and challenging design. The bridge's aluminium spine beam was fabricated in Austria and craned into position by a joint Austrian/UK team in just one hour.

