

News Release

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LONDON DOCKLANDS' SURREY QUAYS

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FACULTY OF BUILDING'S

EDWIN WILLIAMS MEMORIAL AWARD 1989

Surrey Quays in London Docklands has received the Faculty of Building's Edwin Williams Memorial Award 1989, for achievement in improving the environment through planning and urban design.

Surrey Quays in the Surrey Docks Peninsula, was once a site of dereliction and decay. In 1981, The London Docklands Development Corporation (LDDC) produced a masterplan outlining the way forward for re-developing the area. The LDDC subsequently established a framework of quality landscaping, public spaces and transport links.

The infrastructure was designed by the LDDC's Surrey Docks Area Team, with landscape consultants Brian Clouston & Partners. Consulting engineers, Rendel, Palmer and Tritton, co-ordinated the project and provided engineering design support.

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This backbone of infrastructure secured private investment, creating thousands of new homes, leisure facilities and the Surrey Quays shopping centre, making Surrey Quays a pleasant place in which to live, work and play.

Care has been taken to establish a strong identity for the region with a consistent style for quay edges, cycle paths, railings and street furniture.

Consideration has been given to wildlife in landscaping the area in a series of "green corridors" and nature trails such as the link between Russia Dock Woodland and Southwark Park. Open spaces in Surrey Quays include:-

The Ecological Park, which, with its woods, grassland and connecting ponds, already provides a resource for local schools and will be of particular value to two new primary schools being developed nearby.

Stave Hill Nature Park, run by the Trust for Urban Ecology. This seven acre park is used by local schools and the community. Stave Hill was constructed in 1985 and provides views across London to the City, River Thames and Greenwich.

Canada Water, which is Surrey Docks' only body of fresh water and visited by many types of waterfowl. Aquatic plants are being introduced to encourage nesting.

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Albion Channel, a man-made canal which runs from Canada Water via Surrey Water out to the Thames. The canal banks provide a pleasant public footpath.

The Edwin Williams Memorial Award is the latest recognition of urban design and architecture in Docklands. Barry Shaw, LDDC Head of Urban Design, said: "Top quality design is important to London Docklands. This award is an indication of the high standards that are now being achieved and especially the care and consistency of approach adopted by the Corporation's landscape team."

Chris Farrow, LDDC Director of Surrey Docks Area Team said: "Through the LDDC's commitment to Surrey Quays the area has been dramatically transformed. The Faculty of Building's Award is welcome recognition of the high standard of urban design and planning that can be readily witnessed in London Docklands today."

Architect Lillian Stephenson, Director of the Faculty of Building and instigator and co-ordinator of the Award, said, on behalf of the President and Board of Directors: "We congratulate the LDDC for encouraging their inter-disciplinary teams to fulfil such a worthwhile project. It enhances this particular area in so many special ways.

"We thank the three assessors chosen by the Presidents of R.I.B.A, L.I. and R.T.P.I. for their perception and judgement and Taylor Woodrow for their generous contribution of prize money.

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"We all look forward to the LDDC's subsequent report on their future research that this award and cheque are intended to sponsor. I am personally proud to be associated with this particular award, which has been competed for since the late 1970s; with Docklands itself and the Faculty of Building. The Faculty of Building is the construction industry's only organisation open to all branches of its professions and leading operatives, at home and abroad."

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NOTES TO EDITORS

1. The Faculty of Building aims to promote co-operation and understanding between all facets of the construction industry and help find common solutions for the benefit of all society.
2. The Edwin Williams Memorial Award is in honour of the late Edwin Williams MBE, MA, B.Arch, RS, RIBA, FRTPI, FIArb, FFB, architect and town planner, who died in 1977, just a few months before he was to have become President of the Faculty of Building.

The memorial pays homage to a man whose skill and judgment has contributed much to the disciplines of architecture and town planning, particularly in London, throughout his long career.

The Award will be presented at the Royal Institute of British Architects, 66 Portland Place, London W1, on 1st March 1990 at 3.pm. Members of the press who would like to attend should contact:

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OTHER RECENT DOCKLANDS' AWARDS INCLUDE:

R.T.P.I - 1989 Award for Planning Achievement
Greenland Dock, Surrey Docks
Highly commended

Civic Trust - 1989 Awards
Five Docklands' schemes awarded and four highly
commended

Housing Design Awards - 1989
Prospect Place and Prusoms Island

R.F.A.C. Building of the Year Award 1989 Financial
Times Printing Works

B.A.L.I. National Landscape Awards Rectory Gardens -
Wapping