

Argyll and Bute Council recognises the importance of good design that not only respects the context of where it is located but also addresses the challenges we face in reducing carbon emissions and adapting to climate change. Working with Anderson, Bell and Christie Architects together with a range of local stakeholders the Council has produced a series of design guides to encourage sustainable design solutions. The inaugural design awards builds on this and is intended to provide case studies of best practice that can be shared with future developers.

Argyll and Bute Sustainable Design Guidance

Planners were reluctant to approve modern designs in Argyll and Bute as they lacked the skills or local information to make sound judgements on what was good or bad modern design. This led to the safer option of largely "traditional style" buildings being approved.

Recognising this, Council Officers together with Anderson, Bell and Christie Architects formed a working group to produce a series of design guides that sought to encourage appropriately sited sustainable modern buildings. These guides were subject to extensive public consultation and were subsequently approved by the Council as supplementary planning guidance. A Design Forum made up of key stakeholders was then established to share design best practice throughout Argyll and Bute. A key aspect of this is the establishment of the Argyll and Bute Sustainable Design Awards.

Argyll and Bute Sustainable Design Awards

The Awards will be held every two years with the inaugural Design Awards event being held in late 2009. The following 4 categories of Awards will be considered:

- NEW BUILD AND EXTENSION TO RESIDENTIAL (SINGLE OR SMALL SCALE UP TO 5 HOMES).
- NEW BUILD LARGE RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT.
- NEW BUILD NON RESIDENTIAL.
- CONSERVATION (ALTERATIONS/ EXTENSION/ CONVERSION) HERITAGE LED.

Sustainability will be a theme which will run through all the four categories of awards and this must be clearly demonstrated in the submissions. Particular weighting will be given to incorporating energy efficiency measures, minimizing energy use and waste, sustainable building materials, renewable technologies, conserving water resources, sustainable infrastructure, SUDS and incorporating biodiversity.

Anyone can enter the Argyll and Bute Sustainable Design Awards. This includes consultants, community groups, developers, public agencies, voluntary organisations and individuals. Winning entries will become new case studies that will help to raise awareness on what is achievable through the use of good design.

KEY CONTACTS

Fergus Murray

Development Policy Manager,
Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory,
Lochgilthead, PA31 8RT

Karen Anderson

Anderson, Bell and Christie Architects,
Great Western Road, Glasgow, G4 9HT

Website

<http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/content/planning/developmentprojects/designguide/>

Relevant Documents

Argyll and Bute Sustainable Design Guides

Argyll and Bute Sustainable Design Awards



The Argyll and Bute Sustainable Design Forum will oversee the Award process which seeks:

"To recognise, promote and celebrate examples of exceptional design quality within both an urban and rural context across the whole of the Argyll and Bute Council Planning Area."



Sustainable Design Awards - Process

Judges Short Listing

The work will be assessed by a panel of local judges selected from the Argyll and Bute Sustainable Design Forum. The quality of the initial submissions will determine whether the entry is selected to move onto the next stage.

Site Visits and Presentations

Shortlisted applicants in each of the four categories will be contacted by the Design Forum to make arrangements for a site visit which should take place during September and October 2009.

The Judges' Final Selection Process

On completion of the site visits the short listed entries will be showcased on the web to allow for a period of public voting that will form part of the final decision. The Judges will then finalise their recommendations on the winning entries.

Site Specific Design Guides

The Council continues to work with local communities and Anderson, Bell and Christie to bring forward a series of site specific design guides for island communities with distinct identities. Work so far has been completed for Tiree and Coll with a new guide being prepared for the West of Mull.