

Leicestershire COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

Build on successes at property Oscars

■ NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR MOST INSPIRATIONAL DESIGNS

by MELANIE EDGELL

Property professionals are being urged to enter inspirational building projects into the 2011 Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors' (RICS) awards.

Last year, the redevelopment and relocation of Leicester Grammar School, designed by Leicester architectural design and engineering practice Pick Everard, won the Community Benefits award for the East Midlands, beating strong competition from a record number of entries.

Derby College's £48 million regeneration project, the Roundhouse campus, took the top accolade at the grand final.

Hailed as the Oscars of the property world, the RICS Awards attract entries from all over the world, with developments ranging from multimillion-pound developments to small community projects. Previous UK winners include the conversion of St Pancras International railway station.

Four categories in the event comprise Regeneration, Sustainability, Community Bene-



'IMPRESSIVE': The £33.5 million DMU Hugh Aston Faculty of Business and Law

fit and Building Conservation. Entries are accepted from all parties, be it the architect, project team, or the building's occupier. Entries must be submitted by January 21, 2011, with judging in early spring.

East Midlands entries for the most prestigious prizes in the UK property industry rose by 45 per cent this year.

David Johnson, Leicestershire RICS spokesman, said likely candidates this year

might include the new £33.5 million De Montfort University (DMU) Hugh Aston Faculty of Business and Law.

"The new DMU building creates an impressive modern approach to an area of the city

which is continuing to develop," said Mr Johnson. "Its impressive design, coupled with its practicality fit for purpose are what the RICS awards are all about."

Other candidates might include South Wigston College, designed by Leicester architects Metz, John Ferneley College in Melton, led by Leicestershire County Council and supported by Willmott Dixon Construction and the £6.8 million Himalaya building at Twycross Zoo, built by Kier Marriott, with architect Alan Newton Associates. All have recently gained success in the Leicestershire ProCon awards.

David Potter, operations director for Rics East, is urging people who would not normally enter the awards to give it consideration for 2011. "The Rics East Midlands Awards are far-reaching, attracting huge interest from outside the property world," he said. "They celebrate the best of the built environment and recognise the values at the heart of our profession, reminding us all why we strive to set and reach high standards."

For more details e-mail: ricsawards2011@spada.co.uk or visit:

www.rics.org/callforentries

Couriers move to new HQ

A COURIER service has moved to bigger premises after signing a five-year deal with a commercial property developer.

Blue Tiger Same Day has relocated from a residential property in Thurcaston to Bridge Business Park, in Thurcaston, which is being developed by Raynsway Properties.

The company has taken a 1,200 sq ft industrial unit, in Bridge Park Road, providing it with the space to expand and a central location from which to base the business.

Andrew Field, Blue Tiger's operations director, said: "We had been looking for new premises for a considerable time.

"But we couldn't find anything to meet our expectations until we visited Bridge Business Park.

"We are delighted to have completed the deal for this unit as we know its location and quality had attracted a lot of interest.

"Our new unit will enable us to grow our customer base and means we will be on the main road networks that much quicker."

The arrival of Blue Tiger Same Day leaves just 5,000 sq ft of industrial space at Bridge Business Park.

Agency in city move

A MARKETING and design agency has moved to city centre offices.

Shape, formerly located in Coalville, has moved to St Martin's Square, in Leicester.

Following the move, it is now expanding its graphic design, web design and web marketing team, with two new creative staff joining the firm.

Marketing director Martin Wood said relocating to the city centre had given Shape the space it needed to grow.

He said: "We already had an established client base in the county and our service to our existing clients hasn't changed.

"We did recognise, however, that being based outside of the city wasn't helping us to attract the many Leicester companies and organisations that could benefit from our capabilities. "Our spacious loft-style offices in Silver Walk are ideally suited to a go-ahead creative business like Shape."

£1.5m office site to be first of its kind in region

A NEW environmentally-friendly building will be the first of its kind in the Midlands.

Plans have been approved for a 6,000 sq ft regional office for Interserve Project Services at the Watermead Business Park in Syston.

The £1.5 million project, which is in partnership with park developer Raynsway Properties, will be constructed by Interserve using the design principles of PassivHaus, a well established German based building standard which reduces energy costs by around 90 per cent.

The project is believed to be the first of its kind in the Midlands, with only two other PassivHaus offices completed in the country at present. Building work has just commenced and will take until July to complete.

Gordon Kew, divisional director at Interserve Project Services in the East Midlands, said: "The desire for a new premises came as our existing offices were becoming outdated, energy hungry and spread out over various buildings at the Troon Way Business Centre in Hamilton.

"Our new building will house the 51 employees based at our various premises in Hamilton while also providing space for future growth."

Tom Watkinson, managing director at Raynsway Properties, said: "We are delighted that Interserve Project Services, a global name in the world of construction, has selected the Watermead Business Park for its new regional headquarters. The site's size, location and ability to have office accommodation built to a firm's exact specification provides a unique opportunity



PLANS: Tom Watkinson of Raynsway Properties, left, and Gordon Kew, of Interserve, at Watermead Business Park, Syston

for businesses of both regional and international importance and has proved an attractive combination for Interserve.

"Something we have particularly strived to do here at Watermead is focus strongly on sustainability and the PassivHaus design of this pro-

ject fits in perfectly with our vision."

The design of the office will see the majority of work areas on the highly glazed south side of the building to maximise heating in the winter, while blinds will minimise the solar heat in the summer.