

STANSELL AWARD WINNERS 2021

Judges have praised the exceptionally high standard of the entries for the 2021 William Stansell Somerset Historic Building Awards and say they were impressed by the research, ingenuity and building skills that went into each project.

The award winners were presented with their certificates during a ceremony at the Somerset Rural Life Museum in Glastonbury.

The awards aim to highlight the positive contribution that well designed and conserved buildings make to their surroundings.

They are named after the late William Stansell, founder and Chairman of the Stansell Group, whose great love was the conservation and repair of historic buildings. The main sponsor is Taunfield Ltd (the Stansell family company).

AWARD WINNERS (with the judges' comments) were: -

The Forge, West Porlock

An old village forge has been converted into a family home whilst respecting the location and exploiting the view. The scheme demonstrates good attention to detail and a positive impact on the setting.

Designer: Nick Thorne Architectural Design

Contractor: DV and JM Skinner, Court Mill

The Clockspire, Milborne Port

This Victorian school building, dating from 1864, has been brought back to life and is now a restaurant. The scheme retains the existing character, inside and out, with appropriate attention to detail and a high standard of workmanship.

Designer: Studio Indigo Ltd

Contractor: Ken Biggs Contractors Ltd

Castle House, Bridgwater

Castle House is a nationally important piece of construction history, built in 1851 it was one of the first buildings to make extensive use of pre-cast concrete. This project has saved a building that most would have written off. This award recognises the high risk taken by SAVE Britain's Heritage and the level of investigation and expertise that went into achieving this.

Designer: Ferguson Mann Architects

Contractor: Corbel Conservation Ltd

Church of Axbridge, St John the Baptist

The need for disabled access to the church resulted in this ingenious intervention of retaining the geometry of the original steps and moving them to allow the introduction of a new ramp. By utilising the existing change in level on the access path the gradient is minimised and the careful workmanship and good detailing result in a highly effective solution to a difficult problem.

Architect: Benjamin+Beauchamp Architects Ltd.

Contractor: Orchard Stonemasons Ltd.

Tickenham Court, Clevedon

This is a significant building, from around 1400, with an interesting history. Careful research has resulted in a scheme which addresses issues of inappropriate earlier work together with 21st century intervention to enhance the spaces. The importance of the building is recognised and fully understood with repairs and new work designed and executed to a high standard.

Designer: Architecton

Contractor: Corbel Conservation Ltd.

Low Ham Church, near Langport

The scholarly approach to the repair of this important church by the Churches Conservation Trust is well executed, enhancing its role as an important local landmark and attracting new interest. The work highlights the importance of understanding the history and architecture of the building, treating it with respect, and securing high quality repairs.

Designer: Andrew Faulkner Associates Ltd.

Contractor: Sally Strachey Historic Conservation Ltd.

Glazing: Heritage Stained Glass

Lime Plastering: South West Heritage Plastering

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Number One Bruton, Bruton

This important historic building in the street scene has been given a sympathetic new use as a boutique hotel. The design makes good use of all the spaces and features of the complex and importantly brings the whole building back to life.

Architect: Benjamin+Beauchamp Architects Ltd.

Contractor: F J Reeves & Son Ltd.

Greenham Barton, Greenham, near Wellington

This important historic building which has been subject to detailed scrutiny to enhance the understanding of the building. Essential, authentic and enduring repairs have rescued the building from years of neglect. The importance of the building is evident and demonstrates that bringing in skilled advice and experienced craftsmen is the preferred way to ensure that the building is properly conserved for the future.

Designer: Jonathan Rhind Architects

Contractor: Ellis & Co. Ltd

Bruton Barton, Bruton

What appears to be a simple street front opens to a complex of buildings now transformed to provide attractive living accommodation. By undertaking essential repair where needed and intervening to link and enhance spaces the accommodation is greatly improved whilst maintaining historic interest. This is a noteworthy example of how to revitalise a building of a type often poorly treated.

Owner: Mark Ruthven

Designer: Studio Mark Ruthven

Contractor: 3F2 Carpentry & Building Ltd