

Contractors honoured at AIS awards lunch

Specifiers, clients and contractors gather to celebrate the best

THE WINNERS OF THIS YEAR'S AIS awards have been unveiled at its President's Lunch, held on 14 June at the Dorchester hotel in London.

Almost 500 AIS members, specifiers, clients and main contractors gathered together to celebrate the achievements of interiors specialists at the awards event, which was hosted by Perrier-nominated comedian Terry Alderton.

Despite the tough economic climate – evident from the reduced number of fit-out entries this year – all the judges applauded the innovation and high standards in this year's line-up of shortlisted projects.

Guest judge Cyril Reddan, managing director of B+R Architects, picked the winners in the fit-out category, based on the complexity of the project, quality of build, design procurement, client engagement and after-care service.

Among the gold award winners were Portview Fit-Out, for its fit-out of the Emirates Stadium; Preferred Spaces' work for PZ Cussons in Manchester; and



Lakeside Ceilings and Partitions' award-winning project for Ordnance Survey

Paramount Office Interiors' project to create new offices for KPMG in Cardiff.

The regional spread of these fit-out winners was typical of the awards shortlist. AIS judge Peter Walters commented: "This year's winners are remarkably geographically well spread, signalling a tangible UK involvement in the competition."

He was joined on the judging panel by Tony Pieri (formally of Pieri Interiors), who has taken over on the judging panel from

longstanding AIS judge Bob Hodges.

Walters and Pieri focused on the specialist categories for ceilings, partitioning, specialist joinery, operable walls and drywall construction.

The Judges' Award – given to more unusual projects that don't fit into the other categories – went to Clark & Fenn Skanska for its work on new City of London shopping centre One New Change.

For full details of this year's award winners, see page 35

News in brief

AIS backs design show

AIS will again be supporting the Surface Design Show in 2012. The show, which will take place on 7-9 February at the Building Design Centre in north London, attracted 3,697 architects, interior designers, specifiers and industry professionals this year. To find out more see www surfacedesignshow.com

Rockfon gets eco nod

Recent BRE lifecycle analysis has awarded a Rockfon stone wool ceiling tile the best score published to date in its Ecopoint environmental impact rating system. BRE-certificated environmental profiles provide a transparent measuring system that enables manufacturers to demonstrate the environmental performance of a product and measure its performance through its life, including the impact of materials in manufacturing, use and demolition.

www.rockfon.co.uk



SAS International to expand Scotland facility

SAS INTERNATIONAL IS TO ADD a 7,500m² extension to its metalwork manufacturing facilities in Maybole, Ayrshire, and recruit more staff.

Managing director Mark McElhinney said: "The expansion comes as a result of demand for our architectural metalwork in the UK and abroad, but it also demonstrates our ongoing commitment to our UK-based manufacturing facilities."

SAS International is the largest employer in Maybole. Operations director John Gemmell said: "This investment secures existing jobs at the site and we expect to recruit 50 more staff once the site is fully operational."

Local Scottish National Party councillor Ian Douglas said: "This good news story is very welcome."

SAS has been manufacturing architectural metalwork products at Maybole for 25 years,

including acoustic baffles and wall panelling, service bulkheads and rafts.

Maybole is one of three SAS International UK manufacturing facilities.

The Reading-based company has designed, manufactured and installed for a wide range of projects, including BAA Heathrow's Terminal 4, the Qatar Science and Technology Park and Chek Lap Kok airport, Hong Kong.

www.sasint.co.uk