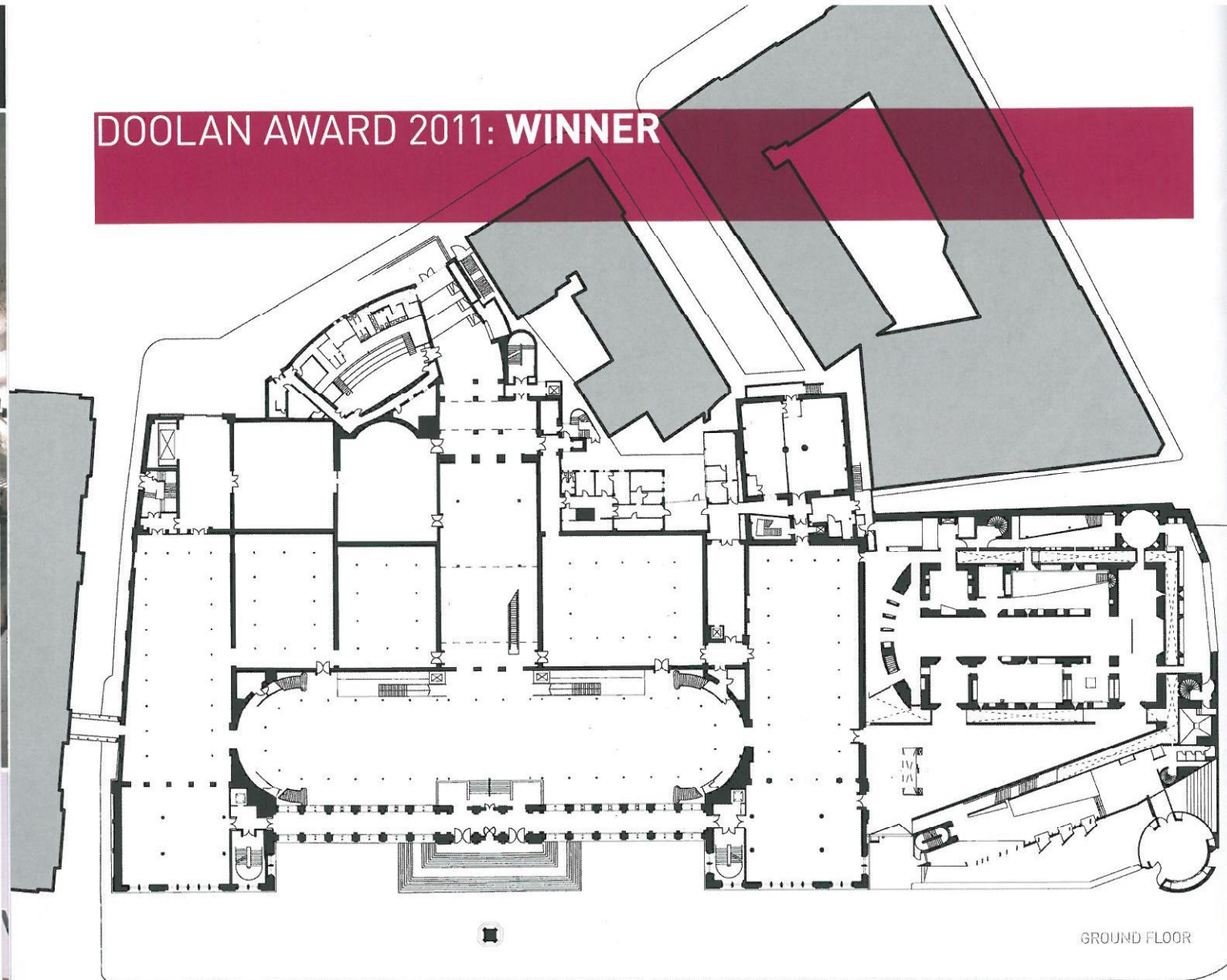


DOOLAN AWARD 2011: WINNER



GROUND FLOOR

of Scotland; creating a visitor experience and facilities which anticipate and fulfil current and future needs; improve storage and accessibility to the National Collection and the restoration and enhancement of one of Edinburgh and Scotland's most important Victorian buildings and one of the most memorable and dramatic spatial expressions in the UK.

The project is underpinned by a number of major architectural interventions to improve accessibility and movement throughout the buildings. The adjacent Chamber Street, with its rows of car parking, has been transformed into a new public space, linking across the original Victorian and modern frontages of the complex. The stone base of the museum's Victorian facade is opened up on either side of the existing grand entrance steps to create two new, 12 metre wide, entrances

that will allow visitors to move directly from the new public space at street level into the building.

Visitors now pass into a stone vaulted arrival space, formed by the opening up and excavation of a series of existing 'basement' stores. From this arrival space, visitors then move up, via a series of new staircases and lifts, to the refurbished 'Grand Gallery'. Through the integration of new, state-of-the-art, visitors facilities into the new street level arrivals hall, this vast top-lit gallery, enclosed by its delicate 'bird cage' of cast iron columns and trusses, is reinstated as the main introductory gallery for the museum. It has been redisplayed with a series of iconic objects, representing the breadth of the collections and forming an orientation space for the wider complex. A new route is opened up, running north-south through the museum. This creates

a link between the north facing entrance with its new public square and the south face of the museum. It also ties it into the redeveloped streets around the adjacent University of Edinburgh campus.

Together with the new glass lifts, rising up from the arrivals hall, a series of escalators rise through this new north-south route, taking visitors up to a major new temporary exhibitions gallery, a new education suite and the upper floors of the Museum. These areas were previously visited by only about 10% of visitors to the Museum. From these upper levels visitors are then able to circulate via a series of new routes and perimeter stairs, through a sequence of new displays that rise through the vertical stacks of the refurbished atria galleries, connecting back to the main space of the Grand Gallery or onward to the adjacent Museum building.

DOOLAN AWARD 2011: RECEPTION



In challenging times it is all the more important to look for opportunities to celebrate achievement. The annual RIAS Andrew Doolan Best Building in Scotland Award provides an important moment therefore in the Scottish calendar. It gives opportunity for entrants to showcase their work, provides valuable recognition for the client, development team and project sponsors, and it promotes architecture more broadly to the nation.

This year's winner was Gareth Hoskins Architects Ltd for their work at The National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh. In reaching their decision, Professor Andy MacMillan FRIAS and his panel were particularly impressed by the 'big moves' of opening up new street level entrances, the works to the previous basement store to provide new gallery spaces and the ingenuity of the building's new circulation which draws visitors up and through its superbly restored spaces. Already one of Scotland's architectural gems, there is no doubt that the building's interior spaces have become more breathtaking as a result. The scheme demonstrates how dialogue between an informed architect and a widely loved historic building can lead both to improved functionality but also exceptional character.

Presenting the richest architectural prize in the UK and one of the most significant awards in Europe were Fiona Hyslop MSP, the Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs and Mrs Margaret Doolan Hon FRIAS (the late Andrew Doolan's mother). Accompanied by the Director of the National Gallery and client for the scheme, Gordon Rintoul, Gareth Hoskins and his team accepted a specially commissioned, gold lined, silver tumbler by internationally renowned Scottish jeweller, James Brent Ward and a cheque for £25,000.

In addition to selecting the winning project, the annual event provides a valuable showcase for architecture in Scotland as a whole. A further seven projects from the shortlist of 13 were identified for special mention during the ceremony: 10 Pearce Street, Govan (Austin-Smith:Lord LLP), Gröndians (Richard Gibson Architects), Hillcrest Housing Association HQ (Nicoll Russell Studios), Hillhead Primary School (jmarcitects Ltd.), The Houl (Simon Winstanley Architects), Linlithgow Burgh Halls (Malcolm Fraser Architects) and Phoenix Flowers (7N Architects). Each of these and the other entrants, have benefitted from the publicity generated by the award.

One of the key priorities for RIAS is to ensure that architecture is kept to the fore at Holyrood. The Doolan provides a key opportunity for this. The reception was generously sponsored by Linda Fabiani MSP Hon FRIAS and numerous other enthusiastic and engaged MSPs joined the nominees, their clients, the Incorporation's guests and RIAS Fellows in the Garden Lobby during the presentation. Tavish Scott MSP accepted the RIAS' Honorary Fellowship earlier in the evening. One senses that there is a growing enthusiasm for architecture within Holyrood. The ceremony followed hot on the heels of a Parliamentary debate on architecture.

While 2011 has been very challenging year across the architectural profession as a whole, the Doolan Award provides a moment to reflect on what has been achieved. The phrase 'triumph in adversity' comes to mind and all the entrants are to be congratulated for their work.

ALL PHOTOS: MALCOLM COCHRANE

MALCOLM COOPER HON FRIAS

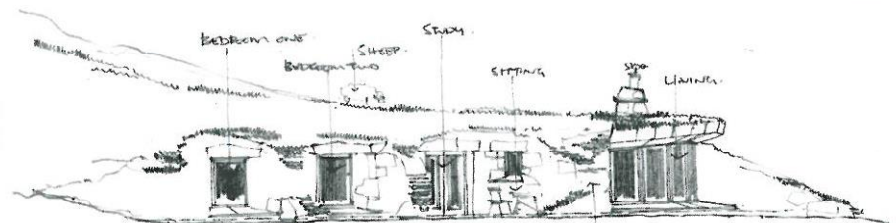
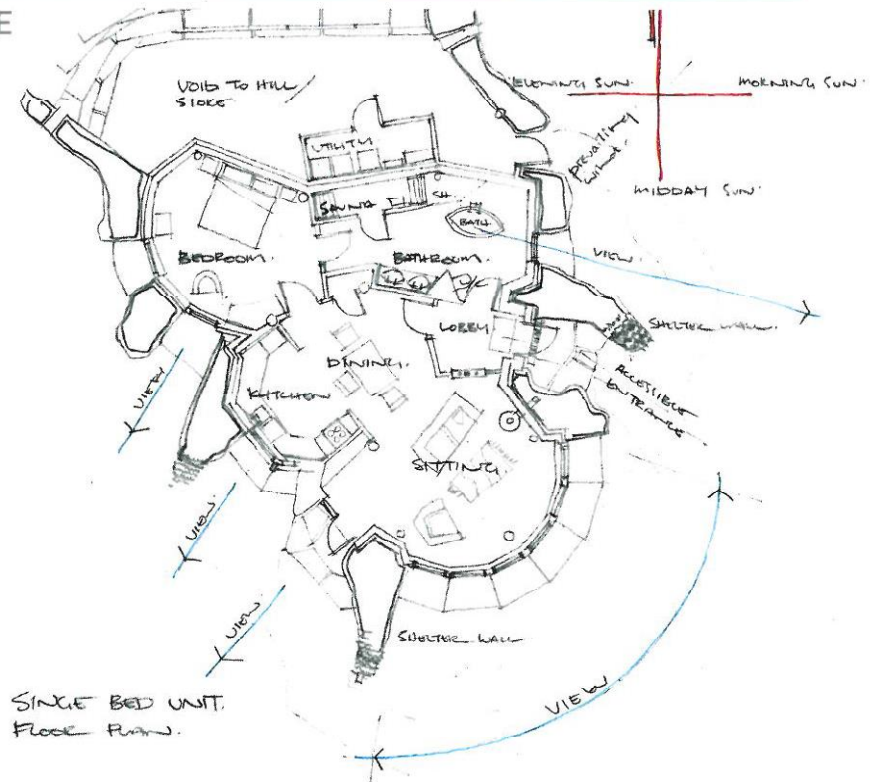
THE BROCHS OF COIGACH, ACHILTIBUIE

SBA ARCHITECTS LTD

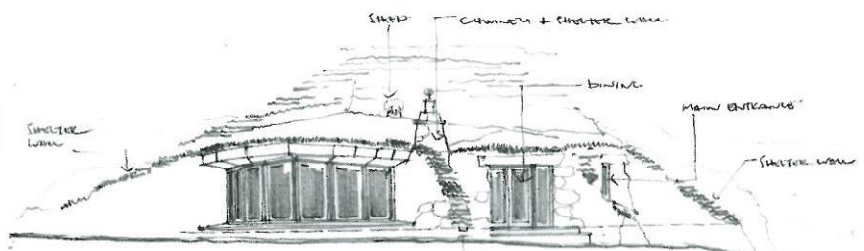
These two cottages on the croft at Polbain are currently used as holiday lets, although the client intends to use one as their permanent residence. Set within a national scenic area, they are built into an escarpment amid low, wind-blown trees and bracken. Facing south-east the cottages enjoy superb views towards the Summer Isles and the Minch.

The development of these subtle and unobtrusive new dwellings brings credit to architect, client and to the planners who understood the appropriateness of this alternative approach. They fulfil the brief to fit their environment, to be in harmony with their surroundings and to provide comfortable and unobtrusive accommodation.

These new homes are sophisticated in their provision of shelter and enhance the locale. The use of local and traditional skills in their execution and the training inherent in the process will deliver long-term benefits. The materials excavated from this site are retained on-site and although quite substantial dwellings have been formed, they fit into the natural slopes of the escarpment and are largely concealed from view beneath their turf roofs. In significant contrast to the trend for kit housing, these homes blend into their setting and are built into the landscape with great care.



TWO BEDROOM UNIT SOUTH WEST ELEVATION



TWO BEDROOM UNIT SOUTH EAST ELEVATION