## News













## 13 projects bid for Scots prize

The RIAS Andrew Doolan award for the 'best building in Scotland' has revealed its shortlist of 13 schemes in the running for the £25,000 prize - the largest sum offered in a British architecture competition

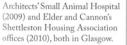




The AJ can exclusively reveal the 13-strong shortlist in the running for the largest cash prize contest in British architecture; this year's RIAS Andrew Doolan Best Building in Scotland Award.

Past winners of the £25,000 prize, organised by the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland (RIAS), include Archial (2009) and Elder and Cannon's Shettleston Housing Association offices (2010), both in Glasgow.

The jury at the shortlisting stage was chaired by Andrew MacMillan and included RIAS president Sholto Humphries, Sandy Robinson, principal architect at the Scottish



RIAS secretary and treasurer Neil Baxter said: 'The names may not be as well known as those that recur in other major architectural awards, but there is no question that there is as much

government's Architecture and

Place division, and Jonathan

Speirs of Speirs + Major

Associates.

thought and ingenuity in these Scottish projects as there is in the best European architecture.

'That most entries are modest in scale is indicative of the commissioning climate and the fact that so much is channelled through contractors, so that the emphasis on architectural quality is reduced,' Richard Waite



. Glentress Peel visitor centre. Gaia Architects Phoenix Flowers

7N Architects The Houl, Simon Winstanley

Architects University of Edinburgh Business School, LDN Architects Dundee House

Reiach and Hall Architects Grödians, Richard 8. Hillcrest Housing Association HQ, Nicoll Russell Studios 9. National Museum

of Scotland, Gareth Hoskins Architects 10 Hillhead Primary JM Architects

11 Linlithnow Burgh Halle Malcolm Fraser Architects 12. Centre for the

Scottish War Blinded, Page\ Park Architects

13. The Brochs SBA Architects





The late Andrew Doolan was a friend of mine, and we often discussed the condition of Scottish architecture over a bottle of wine in his Edinburgh hotel. In many ways, his award has captured the zeitgeist: independent of the Stirling Prize and the RIBA Awards, it obliges Scotland to stand on its own two feet, and prove that it has the talent that is so often overlooked by down south.

'This year's list is not as strong as previous years, but nonetheless it contains some crackers. Perhaps the shortlist is simply not short enough. For top awards like the Doolan, I'm inclined to consider the degree of difficulty and the economic context behind a project, as well as its underlying architectural quality, and there are several substantial projects that would be RIBA winners in any year.'

Rab Bennetts, co-founder of RIBA Stirling Prize 2011 shortlisted practice Bennetts Associates and winner of the 2008 Doolan prize

AJ 20.10.11

AJ 20.10.11