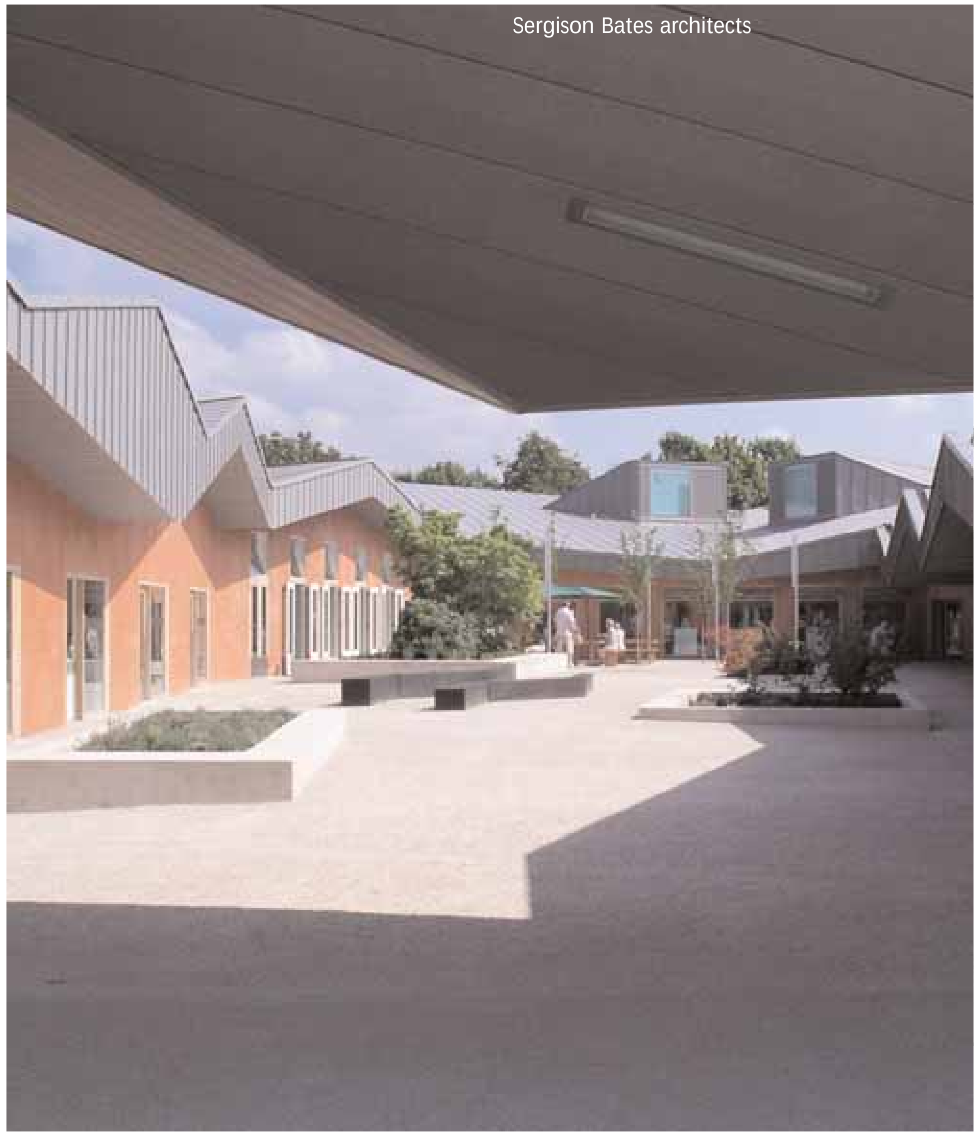
The Dewi-Prys Thomas Prize 2009

Celebrating good design, and passion for good design, in the built environment in Wales

Ruthin Craft Centre

Sergison Bates architects



The Dewi-Prys Thomas Prize is an award that recognises the importance of good design to the quality of life, identity and regeneration of Wales.

The prize builds on the work of the Dewi-Prys Thomas Trust in celebrating the life of this charismatic teacher and advocate for Wales and the Welsh environment. Dewi-Prys, who died in 1985, cared deeply about Wales and the Welsh environment and the prize seeks to capture this inspirational and passionate spirit.

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Winner: Ruthin Craft Centre

In awarding the Dewi-Prys Thomas Prize to the Ruthin Craft Centre we acknowledge the quality of the architectural achievement of this new building which has replaced this respected centre's former inadequate accommodation. The architects, Sergison Bates, and their client have produced a building which is modern, characterful and sympathetic to both setting and purpose. At its heart is an elegant courtyard where the interaction of the activities of the workshops, galleries and café defines a place that both makes and displays art in a relaxed atmosphere, sociable for visitors and users alike.The distinctive roof form hints at practicality, craft and functionality, while its profile suggests the lines of the Clwydian Hills nearby. With its touring exhibitions and publications, Ruthin Craft Centre has established a reputation in Europe and beyond. This new building offers a working base that recognises this international standard of excellence. Yet at the same time it offers a convivial focus for the local community and tourists. The architects have produced a building whose welcoming and approachable atmosphere satisfies local needs while bearing the sophisticated characteristics of an international cultural venue.

Commendations

Pevsner's *The Buildings of Wales*

Since the publication of the first volume in the series of Pevsner's *The Buildings of Wales* in 1979, each new book has been welcomed as the definitive guide to the architecture of the country. In all, seven areas of Wales have been covered: *Powys*, the first, was followed by *Clwyd* (1986), *Glamorgan* (1995), *Gwent/ Monmouthshire* (2000), *Pembrokeshire* (2004), *Carmarthenshire and Ceridigion* (2006) and finally, in 2009, *Gwynedd* has completed the series. The Buildings Book Trust, Yale University Press and the authors involved are to be congratulated on completing the series. Now, wherever you travel in Wales, a copy of the relevant 'Pevsner' will help to add knowledge, understanding and often a surge of sheer pleasure when encountering the buildings that form our cultural heritage.

Sue Essex

In commending the work of Sue Essex, we recognise her singular contribution to improving and enhancing the environment in Wales, in particular, her promotion of the values of good architecture and urban design. A politician with a professional background in the built environment, she brought an understanding of the complexities of design to her role as Assembly Member and Cabinet Minister for Environment, Transport and Planning when she entered the first Welsh Assembly Government in 2000. Her active involvement with planning professionals in reviewing planning policy led to the ground breaking *Wales Spatial Plan*. That good design is central to the quality of life has featured throughout her work and she set in motion the mechanisms to promote the establishment of the Design Commission for Wales.

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Front
Ruthin Craft Centre (photograph: Jonathan Vining)
1
Ruthin Craft Centre (photograph: Dewi Lloyd)
2
Ruthin Craft Centre: collections gallery (photograph: Ioana Marinescu)
3
The Buildings of Wales: the seven volumes
4
Sue Essex (photograph: *Touchstone*)

Judges' report

The Dewi-Prys Thomas Prize may be awarded to a building and its creators, an individual, or an organisation in recognition of a uniquely significant contribution to the quality of life in Wales through the medium of architecture.

Dewi himself made a unique contribution to the architecture of Wales, in particular to the contested idea of a self-consciously Welsh architecture. A committed modernist, yet he passionately promoted exploration of the nature of indigenous and appropriate design in his built work, notably at Pencadlys Gwynedd, Caernarfon, and most significantly through his charismatic teaching at the Welsh School of Architecture.

We believe that he would have been pleased to have seen the quality of modern architecture and environmental contributions that have been nominated for the award in his name. 2009 has produced a record 47 entries from organisations, agencies and individuals throughout Wales. They have ranged from art and heritage projects, landscape schemes, community buildings, publications, the contribution of individuals and organisations, bridges and commercial and public architecture. The short list was:

- Feel Good Factory, Matthewstown (Nigel Arnold Architect)
- Sue Essex
- Tŷ Newydd, Llanystumdwy (Adam and Frances Voelcker)
- Central Library, Cardiff (BDP)
- Ruthin Craft Centre (Sergison Bates architects)
- Pevsner's *The Buildings of Wales* (The Buildings Books Trust)
- *Animal Wall*, Century Wharf, Cardiff (Gitta Gschwendtner, designer)

The team at **The Buildings Books Trust** and the Yale University Press is commended for completing the seven volumes of Pevsner's *The Buildings of Wales*. The undertaking of this gazetteer over a period of thirty years has been enormous. Dewi-Prys Thomas, who enthusiastically reviewed the first volume, *Powys*, on publication would have been delighted that the quality of his own major architectural work, Pencadlys, Caernarfon, was recognised in the last volume, *Gwynedd*.

In commending the work of **Sue Essex**, we recognise that a politician can positively affect the quality of the built environment by bringing into the political arena the professional expertise from her former discipline, and her conviction that good design is central to a better life. Over the relatively short period of time as a Welsh Assembly Government Minister, she effectively promoted groundbreaking legislation and guidance and was instrumental in establishing the Design Commission for Wales.

In awarding the Dewi-Prys Thomas Prize 2009 to the **Ruthin Craft Centre**, we celebrate the outstanding example of what the Design Commission for Wales actively promotes: quality, thoughtful, appropriate, sensitive design. The architects, Sergison Bates, and their client have produced a building that is modern, characterful and sympathetic to both setting and purpose. With its touring exhibitions and publications, Ruthin Craft Centre has established a reputation in and beyond Wales. This new building offers a working base that supports an international standard of excellence.

Professor Dai Smith
Professor C Malcolm Parry
Jonathan Vining

The Dewi-Prys 2009 is supported by:

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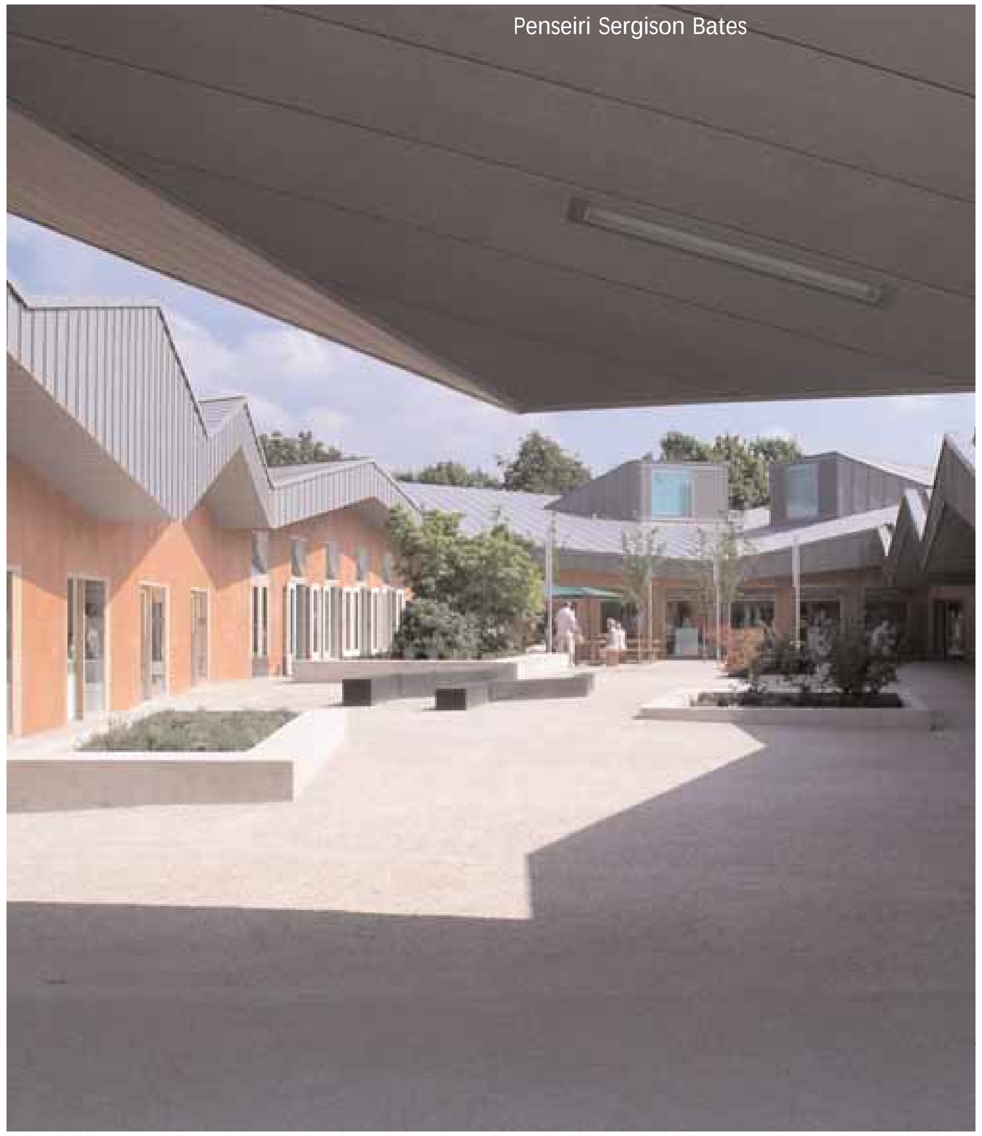
Gwobr Dewi-Prys Thomas 2009

Dathlu cynllunio da, a brwdfrydedd am gynllunio da, yn amgylchedd adeiladu yng Nghymru

Canolfan Grefft Rhuthun

Penseiri Sergison Bates



Mae Gwobr Dewi-Prys Thomas yn wobr sy'n cydnabod pwysigrwydd cynllunio da i ansawdd bywyd, hunaniaeth ac adfywio Cymru.

Mae'r wobr yn adeiladu ar waith Ymddiriedolaeth Dewi-Prys Thomas wrth ddathlu bywyd yr athro caristmataidd a'r cefnogwr cryf dros Gymru a'r amgylchedd Cymreig. Roedd Dewi-Prys, a fu farw ym 1985, yn teimlo'n angerddol dros Gymru a'r amgylchedd Cymreig ac mae'r wobr yn ceisio cydio yn yr ysbryd ysbrydoledig yma.

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Enillydd: Canolfan Grefft Rhuthun

Wrth ddyfarnu Gwobr Dewi-Prys Thomas i Ganolfan Grefft Rhuthun rydym yn cydnabod ansawdd cyflawniad pensaernïol yr adeilad newydd hwn sydd wedi cymryd lle adeiladau annigonnol blaenorol y ganolfan. Mae'r penseiri Sergison Bates, a'u cleient wedi cynhyrchu adeilad sydd yn fodern, yn llawn cymeriad ac yn dangos cydymdeimlad at y safle a'i bwrpas. Calon y safle yw cwrt lle mae rhyngweithredu gweithgareddau'r gweithdai, yr orielau a'r lle bwyta yn diffinio lle, sy'n gwneud ac yn arddangos celf, mewn amgylchedd hamddenol, ac sy'n gymdeithasol i ymwelwyr a defnyddwyr fel ei gilydd. Mae ffurf y to yn awgrymu ymarferoldeb a chrefft, tra bo'i broffil yn awgrymu amlinelliad bryniau Clwyd sydd gerllaw. Gyda'i harddangosfeydd teithiol a'i chyhoeddiadau mae Canolfan Grefft Rhuthun wedi sefydlu ei henw da yn Ewrop a thu hwnt. Mae'r adeilad newydd hwn yn cynnig safle waith sy'n cydnabod y safon ryngwladol hon o ragoriaeth ac eto ar yr un pryd, mae'n cynnig canolbwynt hwyliog i'r gymuned leol ac i dwristiaid. Mae'r penseiri wedi cynhyrchu adeilad sy'n groesawus gydag amgylchedd hygyrch sy'n digoni gofynion lleol tra'n cynnal nodweddion soffistigedig safle ddiwylliannol ryngwladol.

Cymeradwyaeth

The Buildings of Wales

Ers cyhoeddi cyfrol gyntaf y gyfres *The Buildings of Wales* gan Pevsner ym 1979, croesawyd pob llyfr newydd fel y canllaw pendant i bensaernïaeth y wlad. Hyd yn hyn deliwyd gyda saith ardal o Gymru: yn gyntaf oedd *Powys*, a ddilynwyd gan *Clwyd* (1986), *Glamorgan* (1995), *Gwent/Monmouthshire* (2000), *Pembrokeshire* (2004), *Carmarthenshire and Ceridigion* (2006) ac yn olaf, yn 2009, mae *Gwynedd* wedi cwblhau'r gyfres. Rhaid llongyfarch The Buildings Book Trust, Yale University Press a'r awduron fu'n ymwneud â'r prosiect ar gwblhau'r gyfres. Nawr, ble bynnag y teithiwch yng Nghymru, bydd copi o'r 'Pevsner' perthnasol yn helpu i ychwanegu at eich gwybodaeth, a'ch dealltwriaeth ac yn aml, yn rhoi torreth o bleser pur pan fyddwch yn dod ar draws adeiladau sy'n llunio'n hetifeddiaeth ddiwylliannol.

Sue Essex

Wrth gymeradwyo gwaith Sue Essex, rydym yn cydnabod ei chyfraniad unigol i wella amgylchedd Cymru, yn enwedig, y ffaith ei bod yn hyrwyddo gwerthoedd pensaernïaeth dda a chynllunio trefol. Mae hi'n wleidydd gyda chefndir proffesiynol yn yr amgylchedd adeiledig ac mae wedi dod â dealltwriaeth o gymlethdodau dylunio i'w rôl fel Aelod Cynulliad a Gweinidog yn y Cabinet dros yr Amgylchedd, Trafnidiaeth a Chynllunio pan ddaeth yn aelod o'r Llywodraeth cyntaf yng Nghynulliad Cymru yn 2000. Mae ei hymrwymiad gweithredol gyda phroffesiynolwyr cynllunio wrth adolygu polisi cynllunio wedi arwain at *Gynllun Gofodol Cymru* arloesol. Mae'r ffaith bod dylunio da yn ganolog i ansawdd bywyd wedi bod yn nodwedd o'i gwaith ac mae wedi sefydlu'r mecanyddwaith i hyrwyddo sefydlu Comisiwn Dylunio Cymru.

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Clawr
Canolfan Grefft Rhuthun (ffotograff: Jonathan Vining)
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Canolfan Grefft Rhuthun: cynllun llawr isaf
(darlun: Penseiri Sergison Bates)
2
Canolfan Grefft Rhuthun: tŷ bwyta
(ffotograff: Ioana Marinescu)
3
The Buildings of Wales: y saith cyfrol
4
Sue Essex (ffotograff: *Touchstone*)

Adroddiad y beirniaid

Gellir dyfarnu Gwobr Dewi-Prys Thomas i adeilad a'i grewyr, i unigolyn, neu i sefydliad mewn cydnabyddiaeth o gyfraniad unigryw sylweddol i ansadd bywyd yng Nghymru trwy gyfrwng pensaernïaeth.

Gwnaeth Dewi ei hun gyfraniad unigryw i bensaernïaeth Cymru, yn enwedig i'r syniad dadleuol o bensaernïaeth Cymreig hunanymwybodol. Roedd yn fodernydd ymroddgar, ac eto, roedd yn hyrwyddo archwilio natur dyluniad cynhenid ac addas, yn frwdfrydig, yn ei waith adeiledig, yn enwedig ym Mhencadlys Gwynedd, Caernarfon ac yn fwyaf arwyddocaol trwy ei addysgu carismataidd yn Ysgol Bensaernïaeth Cymru.

Credwn y byddai wedi bod yn falch i weld ansawdd pensaernïaeth fodern a'r cyfraniadau amgylcheddol a enwebwyd ar gyfer y dyfarniad yn ei enw. Mae 2009 wedi cynhyrchu record o 47 o geisiadau o sefydliadau, asiantaethau ac unigolion ledled Cymru. Daeth rhai o brosiectau tu celf a threftadaeth, cynlluniau tirlun, adeiladau cymunedol, cyhoeddiadau, cyfraniad unigolion a sefydliadau, pontydd a phensaernïaeth masnachol a chyhoeddus. Y rhestr fer oedd:

- Feel Good Factory, Matthewstown (Nigel Arnold Architect)
- Sue Essex
- Tŷ Newydd, Llanystumdwy (Adam a Frances Voelcker)
- Llyfrgell Canolog Caerdydd (BDP)
- Canolfan Grefft Rhuthun (Penseiri Sergison Bates)
- *The Buildings of Wales*, Pevsner (The Buildings Books Trust)
- *Mur Anifeiliad*, Century Wharf, Caerdydd (Gitta Gschwendtner, dylunydd)

Cymeradwyir tîm **The Buildings Books Trust** a'r Yale University Press am gwblhau saith cyfrol *The Buildings of Wales* gan Pevsner. Mae cynhyrchu'r mynegai hwn dros gyfnod o ddeng mlynedd ar hugain wedi bod yn enfawr. Byddai Dewi-Prys Thomas, oedd yn frwdfrydig iawn wrth adolygu'r gyfrol gyntaf, *Powys*, ar ei chyhoeddiad, wrth ei fodd bod ansawdd ei gyfraniad pensaernïol mawr olaf, Pencadlys, Caernarfon, wedi ei gydnabod yn y gyfrol olaf, *Gwynedd*.

Wrth gymeradwyo gwaith **Sue Essex**, rydym yn cydnabod y gall gwleidydd effeithio ar ansawdd yr amgylchedd adeiledig yn gadarnhaol trwy ddod ag arbenigedd proffesiynol o'i disgyblaeth blaenorol i'r arena wleidyddol, ynghyd â'r sicrwydd bod dylunio da yn ganolog i fywyd gwell. Dros gyfnod gweddol o fyr fel Gweinidog yn Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru, mae hi wedi hybu deddfwriaeth a chanllaw arloesol ac yn gonglfaen sefydlu Comisiwn Dylunio Cymru

Wrth ddyfarnu Gwobr Dewi-Prys Thomas 2009 i **Ganolfan Grefft Rhuthun**, dathlwn esiampl eithriadol o'r hyn mae Comisiwn Dylunio Cymru yn ei hyrwyddo: dyluniad meddylgar, priodol, sensitif ac o ansawdd. Mae'r penseiri Sergison Bates, a'u cleient wedi cynhyrchu adeilad sydd yn fodern, yn llawn cymeriad ac yn dangos cydymdeimlad at y safle a'i bwrpas. Gyda'i harddangosfeydd teithiol a'i chyhoeddiadau mae Canolfan Grefft Rhuthun wedi sefydlu enw da yng Nghymru a thu hwnt. Mae'r adeilad newydd hwn yn cynnig safle waith sy'n cydnabod safon ryngwladol o ragoriaeth**.**

Yr athro Dai Smith
Yr athro C Malcolm Parry
Jonathan Vining

Cefnogir Gwobr Dewi-Prys 2009 gan:

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