

CITU WINS RECOGNITION IN SUSTAINABILITY



Isabel McAllister, Chris Thompson (Citu) & Julia Bradbury



The Greenhouse development located in South Leeds



Sustainable property developer Citu is celebrating this month after gaining the ultimate recognition for their commitment to sustainability at the UK Green Building Council's Sustainability Awards - culminating in their 12th award win for Greenhouse, the UK's greenest high-tech homes and offices.

The Leeds based developer took their place at the industry's most prestigious awards ceremony, beating off competition from the likes of The Victoria & Albert Museum in

London, and The Notting Hill Low Carbon Refurbishment Initiative, for their development of Greenhouse, located in South Leeds.

Flying the flag for Yorkshire, the Citu team were crowned winners of the Best Refurbishment Project at the awards that recognise and reward outstanding achievement in Sustainability in the built environment.

Developers committed to change, Citu won the award due to the philosophy behind

Greenhouse, the part-refurbishment, part-new build of former 1930s workers lodge Shaftesbury House, that looks further than just carbon emissions and addresses sustainability from the core.

The awards cabinet is filling up for Citu, having also recently claimed 2 awards at the RIBA (Royal Institute of British Architects) Yorkshire White Rose awards in Sheffield, after Greenhouse architects West and Machell scooped a Sustainability Award for the development and a Bronze Architecture Award.

The team also picked up The Premier Excellence Award for Environmental Project of the Year, alongside Clegg Construction, for Greenhouse, which was only officially opened two months ago in October. This brings their running total of award wins for Greenhouse, their Leeds regeneration development, up to an impressive 12.

Citu M.D, Chris Thompson, said: "We have demonstrated with Greenhouse that it is possible through refurbishment to take an existing building and make it perform better than new build properties. We hope this inspires and encourages others to develop sustainable housing from existing stock and revitalise buildings in need of regeneration."

Building performance at Greenhouse is 65% better than required in 2006 Part L regulations, which achieves an energy performance certificate A rating, a rare award in a refurbishment, as existing house stock tends to have very high carbon emissions.

This is achieved using super high levels of insulation for the building envelope, solar panels, roof top wind turbines and ground source heat pumps. A sophisticated building management system helps minimise energy usage by moving hot and cold air around the building depending on individual residents and offices energy requirements.

But it was the additional features that Greenhouse offer residents and office workers that really impressed the judges. A free onsite gym, onsite deli, shared courtyard, community car clubs, shared allotments and a bespoke

energy monitoring system linked directly to residents TVs are the extras that add a community feel to the development and lifted Citu above their competitors, in terms of long-term sustainability.

Spokesperson for the awards Sarah Austin said "What we've seen a lot in the industry is what we've started calling 'Green Bling'. Developers trying to retrofit technology to help reduce the carbon footprint of buildings - often these are add-ons that have very little value to bring. Citu were crowned winners in this category because all the judges were impressed with their holistic approach to sustainability. With Greenhouse Citu have not only created a low carbon development, thanks to the efficiency of technology and materials used in the build, but they've also built sustainable living for the long term thanks to the extra features such as their bike club, allotments and car share scheme. They've gone much further than other developers in this area and we were delighted to present them with this award."

Chris Thompson added: "We're absolutely delighted to be receiving recognition for Greenhouse as it's taken huge commitment, passion and determination from a lot of people across the industry to make this development what it is today. We were always clear on what we were setting out to achieve with Greenhouse and I'm proud that we stayed true to its core - sustainability really is the blood that runs through Greenhouse from the bottom up and it's rewarding to be recognised for leading the way in sustainable building."

He added: "Each of the awards we've won throughout 2010 mean something to us. It's great that people really capture the essence of Greenhouse and understand exactly what we set out to do - create a modern, sustainable way of everyday living and working, without compromising on design, function or quality."

Greenhouse compromises of 166 one, two and three-bedroom homes plus 15,000 sq ft of high-specification creative work space, all available for sale or for rent.

Web: www.citu.co.uk
www.greenhouseleeds.co.uk