

The North West's Property 'Oscars'

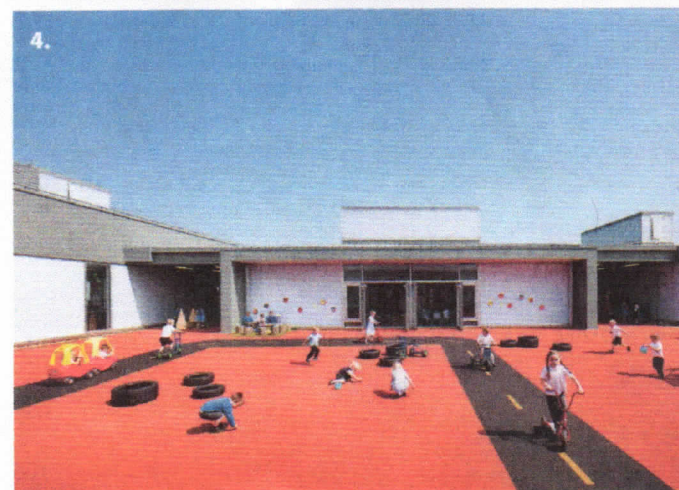
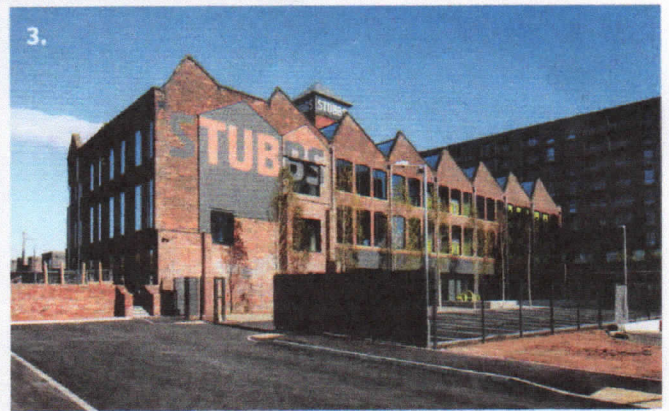
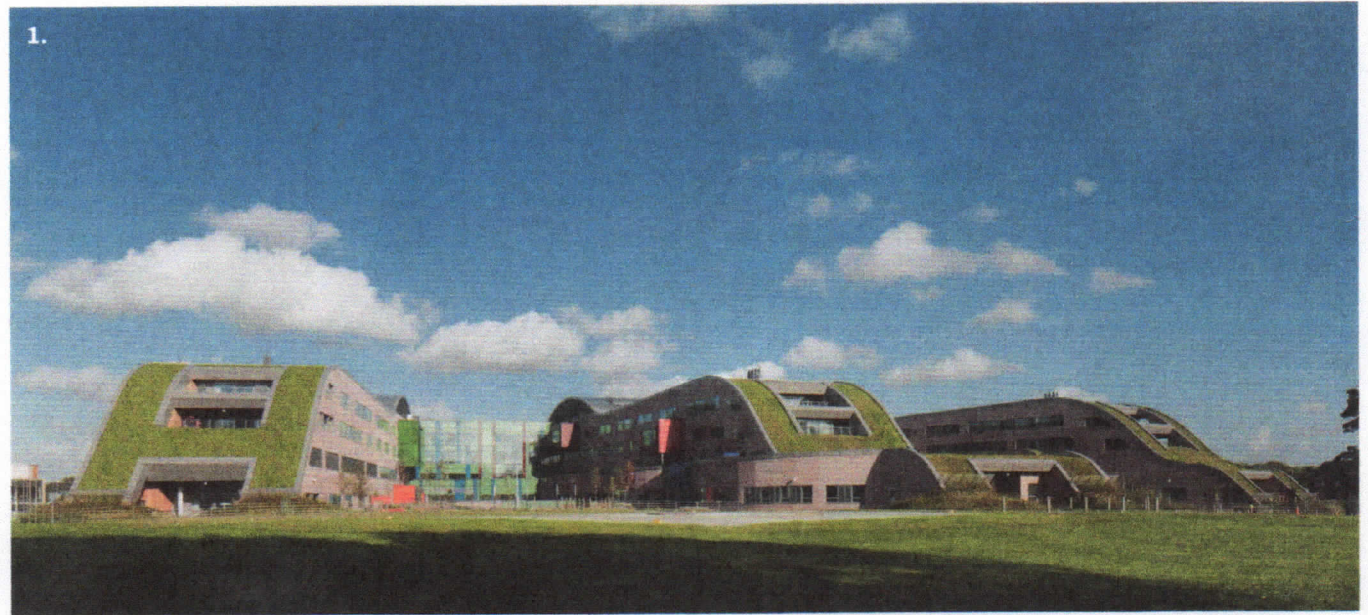
Reported by Andrew Harris

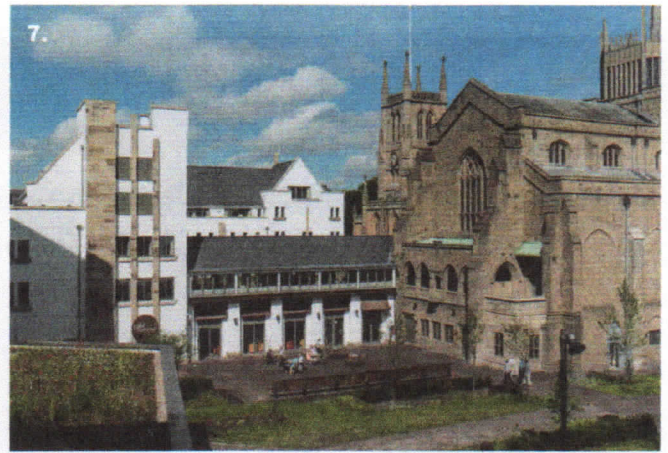
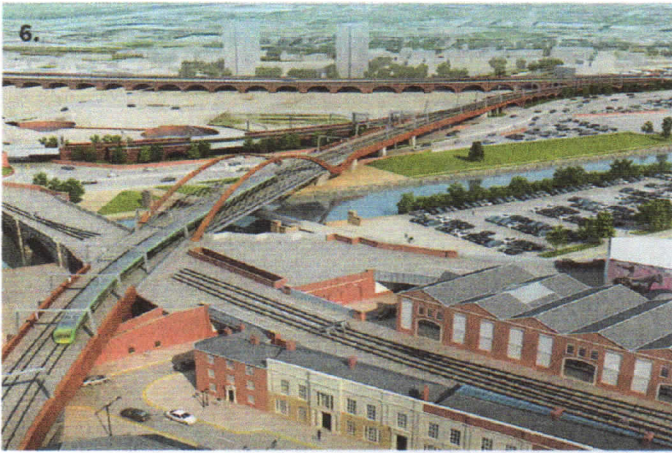
FORTY-TWO property projects which are the most innovative and benefit the community the most have been short-listed for prestigious industry accolades – the RICS Awards North West which culminate in the overall Project of the Year title.

The annual Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors Awards have become affectionately known as the region's property Oscars. Schemes of all sizes and budgets – along with the teams behind them - from throughout the North West

including Cheshire, Cumbria, Greater Manchester, Lancashire and Merseyside are in with a chance of winning industry recognition.

The awards are made in eight categories – Building Conservation, Commercial Property, Community Benefit, Innovative Design, Infrastructure, Regeneration, Residential and Tourism & Leisure. Those shortlisted for awards in these categories will also be considered for the highly esteemed Project of the Year title.





1. Last year's overall winner - Alder Hey Children's Hospital. 2. A contender for the Building Conservation award - Oldham Town Hall after municipal and courts use. 3. Stubbs Mill in Manchester is shortlisted for the Commercial Award. 4. The Harraby Community Campus in Carlisle is one of 7 shortlisted for the Community Benefit Award. 5. The Pilcrow in Manchester is a contender for the Design through Innovation Award. 6. This artists impression depicts the completed Ordsall Chord part of the Northern Hub in Manchester - one of only two contenders for the Infrastructure Award. 7. The Blackburn Cathedral Quarter is one of 7 shortlisted for the Regeneration Award. 8. The Prom' in New Brighton on the Wirral is shortlisted for the Residential Award. 9. The Norton Priory in Runcorn is one of 4 contenders for the Tourism & Leisure Award.

Last year the accolade went to Alder Hey Children's Hospital in Liverpool – as pictured – which demonstrated 'overall best practice and an exemplary commitment to adding value to its local area'. Its striking design and bright contemporary interior is inspired by children with the majority of its 270 bedrooms and state-of-the-art facilities providing spectacular views of the park and access to interactive play areas within the wards or serving the whole hospital.

All projects winning North West category awards in May will go on to compete against winners from other regions at the RICS Awards Grand Final in October for the chance to be crowned the overall UK winner in their respective categories.

Chair of the RICS Awards North West judging panel is Will Rees – Director of Rees Straw Chartered Surveyors – who explained 'These awards showcase our region's top built environment projects along with the exceptional talent and skills of the teams and surveyors behind them. Every year I wonder how we're going to top last year's shortlist but I'm never disappointed; many of this year's nominees are truly unique and pioneering and have transformed local communities. It just goes to show that our region is home to some of the most inspiring built projects'.

Will continued 'The judging process will no doubt prove extremely tough but – as part of the next phase of judging – the panel and I are looking forward to finding out more about the positive impact of each of these shortlisted schemes is having on their local areas'.

The 2017 RICS Awards North West take place on the 19th May at the Titanic Hotel in Liverpool. Tickets can be booked online at www.rics.org/awards or from Jennifer Doyle in the North West at jdoyle@rics.org or on 01925 853841.

Andrew Harris FRICS FCIM (www.andreweharris.co.uk) is a chartered surveyor but not involved in the judging process. He is pleased to acknowledge the information provided by Kim Bailey of the RICS including the illustrations - last years overall winner and examples of the shortlisted projects - which are all courtesy of the RICS. The winners will be announced in the July edition of the Lancashire & North West Magazine.

