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County buildings in line for prestigious awards

Buildings in and around Norwich and architects' practices from the city have been shortlisted for prestigious design awards.

Projects at the University of East Anglia and Wymondham College are among those that have reached the final of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) East Spirit of Ingenuity Awards 2009.

The Into centre for international students at the UEA and Wymondham College have been shortlisted in the education and healthcare category, sponsored by Hannah Reed. Both were designed by Norwich-based LSI Architects.

Hudson Architects, of Norwich, was also shortlisted in the community architecture category, sponsored by the Norfolk Charitable Trust, for its Salvation Army Chelmsford Corps building in Essex.

The awards scheme aims to celebrating the ingenuity, design excellence and innovativeness of architects and architecture across the region's six counties of Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex.

The awards have been designed to draw greater public awareness to the fine architecture within the region and to the design skills of architects. They are intended to complement national RIBA Awards.

This year RIBA East received 45 entries from which 18 finalists from across the region were selected. A panel of judges is due to visit each of the shortlisted buildings this month.

Louise Todd, regional director of RIBA East, said:



Shortlisted for design awards: Above, the INTO building at the University of East Anglia and, below, Wymondham College. PHOTOS: LSI ARCHITECTS LLP, NORWICH/RICHARD OSBOURNE — BLUE PEARL PHOTOGRAPHIC



"We have had a fantastic response to this year's awards and the short-listing committee has selected some highly innovative and ingenious designs.

"The awards highlight the

contributions made by talented architects working within the East of England region with its wealth of ancient and contemporary architecture, which is an important part of what makes

our region so unique. These awards have been designed to draw greater public awareness to the fine architecture we have within the region, and to the design skills of our architects. An overall award winner and up to two commendations will be selected in each of the categories.

"The jury will judge each building in its setting, considering fitness for purpose, consistency of design and use of materials.

"Particular note will be taken of the way in which the schemes relate to their surroundings and the ingenuity of the architect or client."

The winners in each category will be announced at a dinner and awards ceremony held on September 25 in Peterborough.

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