

And the winner is...

What a day, what a night! After a morning of searching interviews, an afternoon of lively mentoring training and an evening of champagne and networking at Claridge's, the eight finalists in the 2009 National Student Awards finally found out which of them has been voted 'Best of the Best'.

The 2009 winner is Anjna Farmah, who is studying Architecture at the Birmingham Institute of Art and Design, under the tutelage of Ruth Reid, President of the RIBA.

Anjna received her cheque for £1,000 and a crystal trophy from Cathy Stewart, Women in Property's national Awards ambassador, before an audience drawn from across the UK's property and construction industry. The judges' comments included "Anjna is passionate about everything, she has strong career plans, is very confident and knowledgeable about her subject".



2009 Winner Anjna Farmah
with Joanna Embling and Cathy Stewart

Success breeds success



Cathy Stewart
Women in Property's national
Awards ambassador

"The search is on! We are now seeking out the stars of 2010 to follow in the footsteps of those talented regional and national finalists who have preceded them. As ever, the judges had a tough

time reaching their decision, such was the level of professionalism and commitment exhibited by these young women.

"In my view, this goes to the heart of what Women in Property is about. As an organisation we are supportive of all members, no matter where they are on their career path. The future of the industry lies with the school and college students of today and we cannot afford to lose that untapped potential to other professions. Building Magazine recently reported that 27% of unemployed graduates are now considering working outside construction. We all know what a struggle it is for them to find work

placements and jobs in the best of times, let alone in times of economic downturn - but they must continue to receive the industry's support. After all, it works both ways. We want to see great talent coming through, we want to work with enthused, creative and vibrant people.

"We also need young, talented professionals in place ready for when things improve because none of us want to experience the skills shortages that have plagued the industry in recent years. Let's collectively do what we can to encourage a bright teenager to choose a career in the built environment."

Meet this year's National Student Awards Finalists

Sixty, second year students studying a built environment degree course were nominated by their Universities for the regional Awards. In addition to Anjna, the following seven went through to the Final. Congratulations go to all of them.



Central Scotland Helen-Anne Love

Studying BSc Architectural Studies,
University of Strathclyde

Judges' comment

"Technically outstanding, exceptional, light-hearted, very talented"



East Midlands Laura Lister

Studying Architectural Engineering & Design Management, Loughborough University

Judges' comment

"Genuine interest in property backed up by ethical values, thoughtful, committed"



North West Katie Myers

Studying BSc (Hons) Real Estate Management, Liverpool John Moores University

Judges' comment

"Good role model with conviction, very pleasant and confident approach, excellent approach to work as a team player"



South East Elizabeth Waters

Studying Meng Civil Engineering,
University of Surrey

Judges' comment

"Passionate and articulate, already an ambassador for the industry, highly professional in approach"



South Wales Emily Napier

Studying BSc City and Regional Planning,
Cardiff University

Judges' comment

"Good all round approach with honesty, looked and acted the part, excellent, very ambassadorial."



South West Suzanne O'Donovan

Studying BA (Hons) Architecture,
University of Plymouth

Judges' comment

"Hit all the bases at a high level, would be a good role model. compelling presentation, she got us thinking"



Yorkshire & North East Hannah Wright

Studying (BA) Urban Studies,
University of Sheffield

Judges' comment

"Sparkle, captivated audience, content and theory clear, engaging"

Looking ahead to 2010

The Awards are now entering their fourth year with Universities from across the UK now being invited to nominate their most promising second year students for the 2010 awards. Judging will commence in the early New Year. If you are interested in supporting the Awards through sponsorship, in kind or placements, please contact Women in Property's Executive Director, Fiona Alfred
T 0207 603 4746 **E** executivedirector@womeninproperty.org.uk

What's in it for us?

Construction firm, Byrne Group, has been a committed and enthusiastic supporter of the National Student Awards over the past two years. Michelle Tilley, Group Director, explains why.

"With more than a million young people in the UK not in education, employment or training, it's more important than ever to make sure that we offer youngsters the opportunities they need to succeed in their career of choice. Our involvement in the awards has been an excellent way for us to tap into high performing talent and has really paid dividends for both parties. The two young women we employed over the past 12 months did 'real' jobs, with 'real' accountability

"Both proved to be highly valuable assets to our business and for them the experience proved to

be a really huge, enjoyable learning opportunity. Our relationship with WiP is important because we value diversity and each student we meet has very different qualities and strengths. We like that. We believe it helps keep our business healthy to inject new and interesting ideas or views from bright young people, who see our business through fresh eyes. We also believe it is important for employers to recognise that students need to acclimatise to the industry that they are going to work in."

Mission Statement

The Association of Women in Property seeks to enhance the profile of women in the still male dominated construction and property sector, both by providing a dynamic forum for women in these professions and by encouraging and developing newcomers.

For further information on the Association contact Fiona Alfred, Executive Director on 0207 603 4746 or email executivedirector@womeninproperty.org.uk

www.wipnet.org

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