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Press release

Scotland

For immediate release

10 May 2012

RICS Scotland Awards – The Highland Club

The Highland Club has been announced as the winner of the Tourism & Leisure category of the RICS Scotland Awards 2013.

The awards, organised by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) in Scotland, recognises the achievements of land, property and construction projects across eight categories – Design & Innovation, Building Conservation, Regeneration, Residential Property, Commercial Property, Infrastructure, Tourism & Leisure and Community Benefit.

The town of Fort Augustus depends almost entirely upon tourism for its source of income, with the Abbey being the primary attraction in the region. With the Abbey in disrepair, the site closed, visitor numbers dried up and local hotels, cafes and bed & breakfast accommodation closed. It was purchased by The Santon Group in 2003 and the conversion of the Abbey reversed the declining tourism of the area and has been the key to regenerating the local rural community.

Chair of RICS Scotland judging panel, Laura Hall MRICS, commented:

“This project saved and rebuilt the Fort Augustus Abbey, which is situated at the beginning of the Caledonian Canal overlooking Loch Ness. The building and grounds have transformed it from an abandoned building into a tourist and leisure venue.”

Sarah Speirs, Director RICS Scotland commented:

“The RICS awards exemplify how property professionals with inspirational schemes, large and small, can transform our lives, our communities and our environment. I would like to congratulate all of the entries and in particular those selected as best in category and highly commended or commended.”

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Bim receives the Highly Commended award in The Building Conservation category



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Mark Dallas, The Highland Club Manager, takes the honour of receiving the Winner's award in The Tourism and Leisure category



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RICS Scotland Awards 2013 are sponsored by Bank of Scotland

The winners of all eight individual categories were:

- **Building Conservation**, sponsored by Wise Property Care – Scottish National Portrait Gallery (Scottish Project of the Year 2013)
- **Commercial property**, sponsored by CoStar Group – The Assembly Rooms
- **Community Benefit** - Bathgate Partnership Centre
- **Design & Innovation**, sponsored by Forbo Flooring Systems - The Housing Innovation Showcase
- **Infrastructure**, sponsored by Energetics Networked Energy - Forth Bridge Restoration
- **Regeneration** - Clyde Gateway Regeneration
- **Residential property** - Archers Hall Development
- **Tourism & Leisure** - The Highland Club

About RICS

RICS is **the world's leading qualification** when it comes to professional standards in land, property and construction.

In a world where more and more people, governments, banks and commercial organisations demand greater certainty of **professional standards and ethics**, attaining RICS status is the recognised **mark of property professionalism**.

Over **100 000 property professionals** working in the major established and emerging economies of the world have already recognised the importance of securing RICS status by becoming members.

RICS is an **independent** professional body originally established in the UK by Royal Charter. Since 1868, RICS has been committed to setting and upholding the **highest standards of excellence and integrity** – providing **impartial, authoritative advice** on key issues affecting businesses and society. RICS is a **regulator** of both its individual members and firms enabling it to **maintain the highest standards** and providing the basis for **unparalleled client confidence** in the sector.

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