The Learning and Skills Council (LSC), in association with the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA), today announced the shortlist of the prestigious Further Education Design Awards 2007. The awards recognise design excellence in the Further Education (FE) sector and the winning architect will be awarded a prize of £5,000.

This year saw an exceptionally high standard of entries and the judges shortlisted the following colleges:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College</th>
<th>Architect</th>
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<tr>
<td>Arcadia Fashion Retail Academy, London</td>
<td>Nightingale Associates</td>
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<tr>
<td>Darlington College</td>
<td>Ellis Williams Architects</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gloucester College</td>
<td>AWW</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matthew Boulton College, Birmingham</td>
<td>Bond Bryan Architects</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Kilburn Centre, College of North West London</td>
<td>Alistair Hay GHM Rock Townsend</td>
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<tr>
<td>Usworth Sixth Form College, Sunderland</td>
<td>Dewjo’c Architects</td>
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All entries were built in the last two years and were judged on their innovation, excellence, adaptability, atmosphere, and ‘feel good factor’. The judges will now visit each of the shortlisted colleges before determining the winning design that is deemed to provide the most effective and innovative learning environment. The trophy and prize will be presented at the RIBA LSC Conference in March 2008, where an exhibition of all the shortlisted entries will be shown.

Ian Caldwell, Chair of the judges and Director of Estates and Facilities, King’s College London, said: “All the judges were immensely impressed by the quality and innovation of all the entries. They clearly demonstrate the high standard of design in the FE sector. We are looking forward to
visiting the shortlisted colleges to see how they have created a stimulating learning environment that promotes the positive benefits of education and training.”

Philip Head, fellow judge and Director of Infrastructure & Property Services at the LSC, said: “The quality of the entries shows the positive impact the record investment in the FE Estate is having. All the shortlisted architects and colleges have created world class spaces that inspire people to learn.”

Over the past six years, the LSC has approved grants of around £1.5 billion to support 620 building projects in the learning and skills sector, worth a total of around £3.8 billion. More than half of the FE Estate has already been renewed, providing high quality facilities to all learners.

-ENDS-

For further information and images of the shortlisted buildings please contact:

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Notes to editors

Further Education Design Awards 2007 Judging Panel:

Ian Caldwell Chair and Director of Estates and Facilities, King's College London
Philip Head Director of Infrastructure & Property Services, LSC
Liz Rushton Principal of West Herts College
Nigel Robbins Principal of Cirencester College
John Walker Walker Simpson Architects

Learning and Skills Council
The LSC exists to make England better skilled and more competitive. We are responsible for ensuring the availability of high-quality education and training for everyone. We have a single goal: to improve the skills of England’s young people and adults to world class standards. Our vision is that young people and adults in England have knowledge and skills matching the best in the world and are part of a truly competitive workforce. We work nationally, regionally and locally to deliver this ambition on behalf of learners and employers.

RIBA
The Royal Institute of British Architects, one of the most influential architectural institutions in the world, has been promoting architecture and architects since being awarded its Royal Charter in 1837. Then the RIBA’s remit was ‘the general advancement of architecture’. Today's mission statement continues to embody these sentiments.

The RIBA is a member organisation, with 40,000 members, headed by President Sunand Prasad, and with an executive of 170 staff at the HQ in central London and in a dozen regional offices.

The RIBA is a registered charity (number 210 566).