The Learning and Skills Council (LSC), in association with the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA), invites entrants for the Further Education Design Awards 2007, which celebrate design excellence in the Further Education (FE) sector.

A trophy and first prize of £5,000 will be awarded to the RIBA architect who has designed an FE college that is judged to provide the most effective and innovative learning environment. The LSC and RIBA are inviting submissions from RIBA architects who have designed colleges in England that have been built in the last two years. Entries will be judged on their innovation, excellence, adaptability, atmosphere, and ‘feel good factor’.

A second place prize of £2,000 will be awarded to entries of special merit and certificates will be given to highly commended entries. The deadline for submissions is 5pm on Friday 2 November 2007.

This year’s Further Education Design Awards builds on the success of the first ceremony, which last year saw first prize awarded to architects Walker Simpson, for their design of North Manchester Sixth Form College. They were praised for designing the most effective and innovative learning environment which encourages and stimulates both teachers and learners and promotes the positive benefits of education and training.

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.
To get more information about the awards and download an entry form visit:
www.architecture.com

-ENDS-

Notes to editors

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 30,000 members, headed by President Jack Pringle, 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).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Ann Gill  LSC  02476 823515  ann.gill@lsc.gov.uk
Tom Mackey  Cohn and Wolfe  020 7331 5372  tom_mackey@uk.cohnwolfe.com
Chloe Sadler  RIBA

All public enquiries please contact:
LSC Helpdesk  0870 900 6800

News released on XXXX