

The Scottish Civic Trust

CELEBRATE · TAKE ACTION · ADVOCATE



My
Place
2022



CELEBRATE TAKE ACTION ADVOCATE

Our Vision:

Thriving, beautiful and well cared for buildings and places, which help to support and sustain a high quality of life.

Our Mission:

To celebrate Scotland's built environment, take action for its improvement and empower its communities.

The Scottish Civic Trust's My Place Awards and My Place Photography Competition are part of our work to get people in all of Scotland's communities involved in our built environment.

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➤ TO FIND OUT MORE, VISIT:
myplacescotland.org.uk

PROJECT LOCATIONS



Shortlisted My Place Awards projects

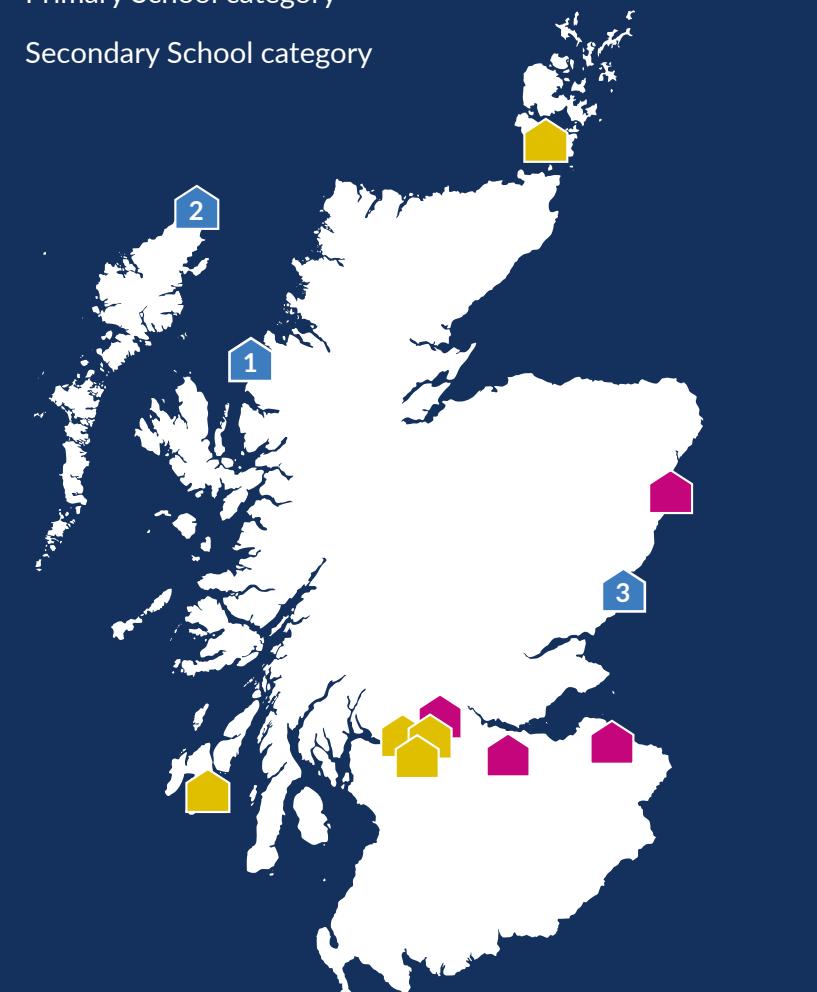
1. Achtercairn Regeneration
2. Comunn Eachdraidh Nis
3. Montrose Playhouse



My Place Photography Competition award winners



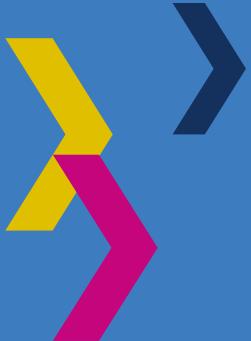
- Primary School category
- Secondary School category





Ochiltree Community Hub won the My Place Awards in 2021. © Ochiltree Hub

My Place AWARDS 2022



The My Place Awards are supported by:



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

The My Place Awards recognise community-led built environment projects that have transformed their locality. The My Place Awards judge excellence in terms of design, community involvement and impact.

“The annual My Place Awards celebrate the best of Scotland’s places and spaces. This year’s shortlisted projects are inspiring examples of how communities can come together to develop innovative places and achieve a positive change for local people. We congratulate their immense efforts and encourage groups across Scotland to follow in their stead.

– Ian Leith, Chair of the My Place Awards judging panel & Trustee of Scottish Civic Trust



HOW DO I TAKE PART?

Entries can be made by community groups responsible for built environment projects. We encourage members of the public to get in touch with Scottish Civic Trust via email, on social media or by phone to suggest built environment projects that have made a difference in their town. We then contact the projects about submitting an entry.



To find out more and to see previous entries, visit:
myplacescotland.org.uk/about-my-place-awards

JUDGING PANEL 2022

Ian Leith – Chair of Panel and Trustee, Scottish Civic Trust

Gordon Barr – Development Manager for Scotland,
The Architectural Heritage Fund

Laura Black – Scotland 365 Youth Engagement Project Manager,
National Museums Scotland

Christina Gaiger – President, Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland

Kuan Loh – Senior Architect, Scottish Government

Eleanor Styles – Trustee, Scottish Civic Trust

Above: Castlebank Horticultural Centre was Commended in the My Place Awards 2021. © Castlebank Horticultural Centre



1

ACHTERCAIRN REGENERATION, GAIRLOCH

Highland

NOMINATED BY:

Communities Housing Trust

DESIGNER: Various

CLIENT: Various

By the late 2000s, the coastal village of Gairloch in the northwest Highlands was struggling with a low-wage, seasonal tourist economy, a lack of affordable homes, and an outward migration of young people. The heart of the village, a large hotel, had also been derelict for many years following a fire. In short, the future of the village was at risk.

To save the village, the Communities Housing Trust collaborated with local people and key stakeholders to form the Achtercairn Development Group (ADG). Working with over 50 local and national partners, ADG developed a detailed masterplan for the central part of the village. Community members were heavily involved in each stage of the project through surveys and open days.

The resulting development, built in three phases over 10 years, now includes 19 sustainable and affordable homes, 6 Low-Cost Home Ownership homes, a local farm shop, an Air Training Corps and the GALE Centre, a community hub with tourist information, a shop, a café, office space and a University of Highlands and Islands learning hub.

Finished in 2020, the development has already had a massive impact on the area: 25 families have remained in the village with lifetime homes; school enrollment has increased; the community shop and café sell produce from 40 local makers, supporting the local economy with an additional £75,000 annually; and the GALE Centre attracts over 40,000 visitors a year.

Images © Rupert Shanks Photography



2

COMUNN EACHDRAIDH NIS

Na h-Eileanan Siar

NOMINATED BY:

Comunn Eachdraidh Nis

DESIGNER: BARD

CLIENT: Comunn Eachdraidh Nis

Comunn Eachdraidh Nis (CEN) was constituted in 1977 as the first historical society in the Western Isles. Over the years, CEN operated from various abandoned buildings which were not suitable for the storage and display of its collections. But in 2011, when the local authority decided to close Cross Primary School, CEN sprung into action to purchase the school, save the building from demolition and ensure the delivery of essential services in the face of local authority funding cuts.

CEN then consulted the community about their wishes for the building through surveys, visualisations and models. Many people emphasised the need for a gathering place and expressed a wish that local materials and makers be at the centre of the regeneration.

In 2017, CEN procured a design team. Conscious of the community's love for the existing building, the architect worked to save the deteriorating parts of the building whilst preserving many of its original features. The resulting building balances historic elements with modern renewable technologies that will help the building endure the climate crisis and stand for years to come.

Now, CEN is one of the largest employers in North Lewis, and plays a key role in combating social isolation and preserving Gaelic by hosting intergenerational events and lunches. CEN also supports the local economy by selling the goods of local makers and producers in its café to over 25,000 annual visitors.

Images © Fiona MacLennan (exterior photos) and Donna Morrison (interior photos).



3 MONTROSE PLAYHOUSE Angus

NOMINATED BY:

Montrose Playhouse Project SCIO

DESIGNER: Crawford Architecture

CLIENT: Montrose Playhouse Project SCIO

When a new swimming facility was built in Montrose in 2012, local people wondered what would become of the old swimming pool. David Paton, associate Director at Crawford Architecture and eventual Chair of Montrose Playhouse Project SCIO, posted his thoughts online about how the building could be re-imagined as a cinema.

Within a few hours, 500 people had liked the post and urged for the designs to become a reality. Within a week, the Montrose Playhouse project was born.

In 2017, Montrose Playhouse Project SCIO committee purchased the disused building from Angus Council for the sum of £1. They then embarked on a DIY SOS style strip out which saw over 80 volunteers help to strip the building back to a shell, saving the project around £250,000 and six months of time.

Construction began in 2021, and over ten months, the former pool hall was converted into three screening rooms with a combined capacity of just under 400 people. The Playhouse also features education and exhibition facilities, retail space and a café bar.

Since its opening in October 2021, the Playhouse has seen a six percent lift in its operating budget, and over 16,000 cinema tickets were sold. The Playhouse was built by the community, for the community, and is already proving to be a gathering space for people to socialise and build a sense of place.

Images © Arms and Legs



My Place PHOTOGRAPHY 2022

SUPPORTING
**YEAR OF
STORIES**
2022

The My Place Photography Competition is supported by:



HISTORIC
ENVIRONMENT
SCOTLAND
| ÀRAINNEACHD
EACHDRAIDHEIL
ALBA

JESSOPS
image is everything

Above: 'Global Warming' by Greg P., Winner of the 2021 My Place Photography Competition, Secondary School Age category.

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HOW DO I TAKE PART?

All young people aged 4–18 in Scotland are eligible to enter this free competition. Entry is open not only to school classes but also to youth groups, clubs and home-educated young people. Group leaders, teachers or home educators must register as a member on myplacescotland.org.uk and then upload entries on behalf of their young people.

There are three awards categories:

- Primary school age
- Secondary school age
- Young Persons' Choice Award (judged by a young panel)

To find out more and to see previous entries, visit:
myplacescotland.org.uk/my-place-photography



Above: 'Bee Yourself and Take Action' by Leah K., Winner of the 2021 My Place Photography Competition, Primary School Age category.

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JUDGING PANEL 2022

Alison Turnbull – Director of External Relations and Partnerships,
Historic Environment Scotland

Judy Jarvie – Architect

Phoebe Grigor – Photographer and Filmmaker

Aneel Singh Bhopal – Development Officer,
West of Scotland Regional Equality Council

“ It was a privilege to be invited to be a part of the judging panel for this year's My Place Photography Competition.

The level of entries was, once again, of tremendous quality and the thoughtfulness and empathy on display left me feeling hopeful that our young people possess a level of social conscience and awareness that bodes well for all our futures.

I encourage any budding photographers or artists to pursue this type of work as a profession, hobby or passion and help to make Scotland, and the world, a better place for us all.

- Aneel Singh Bhopal



**PRIMARY SCHOOL
WINNER**
WHITE WOOD WINDOW
AND REFLECTIONS

Ruby I.
North Walls
Community School,
Orkney

Ruby said, "I really like photography, and thoroughly enjoyed this project and was so pleased to have been chosen as the winner."

The judges said, "Our young photographers captured reflections in puddles, abandoned places, play parks and crabbing ponds. Their images encouraged us all to take a moment to look for the beauty in the mundane."

YOUNG PERSONS' CHOICE JUDGING PANEL 2022

Leah Kirwin – 2021 Winner, Primary School Age Category

Carla Mulholland – 2020 Winner, Secondary School Age Category

Nicole Mullan – Photographer

Greg Potter – 2021 Winner, Secondary School Age Category



**PRIMARY SCHOOL
HIGHLY COMMENDED
GLENBOIG BRICKS**



Charlotte G.
Glenboig Primary School
Camera Club, North Lanarkshire



**PRIMARY SCHOOL
HIGHLY COMMENDED
THE PUDDLE OF REFLECTION**



Steven C.
Burgh Primary School,
South Lanarkshire



**PRIMARY SCHOOL
HIGHLY COMMENDED
PLAY BARS**



Isra H.
Govan Community Project,
Glasgow



**PRIMARY SCHOOL
HIGHLY COMMENDED
MY CRABBING SPOT**



William C.
Port Ellen Primary School,
Argyll & Bute



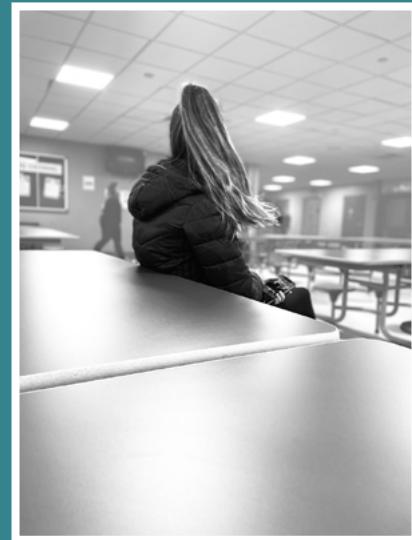
**SECONDARY SCHOOL
WINNER
STREET VIEW**



Louise M.
Kilsyth Academy,
North Lanarkshire

Louise said, "Going into the competition I knew that there would be a lot of entries, so I am very surprised, but very excited, to win this award."

The judges said, "This image captured the essence of what Glasgow and other cities felt like during the pandemic – what would normally be bustling with people was eerily empty. The photographer's shadow further highlights the sense of isolation that many have felt in recent times."



**SECONDARY SCHOOL
HIGHLY COMMENDED
THE GIRL THAT SITS ALONE**



Casey N.
Inveralmond Community
High School, Midlothian



**SECONDARY SCHOOL
HIGHLY COMMENDED
HOME FOR THE SUMMER**



Esmee N.
Robert Gordon's College,
Aberdeen



**SECONDARY SCHOOL
HIGHLY COMMENDED
JOURNEY**



Louis R.
Robert Gordon's College,
Aberdeen



**SECONDARY SCHOOL
HIGHLY COMMENDED
LITERAL FRAMING**



Thomas C.
Dunbar Grammar School,
East Lothian

**YOUNG PERSONS'
CHOICE AWARD
SEASIDE SUNSET**



Billy H.
Gargieston Primary School,
East Ayrshire

Billy said, "Thank you so much. I am so glad to hear that everyone liked my photo. I am looking forward to the award ceremony."

The judges said, "The photographer effectively places the viewer in the scene, waiting on the beach for the perfect sunset. It's a beautiful photo, and one can imagine the photographer on a relaxing evening walk with their family."



WITH THANKS

The Scottish Civic Trust would like to thank:

- All groups, individuals, schools and pupils involved with the awards
- My Place Awards judging panel
- My Place Photography Competition judging panel
- Young Persons' Choice Award judging panel
- Eastern Exhibition & Display
- South Block, Wasps Studios
- Rob McDougall, filmmaker

“Our My Place Awards and Photography Competition are an important part of our work to celebrate Scotland's heritage. As we mark two years of living with the pandemic, both projects have highlighted how local communities are raising our collective understanding of the value of our history and heritage to our overall wellbeing. I'd like to extend my congratulations to the shortlisted, highly commended and winning entries for the Awards and Photography Competition, and to thank everyone who submitted an entry.

- Sue Evans, Chair of Scottish Civic Trust

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*Cover image: 'Journey' by Louis R.,
Robert Gordon's College. Highly Commended,
My Place Photography Competition,
Secondary School Age Category.*

