

**MEDIA RELEASE – EMBARGOED TO FRIDAY 8 OCTOBER 2010**

**International design award and event celebrates space for young people**

Scotland's role in promoting architectural advancement was spotlighted at an international conference and awards ceremony in Edinburgh last night, marking the glittering finale to Children in Scotland's year-long 'Making Space 2010' programme, championing innovative architecture and the creation of inspiring spaces for young people and communities.

A highlight of the two-day event was the official dinner, where the winner of the Making Space 2010 Architecture Award was announced by Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning, Michael Russell.

The overall award was won by Min Buri Old Market Library, Soe Ker Tie House and Safe Haven Orphanage Thailand, designed by architects TYIN Tegnestue, Norway. The project was commended for its 'completely child-centred approach', which the judges felt 'met the needs of a child within a social and cultural context', while also displaying 'architectural qualities [which] are outstanding'. The building was felt to show an 'innovative and imaginative use of simple materials' and focused attention on the value of community and intergenerational working, as well as on the power of education. Summing up their decision, the judging team said: "[The project] shows innovative ways of giving the inhabitants some basic services but also drives home the importance that education plays, and provides a focus for the community that is hoped will build passion in the neighbourhood that eventually can contribute to a positive development in the area."

With a shortlist which also included a revolutionary 'Transportable Classroom' from Mali, 'The Puckelball Pitch', an interactive art project from Sweden which represents the frequently unfair and unequal 'playground of life', and innovative entries from Scotland, all eyes were on Edinburgh as the design agenda for the future was unveiled.

Other commended entries included Punkaharju Day Care Centre, Punkaharju, Finland, which the judges praised for its 'simple, clear and sensitive design', which, crucially, is 'adaptable to the age of the pupils'. The Centre is also sensitive to its environment, noted for its 'fit to landscape and environment'. Overall it was viewed as 'simple, responsive, flexible, well-integrated, small-scale, child-friendly and sustainable'.

The Scottish award was won by Hyndland After School Club, Partick, Glasgow which provides out of school care for children aged between 5 and 12 years, allowing their parents to work without facing issues of childcare. Their premises are located within Hyndland Primary School, utilising a refurbished dining hall, which allows for greater flexibility in their service. This entry impressed with its 'low cost imaginative and innovative use of old premises, and a very ordinary space', and demonstrated an idea that could be replicated in other places, a crucial aspect which should remind cash-strapped Councils that developing curricular innovation and supporting workforce change in Scotland does not require large-scale spending.

The conference itself brought together a range of international experts to examine issues related to children and space, from aspects of how children and young people relate to their environment and its impact on their development, to what makes a good learning environment and what elements need special focus in the future.

Chaired by Seona Reid, Director, Glasgow School of Art, the two-day event also heard from Scottish architects including Sam Cassels, Design Advisor (Schools), Architecture+Design Scotland, alongside other UK and international design experts, and included an opportunity for delegates to join study visits to inspiring and innovative new buildings and projects in Central Scotland and to hear from those directly involved in their design and planning.

Michael Russell is in no doubt that Scotland is uniquely placed to host such a design showcase. Speaking ahead of the event, the Cabinet Secretary said: “Making Space 2010 has offered an arena for us to share ideas the future of Scotland’s schools and to gather examples of the best school design from around the world; it has made an important contribution to ensuring Scotland leads the field in innovative and progressive school design.”

Ends

### **Notes for Editors**

For further information on the conference, about the award winners, or for images, contact Lynn Gilmour, [lgilmour@childreninscotland.org.uk](mailto:lgilmour@childreninscotland.org.uk)

**Children in Scotland** is the longstanding national agency for the whole of the children’s sector, reaching over 250,000 individuals through our extensive membership of more than 450 statutory agencies, voluntary sector organisations, professional associations and community groups.

For further information visit [www.childreninscotland.org.uk](http://www.childreninscotland.org.uk)

**‘Making Space 2010’** is a one year programme, led by Children in Scotland, which includes an international award and conference promoting innovation, creativity and sustainability in design for children and young people aged 0-18.

For further information visit [www.childreninscotland.org.uk/makingspace](http://www.childreninscotland.org.uk/makingspace) or contact Hannah Goodrum, [hgoodrum@childreninscotland.org.uk](mailto:hgoodrum@childreninscotland.org.uk)