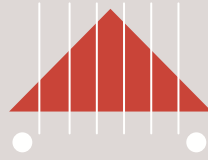


Milton Studio News

Issue 25

Winter 2016 - 2017



Dundee V&A Museum of Design Progress on Site



JFSA were delighted to be invited to participate as "Executive Architects" in the V & A project to work alongside prizewinning designer, Japanese Architect Kengo Kuma. Joining this team is quite an accolade for the Practice and testimony to the high quality skills, experience and efforts of all our Partners and staff upon which our respected reputation has been built. This project is well underway and on programme for completion in 2018. We currently have a variety of other projects on site including the five bedroom and sun room extension to St Mary's Care Home in Monifieth for the Diocese of Dunkeld.



Sun Room Extension to St Mary's Care Home, Monifieth

Scheme Design Stage



- St Margaret's Church, Forfar -

A proposed New Centre for St. Margaret's Church, Forfar is in development; a refurbishment to the restaurant and services at The Horn Milk Bar, Errol, Perthshire is 'on the drawing board'; and an extension for AG Barr, West High Street, Forfar is at 'discussion of the brief' stage.

Tender Stage

Two projects for the Diocese of Dunkeld are currently at Tender Stage: a new 60-bed Care Home facility at Liff Road, Dundee and a smaller project to refurbish an existing dwelling also located at Liff Road, Dundee.



Completed Projects

The £1.67Million refurbishment project at the High Mill & Preparing Rooms, Verdant Works, Dundee is complete with the project a 'Winner' in the 2016 RIAS/Historic Environment Scotland Conservation & Climate Change Awards. Also complete are two residential developments for Stirling Council at Wallace Crescent, Pleian and Thornhill, Stirlingshire and alterations to cottages at Simprim Farm, Meikle are complete. Our refurbishment project at Bishopshall Boarding House for



- Bishopshall Boarding House -

St Leonard's School, St Andrews was also recently handed over. The project involved repairs/restoration of the external building fabric and internal refurbishment and reconfiguration. This provides additional rooms/bed spaces, new services throughout and improved accommodation with a contemporary feel. The upper floors and communal areas were all completed in time for the start of the academic year, with the final works being completed by the October holidays.



- Thornhill, Stirlingshire -

Editor's Comment

Welcome to our 25th issue of James F Stephen Architects' newsletter. This latest edition contains much exciting news about projects on which we are currently involved and gives snippets into how JFSA is continuing to develop.

We moved into our own current purpose designed studio on 6 December 2006 and now 10 years later we have seen the cyclical movement from the burgeoning industry of 2006 through a period of global financial uncertainty which depressed the construction industry and are now seeing recovery well underway which we hope will not be affected by the uncertainty which Brexit may bring.

We have been seeing quite an uplift in the construction industry generally and as architects and designers we are at the beginning of the building project chain which bodes well for other consultants and local contractors. Repeat business from satisfied clients is a valued major source of our workload. We are also receiving numerous enquiries from potential clients and have secured some prestigious projects not least of which has been the recent accolade with our invitation to work with the Japanese architect Kengo Kuma & Associates who designed the much publicised iconic new V&A Museum of Design on the waterfront in Dundee. Having previously worked with the world renowned Frank Gehry from Los Angeles on the Dundee Muggies Centre we must be the only Scottish if not UK practice with such a record! Both Kuma San of KKAA and V&A Director, Philip Long have expressed their delight to have us on board.

With the V&A project becoming daily more visible in Dundee and more projects going 'live' we have moved our Aberdeen office to a new address in Queen's Road. We are also making plans to further update some of our IT systems and to take advantage of "working in the cloud". Onwards and upwards we go!!

"See how things have grown over 10 years"



2006



2016

Project "Approvals"

The Practice recently obtained "Change of Use" consent for 14 The Chanonry, Aberdeen for the Diocese of Aberdeen where they are about to re-locate their Diocesan Centre. The proposed Link & Hall Extension at Lowson Memorial Church, Forfar has also received planning and listed building approval. In addition projects which are also progressing forward having recently received funding via the Heritage Lottery Fund include: a self catering facility at Cultybraggan Army Camp, Comrie and the 'A' Listed Gardner Memorial Church, Brechin.



- Gardner Memorial Church, Brechin -

Change of Aberdeen Address



We have recently moved the location of our Aberdeen Office to 48 Queens's Road, sharing premises with Henderson Loggie Chartered Accountants. We are delighted to have a continued presence to serve our clients in this city.

Football Sponsorship

JFSA Partners have always maintained a keen interest in Forfar Athletic FC, a local team currently leading Scottish League Two. We have twice been FAFC match sponsors this year: Rosemary invited 9 business associates and friends to lunch at the September Forfar v Stirling Albion game when the ladies enjoyed watching the 'Sky Blues' under beautiful sunny blue skies win 4-1. That was a special family day as you can see below when grandson Mackenzie Stephen was Match Mascot and his dad, Paul Stephen, was one of the hosts to the ladies in the Sam Smith Lounge. In December Fred, Doug, Paul and David hosted and sponsored the local derby Forfar v Arbroath game where Arbroath regrettably edged to a 0-1 win.

A great way to meet and cement business relationships in a fun, friendly, family setting.



Award Success

Partner, Douglas J Reid was presented with the RIAS/Historic Environment Scotland Conservation and Climate Change Award at the RIAS Awards Dinner in Glasgow for the work done at Verdant Works, Dundee for Dundee Industrial Heritage Trust which was featured in our Issue 24 Newsletter.

Two 'Winner' and one 'Commendation' awards were received by JFSA in the Dundee Institute of Architects' Design Awards for the NNR Visitor Facility, Isle of May, Firth of Forth.

Complimentary Comments

Reflecting on the design and construction of their new hospitality suite, Forfar Athletic Chairman, Alistair Donald said in his match programme notes - *"in particular a special thanks to Paul Stephen of JF Stephen Architects who quite frankly has kept me sane over the past few weeks"*

Tony Thornthwaite of Coldsides Parish Church; *"Just a quick note, we had 300 teachers and pupils from Kings Park School for a Christmas service. The building worked so well. The kids and staff were blown away with the colours and contemporary feel of the church. The technology was an instant hit and the fact we were able to project Christmas Carols with the children's special text worked so well. A small number of pupils needed space to play and move around and the Hall of Friendship was perfect as they could see and hear what was happening either through the glass partition or on the TV. What I am saying is that I was really proud of the building on a big use day."*

Staff Matters



Architectural Assistant, **Allan Reid** is delighted to announce that his wife Lynsey gave birth to their second daughter; Sadie Annabelle Reid on Thursday 10 March 2016 weighing 8lbs 10oz. A little sister for Georgia. This is our Partner **Douglas Reid's** fifth grandchild. Congratulations to the Reid Family.

Well done to our Finance Officer, **Pat** and Administration Assistant, **Jodie** who both took part in the "Pretty Muddy Race For Life" in aid of Cancer Research at Camperdown Park in June. See the before and after pics!!

A warm welcome to **David Peoples** and **Chris Caird** who both recently joined our Glamis Office. Congratulations to Junior Technician **Callum Etchels** on achieving his HNC in Architectural Technology, from Dundee & Angus College. Also **Jodie Jackson** has done well completing her Modern Apprenticeship in Business Administration earlier this year.



Friends and family had a great time on 10 June when we had a staff BBQ in the garden at Milton Studio, Glamis.

Dundee University BSc Graduate, **Laura Farquhar**, who joined us for her practical training 'year out' (2015/16) to gain experience in an Architectural Practice left the JFSA Practice in June to travel over to Cambodia for a month to work with orphanage children. During Laura's time as a volunteer in Cambodia she was involved in a project which included building a school for the orphanage children.

The girls in the office had a meal out to Chapel Bank, followed by drinks in Bar 10 to celebrate an enjoyable year working with Laura.



David

Chris

Callum

Jodie

We acknowledge the milestones achieved by **Mario Vettraino** on his 15 years with us as Senior Architectural Technician; **Allan Reid** Architectural Technician has totalled 10 Years with JFSA; and best wishes to Interior Designer, **Lynne Wheeler** who is moving on after 10 years with us as a valued member of our Newsletter, Constructionline, ISO and Design teams.

ICT UPDATE

This year has seen several upgrades to our ICT systems. A number of new BIM/CAD workstations have been purchased and we are progressing well with the work to update all CAD workstations from the 2015 to the 2017 versions of Revit and AutoCAD and also to Sketchup Pro 2017.

All the PCs within our Practice have also been upgraded to run Windows 10 Pro and our VPN link to Stirling has been made more secure with the installation of new routers/firewalls within our Glamis and Stirling offices. This compliments the new server we installed in our Stirling office earlier in the year.

A new high-capacity back-up storage unit was recently installed in our Glamis office to provide space for future expansion and to ensure backups are reliable and secure. January 2017 will see us move our emails to the cloud and at this time we are also upgrading all of our Microsoft Office products to the most up-to-date, 2016 version of that software, including Office 365. In our plans for early 2017 is the installation of a new server for our Glamis office which will combine our existing multiple-server configuration into a single, high-specification unit.

Now that we have fibre superfast broadband we are looking ahead and we plan to move our existing VOIP telephone system to a cloud based system and it is hoped that all these improvements will be complete by summer 2017.

Chamber of Commerce Visit

Paul and David welcomed attendees to Glamis, on behalf of the Dundee & Angus Chamber of Commerce, to their 123 networking lunch on Wednesday 26 October to meet and mingle and learn about the work produced by JFSA.



Social Networking

Follow events at JFSA on:

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