



BEEN THERE, DONE THAT WINNING AN SGD AWARD



Dan Lobb MSGD of practice Balston Agius won three accolades at last year's SGD Awards, including the Judges' Award. Here, he discusses the process and the secrets of a successful entry

I had never entered the SGD Awards before last year. Although it's a busy time of year and it took time to compile the entries, I felt that it was worth making the effort and would really recommend that other designers enter. Winning the three awards was a recognition of my work within the industry, and offers additional endorsement when speaking with prospective clients.

I had intended to enter the Breakers Yard in the Designing for Community Space category when it was ready, and the project took around five years. It was a long complicated project – a National Trust site on contaminated land, adjacent to a Grade II*-listed building, in a conservation area.

I was also working on the Paper Landscapes category Wishanger project for about five years; when submitted we were awaiting a planning appeal decision. It was a tricky greenfield site, where I worked within a multi-disciplinary team.

The application process was straightforward; the forms were simple to fill in. I needed to compile some high-res images and photos of the projects, and luckily I had some CGI

views of the Wishanger project and some professional photos of the Breakers Yard.

Arranging to have professional photos of completed projects always takes time out of working on current projects, but the application process was a good reminder of the importance of having a record of my work. Good quality imagery is essential both for the awards and building up your portfolio/website.

I submitted the material and was notified by phone that I had been shortlisted. There were a few phone conversations to clarify details, and I had to arrange for a site visit.

At the ceremony, I enjoyed catching up with fellow designers and contractors. I was surprised when my name was announced. It felt like a long and windy path to get to the stage, and quite daunting to be stood at the front. Winning the two awards was unexpected, then, when the description of the projects for the Judges' Award was announced, and the penny dropped that it was my project, I was thrilled.

Enter your projects now for the 2017 Awards at www.sgdawards.com