

East London Advertiser

11th February 2009

The Academy Gets Nominated for Award



The National Skills Academy for Financial Services in East India Dock Road

Academy in running for top design award

A FINANCIAL academy on the doorstep of Canary Wharf is in line for a national design award.

The East End's National Skills Academy for Financial Services, which celebrates its first anniversary this month, has been shortlisted for 'excellence in design'.

The academy housed in the formerly Victorian George Green Grammar School listed building in East India Dock

Road in Poplar, opened its new facility last February following a £5m refurbishment.

It is one of five 'further education establishments' to be shortlisted by the Royal Institute of British Architects for its innovative style of building which combines modern with 19th century architecture, and its "inspirational" design.

The award is being announced on March 31.

Tower Hamlets College Press Release

Tower Hamlets College shortlisted for design 'Oscar'

5th February 2009

Tower Hamlets College's flagship Academy has been nominated for a prestigious national design awards.

Following a £5 million refurbishment, funded by ERDF, London Thames Gateway, LSC grants and Tower Hamlets College, a neglected former grammar school on East India Dock Road was transformed into London's leading education and training centre for the financial sector.



Now the National Skills Academy for Financial Services is one of five further education establishments in England to be shortlisted by Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) for excellence in design. The innovative style of the building and its inspirational design that influences the attitudes of students' are two of the criteria that the Academy met to be shortlisted. It has also been nominated for a sustainability award, based on re-use of existing materials, use of environmentally friendly/re-cycled materials and design for green operations.

Tower Hamlets College chose architects with experience of both historical buildings and education facilities to convert the Victorian listed building, formerly George Green Grammar School, into a state-of-the-art academy.

The Tooley & Foster Partnership worked with the College to combine modern design and cutting-edge technology of the 21st century with historical 19th century architecture.

"Our aim was to maintain the dignity of the building, but at the same time create an exemplar centre for working and learning, with the most up-to-date facilities. Everyone involved took great care to achieve that," said Sylvia Merton, Director of Estates and IT at Tower Hamlets College

The National Skills Academy for Financial Services works closely with businesses to ensure the curriculum provides the right skills for work. Last summer, it was praised by a senior Government minister for boosting the employment prospects of local residents. The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Hazel Blears, visited the Academy and heard first-hand accounts from students about some of the learning opportunities there.

The winner of the Further Education Design Awards, run jointly by RIBA and the Learning and Skills Council, will be announced in March at the awards ceremony on 31st March

For more information please contact:

Koyer Ahmed | PR & Events Coordinator | Kahmed1@tower.ac.uk | 0207 536 5704