



THC wins national Sustainability Award

The National Skills Academy for Financial Services at Tower Hamlets College has won a prestigious award from RIBA, the Royal Institute of British Architects. The building, located on East India Dock Road, was shortlisted for the RIBA/LSC Further Education Design Excellence Awards 2009, and THC is extremely proud to announce that it won the Special Prize for Sustainability.

The refurbished former school impressed the judges with its natural ventilation – it has no air conditioning, low energy but high efficiency lighting, WCs with dual flush facilities, sensor controlled lights and taps, good use of natural existing light, and earthborne paint on 70% of the walls. The Award recognises the Academy's, and indeed all of Tower Hamlets College's commitment to sustainability, something the College aims to raise the profile of over the coming year.

THC was also extremely privileged to host these awards in the light and airy main hall, now referred to as the gateway. "We were up against some tough competition, not least as our EIDR building was the only renovated building against five other new builds," said Director of Employer Relations, Sheila Bentham. "We are delighted to have our hard work, and that of our architect Gian Kundi, from The Tooley & Foster Partnership, recognised," she added.

The National Skills Academy for Financial Services offers a wide range of training courses for jobs in, and associated with, the financial services industry including courses in management, administration and IT. In addition, through its dedicated employment centre – Employment Solutions, it helps people back into work.

The Skills Academy would also like to thank its main funders London Thames Gateway, without which they could not provide the high level of support to the community that it does.