



**FORTH PORTS PLC**

**PRESS RELEASE**

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## **Edinburgh Waterfront Master Plan by British Practice Wins Prestigious Award**

Robert Adam Architects's master plan for Western Harbour in Edinburgh's port, Leith, has been selected by the important American urban pressure group, the Congress for the New Urbanism, (CNU), to receive its prestigious 2008 Charter Award.

Each year, CNU gives awards to urban designs from around the world that are considered to best embody and advance CNU's principles, supporting the creation of walkable, neighbourhood-based development as an alternative to urban sprawl. The CNU's principles influenced the Prince of Wales's thinking on urban design and in particular the design of his new village in Dorset, Poundbury. There remains a strong connection between the CNU and the Prince of Wales's Foundation for the Built Environment in London.

Robert Adam Architects' winning master plan for Western Harbour for Forth Ports PLC is part of the continued regeneration of the Leith area of Edinburgh. The plan looks to existing and traditional towns and cities and draws its lesson from their success. This traditional urban design avoids grand gestures and iconic buildings in favour of friendly places to live.

Western Harbour is the only European winner in any category of the awards (the other winning projects are in America, India, Bahamas and Saudi Arabia).

The plan was developed by a multi-disciplinary team, lead by classical and traditional practice Robert Adam Architects. Through a series of design workshops that studied related urban design, such as other historic ports in Scotland, the team considered the impact of other local factors such as ecology and climate. Their research has translated into an urban layout and form both suitable to the area and identifiable with it.

The judges recognised that Robert Adam Architects and Forth Ports have created a complex, non-stylistic design coding based on the character of existing streets, which enables flexibility for further designs both now and in the future, providing a strong framework promotes sustainability.

On receiving the Award, Robert Adam commented: "Our master plan is based on traditional principles similar to those advocated by the CNU. It will create a new area which will be interesting and varied, based around pedestrian-scaled streets and public space, and will be easily accessible to public transport. We believe that people will identify with the place and its buildings. The new architecture will not be any one style and will be individual but will be controlled to ensure continuity and the use of local materials."

The plan has about 2,000 new homes, including affordable housing for local people, all mixed with shops and offices to create a complete community.

## Notes to Editors

### CNU

The CNU is the leading organisation promoting walkable, neighbourhood based development as an alternative to sprawl. It was founded in 1993 and today has 3,100 members.

Each year, CNU's Charter Awards recognize projects across the world that best embody and advance the principles of the Charter of the New Urbanism. As selected by a jury of leading urbanists, honorees set the gold standard for urban design and development and serve as powerful examples for future development.

### Robert Adam Architects (Master Planning)

Robert Adam Architects has a wealth of expertise in master planning and new urban development. Current and completed projects are spread across the UK, from Scotland to Cornwall, and include Granton Harbour and Leith Docks in Leith near Edinburgh, and work with the Duchy of Cornwall in Newquay, Poundbury near Dorset and Field Farm near Shepton Mallet.

### Forth Ports Development

Forth Ports started regeneration activity at the waterfront in the 1980's, leading in the 1990's to the opening of the Malmaison Hotel, the development of the Scottish Executive building and Ocean Terminal Shopping Centre. By 2001, Western Harbour and Granton Harbour emerged as significant development sites and were granted outline planning consent in 2002 and 2003 respectively. Since achieving planning consent, a variety of national and local housing developers have committed to the construction of almost 1,500 homes.

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