

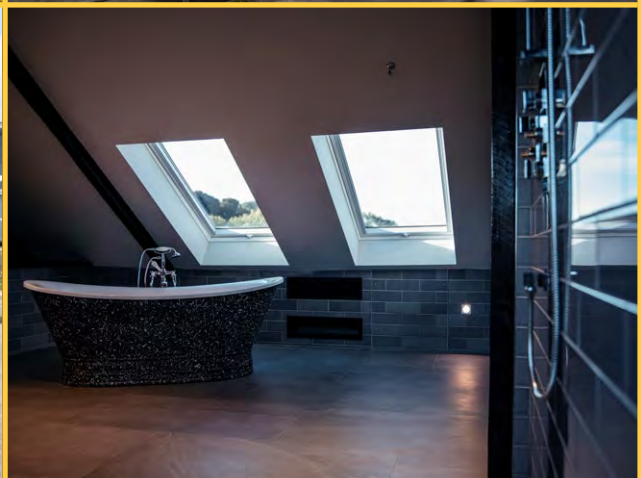


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Master Builder Awards



2021 Master Builder Awards National Winners





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A memorable year

2021 marks the FMB's 80th anniversary, giving us even greater cause to celebrate the Master Builder Awards. The past 18 months has been a time that none of us will ever forget, which is why it is great to be reflecting on the positive work that members have been doing across the country. The pandemic has highlighted the critical importance of the construction industry in supporting the economy and its recovery. In particular, Master Builders have demonstrated what they do best – building, repairing and maintaining our homes and places of work.

Within this context and wanting to acknowledge the fabulous work of Master Builder companies, we have added a new award for those companies that have displayed outstanding leadership, business management and strong dedication to supporting their staff and clients; the 'Building Company of the Year Award'.



Alongside this new award I am delighted to see some of the most hotly contested categories from the 2019 awards have made a welcome return.

So, please join me in congratulating the national winners and in celebrating the outstanding work showcased in this brochure by the UK's best builders. I would like to thank all of the nominees for taking the time to submit their entries and make the awards the exceptional event we have all come to know and love.

The competition has been incredibly tough, and I don't envy our independent judging panel in making what must have been incredibly difficult decisions in selecting the winners. I'm very grateful to them also for the time spent examining the nominations from across the UK, and for the expert knowledge, insight and opinions employed in making their decisions.

Finally, I would also like to acknowledge our valued national sponsors and thank them for their support, which enables us to celebrate the achievements of our members.

I hope you've enjoyed this year's awards as much as I have, and I can't wait to see the entries for the next Master Builder Awards in 2023!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian Berry'.

Brian Berry
FMB Chief Executive

Master Builder of the Year

Stonewood Builders Ltd



Congratulations to Stonewood Builders Ltd on being crowned the overall winner of the 2021 Master Builder of the Year Award

Tasked with the challenging restoration of a medieval hall house, parts of which dated back as far as the 12th century, Stonewood Builders Ltd demonstrated expert craftsmanship and a deft touch in preserving the Grade II Listed property's historic attributes, while upgrading the property to modern standards.

Once owned by Henry V's standard bearer at Agincourt, the property had suffered less-than-regal treatment during previous renovations in the 1970s and 80s. A major part of the works undertaken involved rolling back these modifications in order to restore the building's true character. The team at Stonewood did this using traditional skills and crafts such as lime plastering and strapwork ceiling installations – abilities seldom found amongst contemporary UK builders.

The team restored the Great Hall to its former glory by replacing the late mid-century stone staircase with a period-appropriate panelled oak staircase, and a 16th century stone fireplace was painstakingly restored and aged using yoghurt. The Stonewood team even worked with the client to design and build a bespoke wrought iron candelabra to be suspended from the ceiling on a winch.

In the master bedroom the original supporting beams have been repaired, restored and sand-blasted to form a beautiful high ceiling above lime-washed stone walls and heritage oak flooring. A crucial step in this process was the addition of insulation between the rafters to prevent the room plunging to temperatures as low as -10 degrees during the winter. A gorgeous free-standing copper bath completes the space and offers the perfect spot to relax.

While recovering the house's historical assets was a key priority, the client also wanted to modernise the home's facilities. Stonewood undertook a careful balancing act to install underfloor heating, contemporary plumbing and electrical work, fibre optic broadband and additional communications technology, all without compromising the medieval setting.

The judges marvelled at Stonewood's installation of the "stunning" staircase feature situated at the heart of the building, and described the team's work as "beautiful", "authentic" and finished to a very "high standard". They hailed the rare skills displayed by this builder, and the knowledge shown in deciding when to employ them to complete a renovation worthy of royalty.



"The team proceeded to furnish the historical property with a wealth of 21st century conveniences, including underfloor heating, contemporary plumbing and electrical work and fibre optic broadband – all carefully integrated into the medieval setting without compromising its aesthetic."

From the national judges



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The award-winning Isuzu D-Max Pick-Up is extremely proud to sponsor the overall 2021 Master Builder of the Year Award, celebrating the best of the best from the FMB's hard working, highly qualified, professional members.

For more information, visit www.isuzu.co.uk



Commercial or Public Sector Project Property Building Maintenance (Wales) Ltd

Property Building Maintenance (Wales) Ltd won the award for its outstanding transformation of a former office building into much needed residential housing in South Wales.

The objective was to transform a set of disused former council office buildings into six new two-bedroom apartments in Port Talbot. Two of the new apartments were also required to be wheelchair accessible, with wet rooms.

Whilst the team inherited the original design from architects and engineers, they were required to make significant additions to the scope of works as the project progressed and unforeseen challenges emerged. With a view to saving the client money, the company decided to repurpose the original structure and complete substantial repairs rather than demolish the site to start again.

A raft of energy-efficiency upgrades were added to the property including double glazing throughout, external wall insulation, new water mains installation, replacing gas with electricity and fitting new heaters, high-efficiency hot water storage tanks and a utilities service room.

A sprinkler and fire alarm system were retrofitted to the building to enhance safety, with automatic ventilation added to the communal area. Finally, Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) colour labelling was used throughout the building to assist residents with partial sight or who were colour blind in navigating.

The judges were impressed by this builder's willingness to go the extra mile, undertaking improvements to the project of their own volition, and engaging with stakeholders such as the local school to ensure everybody was kept abreast of developments. They hailed the execution of the design as "above and beyond" and a "dramatic improvement in appearances and performance".

They cited the build as one that would "make a huge difference to the new tenants, not only now, but in the future too."



Finalists

Winner

Property Building Maintenance (Wales) Ltd,
Cymru

Highly Commended

Architecturall Ltd, **London**

- ◆ Mitchells Construction & Development Ltd, **Southern Counties**
- ◆ Punch Construction Ltd, **Eastern Counties**
- ◆ Form Construction Midlands Limited, **Midlands**
- ◆ Radford Construction Services Ltd, **Northern Counties**
- ◆ GP McManus, **Northern Ireland**
- ◆ SR Design & Build Ltd, **North West**
- ◆ George Fair Joiners & Contractors, **Scotland**
- ◆ Stonewood Builders Ltd, **South West**



House Builder Award Keigar Homes Ltd

Keigar Homes Ltd's work at Manor Farm in North Lincolnshire saw them create five quality new-build homes on the site of a series of dilapidated agricultural buildings.

Taking great care to use the existing structures as a stylistic template, the team at Keigar Homes Ltd built five new homes that complemented the area's rural charm.

The single-storey barns feature open vaulted ceilings with king post trusses and gallery landings, while the two-storey barns feature large, glazed frontages. A unique mix of materials including clay tiles, cottage bricks and timber cladding were incorporated to ensure the properties were sympathetic to the surrounding environment. Dog-tooth corbeled brickwork and feature bricks were also used to create quoins, and each home's interior was customised by the homeowner, resulting in unique aesthetics.

The land was contaminated so Keigar Homes had to apply remedial methods such as placing a chalk barrier on the ground and covering it with sub and topsoils. The local area also boasts a rich tapestry of thriving wildlife, so to help create an environmentally friendly site, the team installed bird boxes, bat boxes and even a bespoke bat loft.

With construction work taking place opposite an active primary school, great care had to be taken to minimise disruption and ensure the safety of the site. The team worked around the school's timetable to schedule deliveries that avoided clashes, and only carried out noisy and invasive works during the holidays.

The judges recognised Keigar Homes as "a house builder that is unafraid to take on projects in difficult circumstances," and were impressed by the clever use of materials and detailing to enhance the visual appeal of the new properties. The project was hailed as "a wonderful example of how a good quality development can positively contribute towards a local area" and "a great blueprint for sensitive rural development".

"A wonderful example of how a good quality development can positively contribute towards a local area."
From the national judges

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FMB Insurance is extremely proud to be sponsoring the House Builder Award at the 2021 Master Builder Awards. Showcasing some of the nation's most reputable and professional builders, the awards highlight the high levels of excellence within this vast industry. The House Builder category is particularly important to us; as SME construction insurance specialists, we believe in high quality construction, combined with consumer protection.

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Finalists

Winner

**Keigar Homes Ltd,
Yorkshire & Trent**

- ◆ **Atlantic Construction, Cymru**
- ◆ **Mason Construction (London) Ltd, Eastern Counties**
- ◆ **Kisiel Group, London**
- ◆ **Cornerhouse Building Contractors Ltd, Midlands**
- ◆ **McKnight & Son Builders, Northern Counties**
- ◆ **Alskea Contracts Ltd, Northern Ireland**
- ◆ **G Ellison Builders, North West**
- ◆ **SSJB Contractors Limited, Southern Counties**
- ◆ **H M Raitt & Sons Ltd, Scotland**
- ◆ **Stonewood Builders Ltd, South West**



Kitchen Project Bagshots Ltd

Bagshots Ltd took home the title for best Kitchen Project for the stylish renovation of a family kitchen with a maritime twist.

Bagshots Ltd's work at this property saw them designing and installing a complete bespoke kitchen with an island, window seating and a table and benches.

The client had sailed the seven seas at the helm of a classic yacht and had requested a maritime theme to match the location of their home, along with a "traditional" feel. The team applied "old-fashioned" style frames around the cabinet doors combined with solid oak features throughout the kitchen. When building the table and benches, they routed a pencil bead on the edges to match the furniture.

The build was not without challenges; an exposed rolled steel joint beam and posts left behind following the removal of a dividing wall threatened to take the wind out of their stylistic sails. They weathered the storm however by cladding the

beam and posts with a 'scarf beam' to mimic those featured on old sailing ships, before applying a lime wax finish to complete the weathered look.

The judges were impressed by the way this Master Builder took ownership of the process from start to finish, producing a truly unique result tailored precisely to their client's preferences. They also cited Bagshot's innovative use of virtual reality goggles and 3D design resources during the design process as a great way to keep their client involved and enthused in the project as it progressed.

This kitchen demonstrates what can be achieved with a clear vision and a fine working relationship between client and builder, even on a tight budget. Bagshots Ltd have delivered a maritime masterpiece and a true one-of-a-kind project the judges deemed well worthy of this award.

The judges were impressed by the way this Master Builder took ownership of the process from start to finish, producing a truly unique result tailored precisely to their client's preferences.



Finalists

Winner

Bagshots Ltd,
Southern Counties

- ◆ **Excel Home Design Ltd, Cymru**
- ◆ **Full Works Facilities Management Limited, Eastern Counties**
- ◆ **Hawksmoor Construction Ltd, London**
- ◆ **Form Construction Midlands Limited, Midlands**
- ◆ **Marlfield Joinery and Construction Ltd, Northern Ireland**
- ◆ **A J Joinery & Building Ltd, North West**
- ◆ **Kevin Wilson Joiners and Building Contractors, Scotland**
- ◆ **PAP Building Services Ltd, South West**



Large Renovation Project Stonewood Builders Ltd

Stonewood Builders Ltd's sensitive renovation of a Grade II listed medieval hall house is a masterclass in how to revitalise an historic property that has fallen into disrepair.

Exercising specialist heritage practices and re-using some of the site's original building materials, the team at Stonewood Builders Ltd restored a Grade II Listed medieval hall house into a modern family home.

The renovation included installing modern conveniences such as underfloor heating, contemporary plumbing, modern electrical work and fibre optic broadband into the structure without compromising its unique character and aesthetic.

The independent judges were impressed by the fabulous oak stairs and described the Tudor restoration and brickwork as "incredible". They liked the "understated" glass extension added to the property and loved the use of limecrete flooring as well as lime-washed stone, not to mention the fine detailing on display throughout the home.

Projects as large and as challenging as this one can often put significant strain on builder-client

relations. However, Stonewood impressed the judges with their hands-on approach and honest attitude throughout the build. They explained clearly to their client how each stage would develop and remained committed to a positive outcome even when disagreements arose. It's no surprise they won a glowing client review as a result of their hard work from start to finish.

This Master Builder delivered nothing short of a "total transformation" of this culturally significant property, with the finished result displaying "real flare, in term of character choices, materials and colours", according to the judges. One cites the project as "a really stunning piece of work", while another reflects "everything has been restored sympathetically. They have produced an outstanding outcome from that source material."

Stonewood Builders Ltd was also awarded the overall 2021 Master Builder of the Year Award for this large renovation project. See pages 6 – 7 for more details.

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"Everything has been restored sympathetically. They have produced an outstanding outcome from that source material."

From the national judges



Finalists

Winner

**Stonewood Builders Ltd,
South West**

- ◆ **Carreg Construction Ltd, Cymru**
- ◆ **Property Revolutions Ltd,
Eastern Counties**
- ◆ **Earl and Calam Design and Build Ltd,
London**
- ◆ **Templeberry Properties Limited,
Midlands**
- ◆ **Carrock Homes Ltd,
Northern Counties**
- ◆ **Alskea Contracts Ltd,
Northern Ireland**
- ◆ **J C Building Services, North West**
- ◆ **Spey Building & Joinery Ltd, Scotland**
- ◆ **Bespoke Living Construction Ltd,
Southern Counties**
- ◆ **IPSUM (UK) Ltd, Yorkshire & Trent**



Medium Renovation Project

Coldwells Building Company Ltd

Coldwells Building Company Ltd first encountered the property in Aberdeenshire as a tumbledown shambles of croft buildings, but amidst the neglected site this Master Builder and their client recognised the potential for a stunning family home.

Dating back to 1869, the original granite cottage and neighbouring byre needed to be stripped back and fully refurbished to breath a fresh lease of life into the property and create a modern home for a fast-growing family. Working to designs by Brown & Brown Architects, the team at Coldwells set out to seamlessly blend the two buildings to create a bright and open contemporary home with a new timber and glass extension.

The floors of the original cottage were stripped out to create a spacious open-plan kitchen and living area, and the byre was converted into two large bedrooms. The new extension, which is clad in black Siberian larch, provided extra space for a large living room and a master suite.

The team salvaged as many materials as they could from the existing site including rafters, slate and granite. Major challenges that were overcome included fixing the levelling of the kitchen floor, which was 45mm off level, installing a land drain to prevent localised flooding and repairing the byre roof, which was in terrible condition. To keep

costs down, the team treated the healthier rafters for woodworm and repurposed them to build a new roof.

To bring more natural light into the property, openings were carved into the granite walls to make way for expansive glazing, illuminating the property and capitalising on the spectacular surrounding views of the pine forest. Bespoke cabinetry, custom build by Coldwells, runs the length of the entrance hallways to maximise the space available whilst providing vital storage.

The independent judges were impressed by the seamless blend of old and new, and the way the property complements its natural surroundings. They recognised the impressive range of technical skills, bespoke joinery work, and the reclamation of existing rafters and slate tiles, as well as the company's mindfulness to find creative solutions to meet their client's budget without compromising quality. The team also pulled out all the stops to complete the renovations before the arrival of a new baby.



The independent judges were impressed by the seamless blend of old and new, and the way the property complements its natural surroundings.



Finalists

Winner

Coldwells Building Company Ltd,
Scotland

- ◆ **Excel Home Design Ltd, Cymru**
- ◆ **M J Parratt & Son Ltd,**
Eastern Counties
- ◆ **Hawksmoor Construction Ltd,**
London
- ◆ **Abbey & Lyndon, Midlands**
- ◆ **McKnight & Son Builders,**
Northern Counties
- ◆ **Alskea Contracts Ltd,**
Northern Ireland
- ◆ **Lathom Joinery and Construction,**
North West
- ◆ **RMR Homes Ltd, Southern Counties**
- ◆ **McMurray and Martin Ltd, South West**
- ◆ **York Builder.com Ltd,**
Yorkshire & Trent



Small Renovation Project Oakston Solutions Limited

Oakston Solutions Limited designed and built a stunning bespoke home office, which created a peaceful workstation for their client and saw them secure the national Small Renovation Project Award.

This incredible home office was built in the top corner of a sloped garden, which required significant work to level the ground before construction could begin. Due to access restrictions, this work initially had to be undertaken without the assistance of machinery.

With the groundwork out of the way and a sleeper retainer wall installed, the team began to bring the bespoke design to life. The project required the installation of air-conditioning, underfloor heating, cedar cladding, aluminium windows and doors, composite decking, glass balustrades, LED strip lights and a networking cable; all brought in to facilitate a comfortable workstation for the client.

Oakston Solutions Limited also expertly handled changes to the project including adapting the original plan for decking across the building to using glass balustrades with central decking instead.

The project held a special place in this Master Builder's heart, as the client was a local resident and a "pillar of the community". Throughout the project, daily meetings were held to provide updates on the progress of the project, discuss changes and ensure the client was happy with the final outcome. The client noted that "nothing was too much trouble even though I changed my mind weekly", and they were over the moon with the completed build.

The independent judges recognised this as a wonderful example of what can be achieved with a bespoke design and a great working relationship between builder and client. The use of external lighting was noted as a great aesthetic touch and the project as one that "sets the bar very high for garden offices."

"This project sets the bar very high for garden offices."
From the national judges



Finalists

Winner

**Oakston Solutions
Limited,
Southern Counties**

- ◆ **Excel Home Design Ltd,
Cymru**
- ◆ **Swiss Build Ltd,
Eastern Counties**
- ◆ **Zaluga Ltd, London**
- ◆ **Radford Construction
Services Ltd,
Northern Counties**
- ◆ **Philip McElhone
Construction Ltd,
Northern Ireland**
- ◆ **Cheshire Building and
Joinery Ltd, North West**
- ◆ **All Build Developments
Ltd, South West**



Sustainability Award Carrock Homes Ltd

Carrock Homes Ltd converted a derelict Grade II Listed cruck barn into a luxury and sustainable family home in Cumbria.

This project saw Carrock Homes Ltd take on a significant challenge to convert an historic cruck barn into a modern, energy efficient family home while retaining and restoring original features. The contemporary extension also ensured the property maximised views of the surrounding Lake District National Park.

After securing planning permission, the team started work. However, less than a month into the job they received word from Historic England that the property was now Grade II Listed, which meant an immediate halt on construction work while Listed Building Consent was obtained.

Carrock restored the original oak cruck frame, which required traditional techniques using timber from their own salvage stock mixed with local salvaged timbers, to seamlessly blend the repaired areas of the main building frame. The precarious exterior stone walls and key areas of structural support were stabilised before being dismantled and rebuilt using lime mortar.

Extensive heritage techniques such as Lime Hemp plasters and stone pointing were used throughout the project, and the plaster work was scribed into the gnarled oak frames to showcase these historic elements through the renovation. Salvaged or second-hand materials such as Burlington slate, stone and restored timbers were sourced locally and used extensively on the project.

Carrock installed a raft of modern technological features including a mechanical ventilation with heat recovery (MVHR) system, air source heating linked to underfloor heating, and improved drainage to create a more sustainable home for their clients.

The independent judges recognised this project as a "labour of love" which rescued the property from ruin and delivered an eco-home that blended well with its natural surroundings. They praised Carrock's re-use of site materials to mitigate environmental impacts and maintain the true character of the site, resulting in a "a very well-crafted job".

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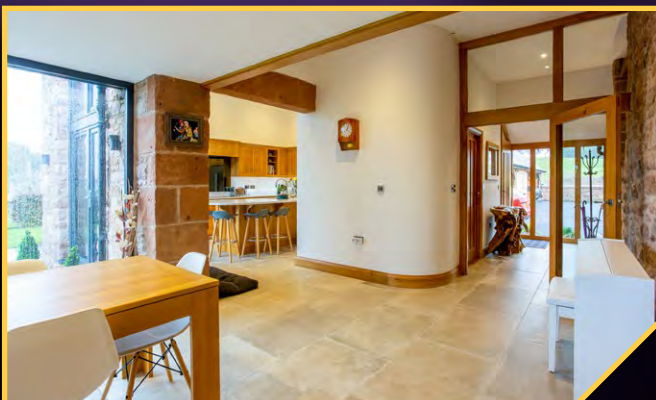
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A "labour of love" which rescued the property from ruin and delivered an eco-home that blended well with its natural surroundings.

From the national judges



Finalists

Winner

**Carrock Homes Ltd,
Northern Counties**

Highly Commended

**Mitchells Construction
& Development Ltd,
Southern Counties**

- ◆ **D G Building (East Cambs) Ltd,
Eastern Counties**
- ◆ **Earl and Calam Design and
Build Ltd, London**
- ◆ **M G Developments (NI) Ltd,
Northern Ireland**
- ◆ **Spey Building & Joinery Ltd,
Scotland**
- ◆ **Chris Noakes Construction,
South West**



Bathroom Project

Radford Construction Services Ltd

Radford Construction Services Ltd took home the national award for best Bathroom Project for its transformation of a loft space into a large bespoke bathroom.

The creation of the luxury bathroom formed part of a larger commercial project to create a stunning wedding venue in Durham.

Radford faced a challenging task in converting the space while maintaining a fire-safe exit route but worked with their client to deliver on their requests to create a truly unique and luxurious bridal suite for newlyweds.

The bathroom includes twin showers, which open from the ceiling in the style of a large wet room area, a large roll top bath, twin sinks and a toilet. Air-conditioning and underfloor heating were also fitted, before comprehensive tiling work to complete a gorgeous finish throughout the bathroom. A raft of bespoke fixtures were installed including a waterproof television, surround-sound music system, mood lighting and tinted glass for privacy to create a private and romantic atmosphere.

The team had to repoint and clean the stonework on the gable, before sealing the stone and checking the chimneys for leakage. Installing the pipework had to be completed outside via the gable and the team had to raise the floor to make room for the waste pipework in the loft space. Radford put all of this together while having to carry the building materials three storeys up due to the layout of the building: a statement of their drive and commitment to delivering the very best for their client.

The independent judges were impressed by the quality of work delivered and especially loved the wet room, acknowledging the significant volume of groundwork required to even make it possible. They complimented Radford's handywork in terms of concealing the pipework and creating a beautiful contrast between the stonework and tiling. Summing up, the finished result was described by the judges as "a real one off, original, fit-for purpose, and looks romantic and gorgeous."

The independent judges were impressed by the quality of work delivered and especially loved the wet room.



The finished result was described by the judges as "a real one off, original, fit-for purpose, and looks romantic and gorgeous".

From the national judges



Finalists

Winner

Radford Construction Services Ltd,
Northern Counties

- ◆ **Excel Home Design Ltd, Cymru**
- ◆ **Modplan Building & Refurbishment Contractors Ltd, Eastern Counties**
- ◆ **Home Republic Ltd, London**
- ◆ **David Smallcombe Ltd, Midlands**
- ◆ **Marlfield Joinery and Construction Ltd, Northern Ireland**
- ◆ **MCK Construction, Scotland**
- ◆ **Bespoke Living Construction Ltd, Southern Counties**
- ◆ **Alford Construction, South West**
- ◆ **IPSUM (UK) Ltd, Yorkshire & Trent**



Tradesperson of the Year Luke Harman of L P Harman Building Services Ltd

Luke Harman is an exemplary tradesperson and a well-respected leader who has been credited with positively changing the lives of his clients.

Luke was nominated by a very grateful client who praised him as both an exceptional tradesperson and a generous person after he undertook a complex home disability adaptation for a young family and their daughter Holly. During the build, Luke cultivated a fantastic partnership with the clients and showed exceptional consideration of their daughter's needs.

Described by his client as "extremely professional, friendly and knowledgeable", Luke showed a willingness to answer any questions honestly and without resorting to "jargon" and demonstrated a generosity with sharing his time and depth of trade knowledge. His client commented that: "Luke made time for everyone, and you could see how well respected he was by his team from the way they talked about him and to him. His customer service was second to none and nothing was too much trouble. The fact Luke took on our disability adaptation for our daughter Holly is testimony to his fantastic community spirit."

Throughout the project, Luke trained an apprentice helping to teach the tricks of the trade to the next

generation, and also provided further support to the family by securing thousands of pounds worth of donations from builders merchants and suppliers to support the build.

Luke's passion for his trade is evident and the positive impact of his work and generous character is undeniable. As his client says: "Without Luke, this build would not have happened and to say he has been instrumental in changing our lives is an understatement. Luke and his team were fantastic with Holly, which was key to the success of the build. They were never too busy to wave, say hello, be silly and make her laugh and they really came to understand her needs. We feel incredibly lucky that Luke came into our lives when he did. He is an absolute credit to the trade."

This nomination really spoke to the judges, with one stating that the "testimonial from the client really brought a tear to my eye. Luke is a really good credit to the trade." The judges praised the way that Luke and his team turned a daunting and stressful experience for the family into a wonderful and exciting time for all concerned.

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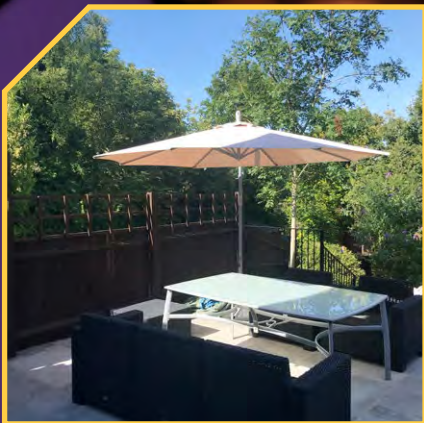
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TradePoint is delighted to sponsor the Tradesperson of the Year award, a huge well done to all of the nominees and congratulations to the well-deserved winner!



The "testimonial from the client really brought a tear to my eye. Luke is a really good credit to the trade."
From the national judges



Finalists

Winner

Luke Harman of L P Harman Building Services Ltd, Southern Counties

Highly Commended

Andrew Radford of Radford Construction Services Ltd, Northern Counties

- ◆ **Mantas Gedgaudas of Contemporary Construction Ltd, London**
- ◆ **John Young of A & E Construction (Warwickshire) Ltd, Midlands**
- ◆ **Paul Collins of Marlfield Joinery and Construction Ltd, Northern Ireland**
- ◆ **Jeff Lomax of Dale Contractors Ltd, North West**
- ◆ **Ross Taylor of Fine Detail All Trades Ltd, Scotland**
- ◆ **Rod Macauley of Thorn Homes Ltd, South West**
- ◆ **Simon Meadows of Sheffield Garage Conversions Ltd, Yorkshire & Trent**



Apprentice Award

Luke Emery of Lowry Building & Civil Engineering Ltd

Luke Emery is a talented joinery apprentice who demonstrates a passion for learning and delivering quality work for his team and clients.

Luke Emery of Lowry Building & Civil Engineering Ltd (LBCE) in Northern Ireland, holds an NVQ Level 2 in Woods Occupations and NVQ Level 3 in Site Carpentry, obtained through South West College, Omagh.

Colleagues at LBCE describe Luke as a “natural talent” who is a pleasure to teach and is a valued and exceptional member of their team. Colleagues also praised Luke’s “first-class communication skills”, noting the way he communicates extremely well with colleagues and with clients to help them understand what each joinery project will involve.

Luke also takes every opportunity to learn from others and further his education. He has impressed his employer with his willingness to learn having taken the time to complete additional training courses in Emergency First Aid, Water Hygiene Training, COSHH, Risk Assessment & Method Statements, and more. He has also amassed a wealth of valuable experience working on a variety of projects including infrastructure works, refurbishments and new build schemes, as well as commercial builds for community centres and factories.

No matter the challenge, Luke’s commitment to delivering a high standard of work, contributing as a team player, and learning as much as he can from every experience has never faltered. His dedication to his work and education became particularly apparent during the COVID-19 pandemic, when he joined the company’s essential workforce to complete vital infrastructure maintenance for Northern Ireland Water to maintain a healthy supply of water.

Luke has a kind and approachable nature and plays an active role in all areas of the business, including joining management meetings, dealing with clients, and supporting his colleagues to embrace smart devices and technology on-site.

The independent judges recognised Luke as a particularly well-rounded apprentice with a “fabulous” career ahead of him. They praised the process of “reverse mentoring” by helping his colleagues with technology and felt he had shown “extraordinary character” even in the face of difficult circumstances.

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Openreach are incredibly proud to sponsor the Apprentice Award, and we know just how important the apprentice scheme is to the UK housing industry. We're regularly in the top 100 apprenticeship employers, taking the 4th spot in 2020. The apprentice scheme is hugely important to our plan of delivering full fibre broadband infrastructure to 25m homes and businesses by December 2026.

There has never been a better time for businesses to reap the rewards of apprenticeships. There are more ways to develop staff than ever before, and learning has become a real melting pot of innovation.

Congratulations to the winner of the Apprentice Award, and to all of the finalist apprentices.

For more information, visit www.openreach.com.



Luke is a natural talent who is a pleasure to teach and is a valued and exceptional member of the team.

Finalists

Winner

Luke Emery of Lowry Building & Civil Engineering Ltd, Northern Ireland

- ◆ **Finley Anderton of Carwyn Jones Construction Ltd, Cymru**
- ◆ **Layla Williams of JKL Construction & Carpentry Ltd, Eastern Counties**
- ◆ **Harry Castle of David Smallcombe Ltd, Midlands**
- ◆ **Ben Wilcock of Broadfield Construction NW Ltd, North West**
- ◆ **Rodrigo McCafferty of H M Raitt & Sons Ltd, Scotland**
- ◆ **Ed Brosch of Stonewood Builders Ltd, South West**



Building Company of the Year Setanta Construction Ltd

Setanta Construction Ltd has been awarded Building Company of the Year for not only overcoming tough challenges in recent years but thriving as a company and an employer.

Like many small and medium-sized construction companies, Setanta Construction Ltd in Northern Ireland, have faced a particularly challenging period in their company development over the past two years.

By the start of 2020, before the COVID-19 pandemic hit, the company's growing workloads were already outpacing capacity at their factory space. After taking a calculated financial risk, the company invested in a derelict concert manufacturing plant and converted it into their new, 50,000ft² base of operations. In addition to this, Setanta secured funding from Invest Northern Ireland to expand their research and development operations and subsequently developed a dormer window system and employed 12 new people from the local community.

As the COVID-19 pandemic took hold however, construction came to a halt for the team. However, being proactive and following regular guidance from the FMB and the Construction Leadership Council, helped get their business back on track. Not only that, but the business has thrived. The company has won major contracts for unique projects such as supplying

offsite components to Claridges Hotel Group and has boosted turnover by 20% from the beginning of 2019 to the end of 2020 - an achievement the company credits to the value brought to the business by its staff.

Setanta pride themselves on their high staff retention, with some team members who have been at the company for 16 years. They invest in ongoing training for employees, host regular "toolbox talks" to address any areas of concern in the industry or amongst staff, and they send out annual health questionnaires to help team members stay on top of any emerging health concerns, including mental health challenges.

The independent judges praised the company's courage in continuing to innovate and grow during the pandemic and recognised their excellent commitment to employee training and wellbeing. They were impressed by the volume of work delivered to such a high stand by a team of just 17 people, and by their ability to attract and retain business thanks to their client-centric approach. They dubbed Setanta a "company to watch" in years to come, and it's easy to see why.

Sponsored by



Promote UK Ltd are delighted to be sponsoring the 2021 Building Company of the Year award as part of such a prestigious awards event.

As official partners of the FMB, we are proud to offer all members industry leading digital marketing services at incentivised rates. In the building industry, it is imperative to showcase the quality of work and services available in order to win new business and recommendations. There is no stronger way to do this than to have a quality and stunning website, running alongside the FMB branding for credibility, promoted on the first page of the world's largest search engine, Google.

For more information, visit: www.promoteukltd.com



The independent judges praised the company's courage in continuing to innovate and grow during the pandemic and recognised their excellent commitment to employee training and wellbeing.



Finalists

Winner

**Setanta Construction Ltd,
Northern Ireland**

Highly Commended

R & M Williams Ltd, Cymru

- ◆ **Interprove Limited, Eastern Counties**
- ◆ **Ultimate Engineers Ltd, London**
- ◆ **Cornerhouse Building Contractors, Midlands**
- ◆ **I J Curry & Son Ltd, Northern Counties**
- ◆ **E P Muldoon Building Contractors Ltd, North West**
- ◆ **Haldane Construction Services Ltd, Scotland**
- ◆ **RMR Homes Ltd, Southern Counties**
- ◆ **Property Projects (SW) Ltd, South West**
- ◆ **Bear Builders Ltd, Yorkshire & Trent**





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Thank you

We would like to acknowledge and thank our national sponsors for supporting the 2021 Master Builders Awards, and to all participants on our independent judging panels for their time and expertise. The support from our sponsors and judges enables us to celebrate the achievements of Master Builder companies across the UK, and to ensure our members receive the recognition they deserve.

We would also like to thank TV personality and presenter of BBC1's DIY SOS – The Big Build, Nick Knowles, for his continued support as the host of the 2021 national Master Builder Awards

ceremony, which took place on 24 September 2021 as a live-streamed virtual event.

A special thanks goes to all Master Builder companies who participated in the awards this year by submitting a nomination and attending virtual ceremonies to celebrate your success, or the achievements of fellow Master Builders. We hope to see your nominations for the next Master Builder Awards too!

For more information about the Master Builder Awards, visit www.fmb.org.uk/mbawards

Follow us on social media

Make sure you follow us on social media to see more photos of the outstanding projects submitted for the 2021 Master Builder Awards.

Don't forget to tag us in your posts and use the hashtag **#MBAwards**.



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