

# 'World Class' SBA Architects awards hat-trick



Left: Rock Cottage and the Tower on the Borve Estate prove that new builds can be achieved without detriment to the natural surroundings.

Right: The Mangersta extension caught the judges' eye for the superb way it brought new life to an old home.

CONTINUING its success, a Stornoway based architect firm has pulled off a hat-trick of awards in the Western Isles region of the Inverness Architect Association (IAA) Highlands and Islands Design Awards, writes Eilidh Whitford.

SBA Architects had already taken the 'Innovation' category award for its 'Ullapool Whale' concourse design in the Highlands region; and has now scooped the top spot categories 'New Build' and 'Placemaking' in the Western Isles region for their design of two holiday-let cottages in Borve, and the 'New Life for Old' category for a house extension in Mangersta, Uig.

Said Stuart Bagshaw, founder of SBA Architects: "I have been attempting over many years to persuade people that good design has an economic benefit and that placemaking, enhancing the Western Isles and the West Coast by creating buildings which fit with the environment, improves with the actions of time, are environmentally friendly and use the local materials and skills.

"These awards show, at last, we are beginning to be recognised and hopefully we can make a continuing contribution to enhance the environments of the Islands and West Coast."

He added: "I would also like to thank all those involved in the projects, particularly my team of SBA Architects and especially my clients who had sufficient faith in my practice to let me loose on their properties."

Letting the firm loose however proves

successful with SBA's Borve Cottages gleaming a 'World Class' rating from the IAA award judges.

## HIGHLY IMPRESSED

Set within a small scrubby woodland and an outcrop of Lewisian Gneiss rock on the Borve Estate, the firm created Rock Cottage – a long, low building growing out of the rock terraces – and a Tower, inspired by traditional brochs, rising out of the trees."

Commenting, the judging panel said: "All the judges were highly impressed with this development – it is considered to be not only strong enough nationally but also internationally – it is a world class design."

The commendations continued with the award for the Uig house extension, added to John and Lorna Norgrove's Mangersta cottage, which prompted John to comment on the design: "What poetry flows from the Architect's pencil."

And Mr Bagshaw added his own praise: "Lewis Builders, the contractors on both Borve and Mangersta are to be congratulated for their patience and their ability to rise to the demands of the bespoke designs.

"The individual tradesmen should also be mentioned, including Matthew and Finlay on Borve; Joe Franklin, Ruben Miles, Alan Dawson, Alan Macdougall and so many more.

"Gordon Cumming at Borve also deserves a special mention for his patience."