

NEWS RELEASE

DOUBLE AWARD WIN FOR STUDENT LOANS COMPANY'S MEMPHIS BUILDING

The Student Loan Company's iconic Memphis building at Darlington's Lingfield Point has won two prestigious awards and will now compete for a further national award in October. The building was awarded:

- Category winner in the 'Refurbished / Recycled Workplace' at the British Council for Offices' (BCO) North Awards, rewarding existing buildings that have been adapted for modern use
- Top award in the 'Commercial Property' category and shortlisted for the 'Regeneration' category at the North East Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) Renaissance Awards

The building will compete at the national BCO awards, which will take place on 6th October 2009 in London.

Derek Ross, Deputy Chief Executive for the Student Loans Company, said: "We are delighted that the judges of these two prestigious awards have recognised the creative and ambitious Student Loans Company design for the interior of Memphis.

"This outstanding design was created jointly by a team set up by the Student Loans Company and Marchday. Many people put a lot of work and personal commitment into this project and it is great to see their efforts recognised in this way.

"We are very proud of what has been created and the choice of office space reflects our commitment to providing the best possible working environment for our staff and are looking forward to the national awards."

Lingfield Point owners, Marchday, has invested over £35m in the regeneration of the area where the Memphis building is located over the last ten years and the developers have maintained the heritage while shaping the contemporary business space. Significant work was carried out to transform the former wool manufacturing plant into a low-energy, state-of-the-art modern office Memphis building at Darlington's Lingfield Point in 2008.

Award-winning designers 3Fold were commissioned by Student Loans Company to create the stunning interior last year. Architects SP&A, builders Rok plc and TMD Design also worked on the site's regeneration. The open-plan working environment has been designed to provide optimum comfort and practicality for over 600 staff based at the site.

Neil Taylor, Chair of the BCO Northern Awards, said: "The Memphis Building for the Student Loans Company has been an outstanding, highly successful project and is a deserved winner in the 'Refurbished / Recycled Workplace' category. The developer has been both brave and ambitious, turning an old weaving shed into a first-class modern office space, and the award commends their efforts and positive attitude."

The Memphis building incorporates a number of environmentally-friendly features including an intelligent, low energy light management system that uses sensors to balance the natural daylight; gas-powered air-conditioning that delivers a more economical and efficient system; and solar roof panels that provide water heating.

For further information please contact the Student Loans Press Office on 0141 306 2120 or Breea McGinness 0141 243 3803 / breea_mcginness@slc.co.uk