



BLUNDEN PRIZE 2022/23





CGI of Calverley Lane scheme in Horsforth, Leeds



Introduction

Stonewater launched the Blunden Prize, named after its former Chairman George Blunden, in 2021, with the aim of finding talented artists to produce creative artwork as a focal point for its new housing developments.

Following the successful launch of the competition Stonewater relaunched the prize for a second time in 2022 and invited artists of all disciplines to pitch their pioneering and creative ideas for the chance to win £75,000 and five Stonewater commissions.

Public art enables us to convey a distinctive sense of place, uncovering histories and nuances of the area, whilst encouraging people to visit, gather and socialise – presenting an exciting opportunity for community building with new and existing residents.

Vision

For everyone to have a sense of pride and belonging in their community.

Mission

Provide attractive and innovative artworks across our developments that convey a distinctive sense of pride and place that promotes community building with new and existing residents



Coda Workshop



Winners 2021



Coda Workshop is an architecture, sculpture and design studio specialising in an exploratory and experimental approach to deliver creative, high quality and low-energy projects.

Both qualified architects, directors Bryn and Mark pride themselves on the studio's focus on sustainability, collaboration and a sensitive approach to heritage.

They work together with clients to create meaningful interventions within public spaces, combining architecture and sculpture while focusing on people and the environment.

Blunden Prize 2022/23

Launch

November 2022

The Blunden Prize 2022/23 was launched in November 2022 and invited artists from across the country and all disciplines to pitch their pioneering and creative ideas for the chance to win £75,000 and five Stonewater commissions.

Entries close

January 2023

Entries closed in January 2023 and saw over 50 artists submit a wide variety of concepts for Calverley Lane - from glass polysheds, tree house platforms and living plant arches.

Judging - Round 1

March 2023

The first round of judging took place at Copley Mill House – a Stonewater independent retirement living scheme near Halifax, where a group of residents, scheme managers and Stonewater colleagues reviewed each and every entry to shortlist submissions down to a group of eight.

Judging - Round 2

April 2023

These eight artists were then invited to present their ideas to our judging panel - Sheila Collins, Stonewater Chairman; Nicholas Harris, Stonewater CEO; Jonathan Layzell, Chief Growth & Development Officer and Claire Clutten, Editor Local Authority, Building and Maintenance magazine.

Following the presentations, the judges selected four finalists.

Final

30 June 2023

Our four finalists were invited to attend the winner's announcement event, which took place at the Henry Moore Institute in Leeds on June 30. Our finalists, along with the round 2 judging panel, as well as guests from the wider Stonewater development team, received a guided tour around the Institute before the winner was announced.

About Calverley Lane

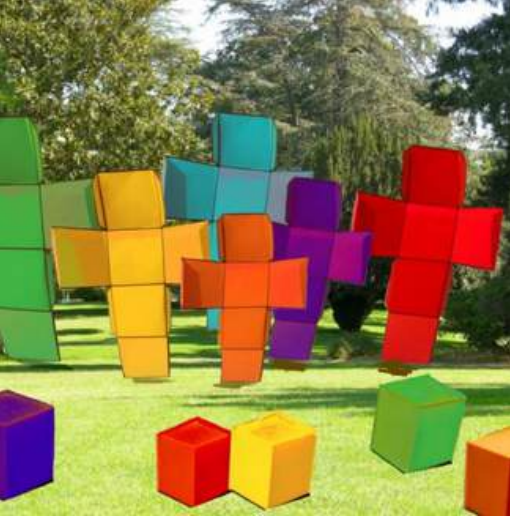
This year's winner will receive a commission to deliver a piece of public art at Calverley Lane in Horsforth, Leeds. The new development will provide 152 much-needed affordable homes on the former Leeds City College campus, which closed in 2017.

The latest update from the scheme in June 2023 shared that 132 new homes are currently under construction, with some of the homes already at the stage where plastering is complete.

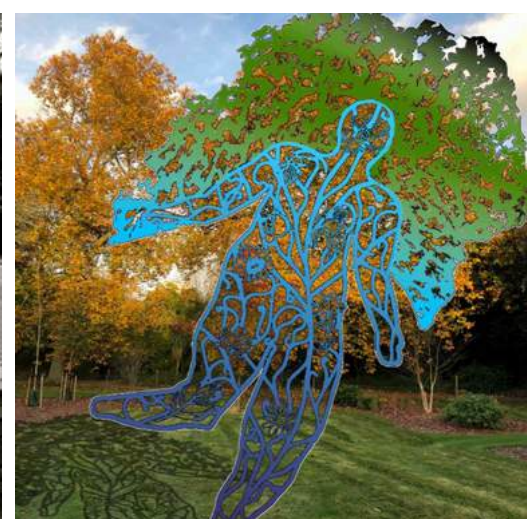
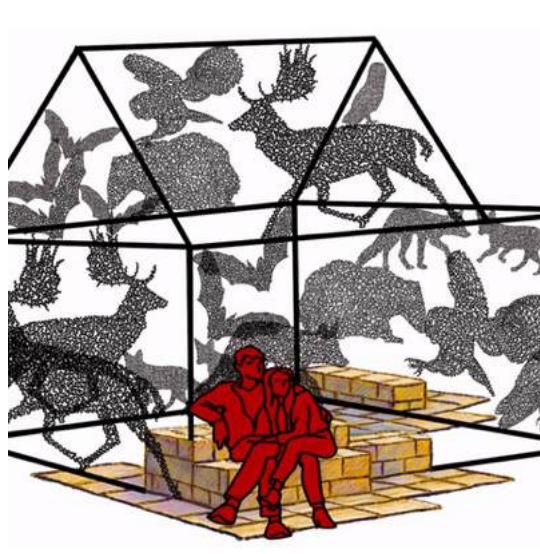
Air Source Heat Pumps (ASHP) are beginning to be installed and solar panels are being installed to houses that are beyond roof stage.

The first handovers to customers are scheduled for later this summer.





Concepts from the eight shortlisted artists



Finalists



David Lloyd

David's idea revolved around the name of the town, Horsforth, and proposed a landscape sculpture, depicting a herd of horses laden down and crossing the river Aire.



Patrick Walls

Patrick's suggestion for Calverley Lane centred around community events that would result in a series of site-specific designs to be used as a landmark sculpture, with accompanying stone benches around the site.



Rafael Klein

Rafael proposed a series of four vividly coloured, steel walking figures that would be filled with details representing the natural environment and local surroundings.



Teresa Wells

Teresa's concept was a bronze and stone sculpture depicting a human figure, stepping upwards, alongside a horse, bridge and water, all representing the journey of Horsforth as a town and the people living within it.



Winner 2022/23



Patrick Walls

Pat specialises in creating stone sculptures and public art installations that explore the relationship between people and places.

Using local sandstone and project-specific stone, his artwork is intimately connected to its surroundings and often includes benches, entrance sculptures, and visual markers, which form a trail in larger schemes like Calverley Lane.

Community interaction is central to Pat's work, involving consultation, workshops, and ongoing engagement.

Pat plans to hold a series of community workshops to help develop ideas that will then form part of his final design. His current proposal is to make one large, feature sculpture, with place markers and benches then positioned across the scheme.



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