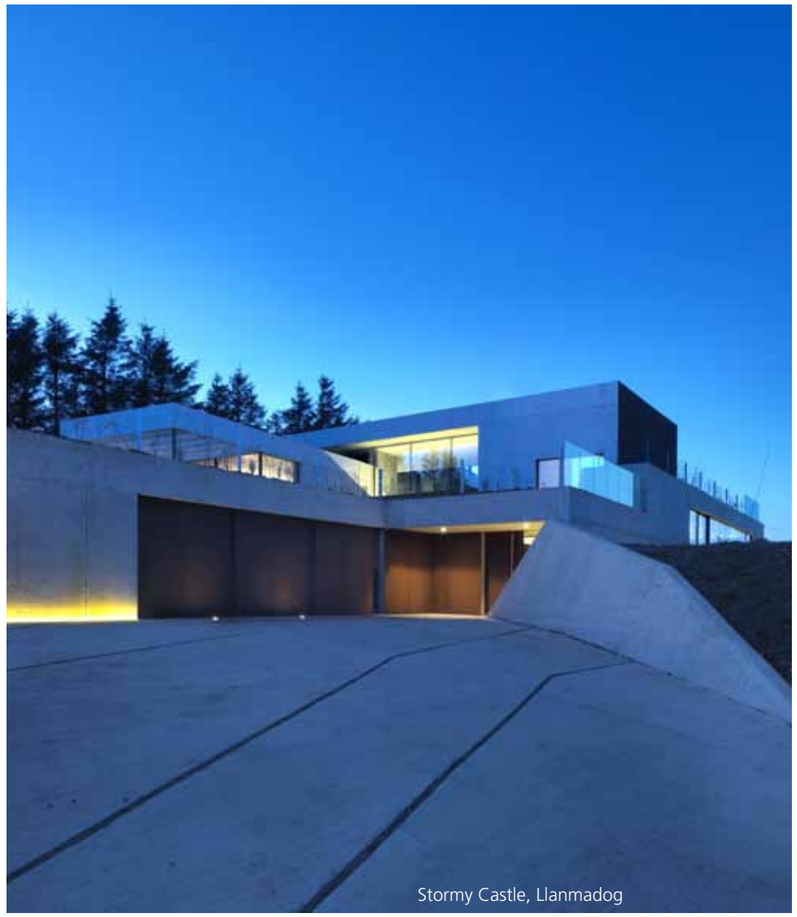
Dewi-Prys Thomas Prize 2015

Celebrating good design, and passion for good design, in the built environment in Wales

Chris Loyn



Stormy Castle, Llanmadog

The triennial Dewi-Prys Thomas Prize is Wales's prestigious award that recognizes the importance of good design to the quality of life, identity and regeneration of Wales

The Ymddiriedolaeth Dewi-Prys Thomas Trust

www.dewi-prysthomas.org

Front, 1
Stormy Castle, Llanmadog (photographs: Charles Hosea)
2
Westra Nook, Dinas Powys (photograph: Charles Hosea)
3
Millbrook House, Lisvane, Cardiff (photograph: Ståle Eriksen)
4
Llandegfedd visitor centre and watersports centre (photograph: Jonathan Vining)
5
The Towns of Wales, second edition, dust jacket (University of Wales Press)
6
Coriolan/us, Hangar 858, MoD St Athan, Vale of Glamorgan, August 2012 (photograph: Jonathan Vining)

Winner: Chris Loyn

Over the last three years, Loyn & Co Architects has designed three award-winning houses in different contexts in south Wales. *Stormy Castle* near Llanmadog is an unashamedly modern house sunk into its hill-side Gower landscape (RIBA Manser Prize 2014); *Westra Nook* in Dinas Powys where, unconventionally, the living accommodation is placed at first floor level to take advantage of the outstanding views; and *Millbrook House* in the Cardiff suburb of Lisvane which is a tour-de-force in the interrelationship of internal and external space. Three contemporary responses to particular situations that meet imaginatively the needs and aspirations of the clients. Although these are all private houses and, therefore, largely inaccessible to the public, they have contributed to a better undertanding of modern architecture in Wales and to an acceptance by some planning authorities of contemporary domestic design in sensitive locations. **Chris Loyn**'s architectural work and teaching have influenced and emboldened a generation of students and younger architects, and his enthusiastic championing of the pleasures of modern housing design has engaged the general public.

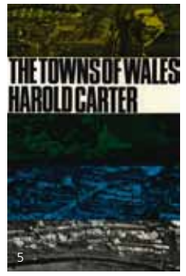
Commendations

Llandegfedd l Harold Carter l National Theatre Wales

The **Llandegfedd visitor centre** and **watersports centre** by Hall + Bednarczyk Architects are two new buildings for Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water that 'sing a duet' along the shore of the reservoir. The visitor centre's zinc-clad, asymmetrically-curved roof poetically mirrors the surrounding hills and appears to float over the first floor cafe, from which visitors can enjoy a panoramic view across the water.

Former Gregynog Professor of Human Geography at Aberystwyth University, **Harold Carter** is the author of *The Study of Urban Geography* (1972), which was recognized as the most coherent and extensive account of the subject area, ran to four editions and was widely translated. He was editor of the iconic *National Atlas of Wales* (1989) and, in his mid-eighties, wrote *Against the Odds: The Survival of Welsh Identity* (2010), which sought to position Welsh identity against the concept of ethnicity and culture. For many today concerned with the study of the condition and morphology of urban settlement in Wales, his seminal work *The Towns of Wales* (1965) is still the first port of call even fifty years after its publication.

Wales's national English-language theatre company proudly states that 'the nation of Wales is our stage'. Since it was established in 2010, **National Theatre Wales** under its artistic director John McGrath has made imaginative use of landscape and existing buildings for productions such as *The Persians*, *Coriolan/us* and *Mametz* that not only offer new ways of interpreting landscape and the built environment, but also tell some of the most powerful stories of our time.



Judges' report

The Dewi-Prys Thomas Prize may be awarded to a building and its creators, an individual, or an organisation in recognition of a uniquely significant contribution to the quality of life in Wales through the medium of architecture.

Dewi himself made a unique contribution to the architecture of Wales, in particular to the contested idea of a self-consciously Welsh architecture. A committed modernist, yet he promoted the exploration of the nature of indigenous and appropriate design, notably in his major built work Pencadlys, Gwynedd, and significantly through his charismatic teaching at the Welsh School of Architecture.

The 2015 Prize scheme attracted forty-one nominations/entries ranging from public art, architecture and conservation projects, to the contributions of individuals and organisations. The short list was:

- Llandegfedd visitor centre and watersports centre (Hall + Bednarczyk Architects)
- Blaenau Ffestiniog town centre regeneration (Miller Research, MacGregor Smith and Howard Bowcott)
- Harold Carter
- Galilee Chapel, St Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major (Davies Sutton Architects)
- Three houses, south Wales (Loyn & Co)
- National Theatre Wales
- Cardiff and Vale College Community Campus, Cardiff (BDP).

Fifty years after the publication of his seminal study *The Towns of Wales*, we commend the life's work of **Harold Carter** and recognize his profound contribution to the understanding of the urban and cultural geography of Wales.

The **Llandegfedd visitor centre** and **watersports centre** by Hall + Bednarczyk Architects receive a commendation. Each has its own distinct identity but together they share a common sense of craft, refinement and elegance that enhance the public's access to and enjoyment of the reservoir site.

Also commended is **National Theatre Wales** for its imaginative contribution to the interpretation of the Welsh landscape and its buildings through the medium of theatre.

The Dewi-Prys Thomas Prize 2015 is awarded to an individual for the first time. It goes to **Chris Loyn** recognizing not only the three houses, as a body of work from his studio that has made the most significant contribution to Welsh architectural practice over the last three years, but also the influence of Chris's buildings, his continuing advocacy of modern architecture and his commitment to nurturing young architects. Dewi wrote about the role of architects in aspiring to standards of architecture that will resonate down the years. Chris Loyn's work fulfils that mission. How pleased Dewi would have been for the prize to be awarded to one of his former students...

The Trust thanks the organisations that have supported the 2015 Dewi-Prys Thomas Prize scheme, particularly: **Ruthin Craft Centre** for hosting the award ceremony; **Manorhaus**, Ruthin for its support of the winners' celebratory dinner; **Royal Society of Architects in Wales**; and **Persona-id**.

Menna Richards
Simon Fenoulhet
Rhys Llwyd Davies
Professor Rhiannon Evans

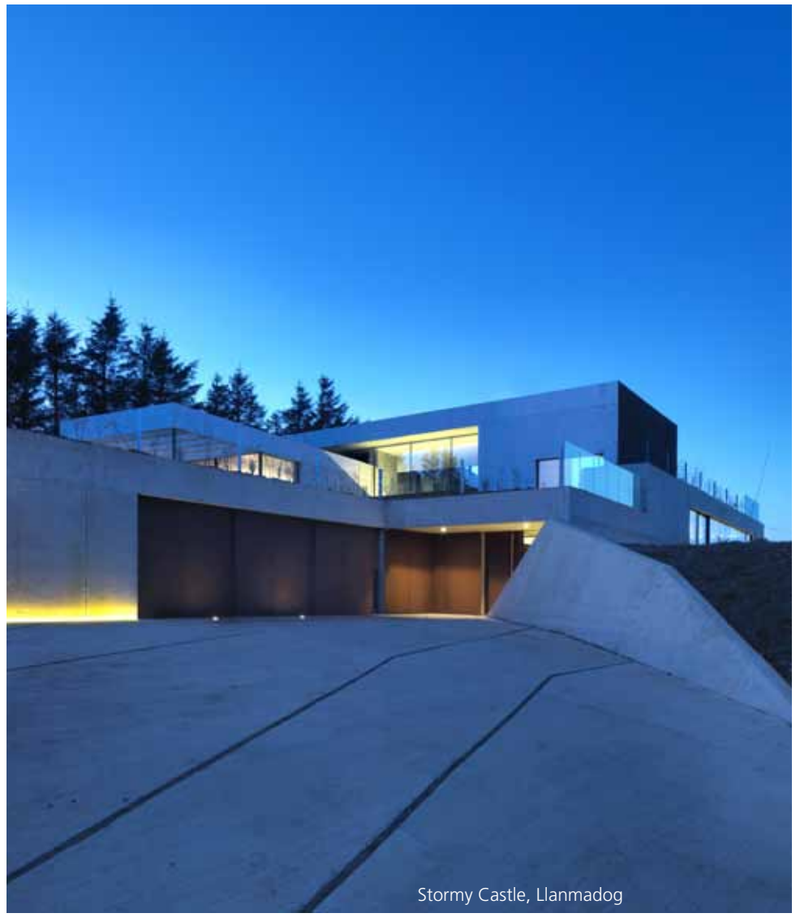
The Dewi-Prys 2015 is supported by:

Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru Arts Council of Wales
Sir Ddinbych Denbighshire
RSAW
Persona-id
manorhaus

Gwobr Dewi-Prys Thomas 2015

**Dathlu cynllunio da,
a brwdfrydedd am gynllunio da,
yn yr amgylchedd adeiledig yng Nghymru**

Chris Loyn



Stormy Castle, Llanmadog

Mae gwobr deirblwydd Dewi-Prys Thomas yn wobr sy'n cydnabod pwysigrwydd cynllunio da i ansawdd bywyd, hunaniaeth ac adfywiad Cymru

The Ymddiriedolaeth Dewi-Prys Thomas Trust

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Stormy Castle, Llanmadog (ffotograffau: Charles Hosea)
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3
Millbrook House, Llys-faen, Caerdydd (ffotograff: Ståle Eriksen)
4
Canolfan ymwelwyr Llandegfedd (ffotograff: Jonathan Vining)
5
The Towns of Wales, ail argraffiad, siaced lwch (Gwasg Prifysgol Cymru)
6
Mametz, Coedwig Uchaf Llancaeo Fawr, Sir Fynwy, Gorffennaf 2014, clawr y rhaglen (trwy garedigrwydd National Theatre Wales)

Enillydd: Chris Loyn

Dros y tair blynedd ddiwethaf mae Loyn & Co Architects wedi cynllunio tri thŷ blaengar mewn cyd-destunau gwahanol yn ne Cymru. Mae *Stormy Castle* ger Llanmadog yn dŷ modern iawn wedi suddo i mewn i ochr y bryn yn nhirwedd bro Gŵyr (Gwobr Manser RIBA 2014); *Westra Nook* yn Ninas Powys, ble, yn wahanol i'r arfer, rhoddwyd yr ystafelloedd byw ar y lefel gyntaf i fanteisio ar olygfeydd neilltuol; a *Millbrook House* ym maesdref Llys-faen yng Nghaerdydd sy'n esiampl ragorol o'r rhyngberthynas rhwng gofod mewnol ac allanol. Tri ymateb cyfoes i sefyllfaoedd arbennig sy'n cyflawni uchelgeisiau y cleientiaid gyda dychymyg. Er bod y rhain i gyd yn dai preifat, ac felly'n golygu na all y cyhoedd gael mynediad iddynt, maent wedi cyfrannu at ddealltwriaeth well o bensaernïaeth modern yng Nghymru gyda awdurdodau cynllunio yn derbyn fod lle i brosiectau domestig cyfoes mewn lleoliadau sensitif. Mae gwaith pensaernïol ac addysgu **Chris Loyn** wedi dylanwadu a gwroli cenhedlaeth o fyfyrwyr a phenseiri ieuengach, ac mae ei gefnogaeth brwdfrydig o bleserau tai o ddyluniad modern wedi cysylltu a'r cyhoedd.

Cymeradwyaeth

Llandegfedd | Harold Carter | National Theatre Wales

Mae **Canolfan ymwelwyr Llandegfedd** a'r **ganolfan chwaraeon dŵr** gan y Hall + Bednarczyk Architects yn ddau adeilad newydd ar gyfer Dŵr Cymru sy'n 'canu fel deuawd' ar hyd glan y gronfa ddŵr. Mae to sinc grom, anghymesur, y ganolfan, yn adlewyrchu'n farddonol y bryniau oddi amgylch ac yn ymddangos fel pe bai'n arnofio dros y caffi ar y llawr cyntaf, ac o'r fan hon gall ymwelwyr fwynhau golygfa banoramaidd ar draws y dŵr.

Mae **Harold Carter** yn gyn Athro Gregynog Daearyddiaeth Dynol ym Mhrifysgol Aberystwyth ac ef yw awdur *The Study of Urban Geography* (1972), a gydnabyddir fel y llyfr mwyaf dealladwy ac eang ar y pwnc, ac wedi ei argraffu bedair gwaith a'i gyfieithu'n eang. Ef oedd golygydd yr eiconig *Atlas Cenedlaethol Cymru* (1989) a phan oedd ar ganol ei wythdegau ysgrifennodd, *Against the Odds: The Survival of Welsh Identity* (2010) a geisiodd osod hunanieth Gymreig yn erbyn y cysyniad o ethnigrwydd a diwylliant. I lawer sy'n ymwneud ag astudio cyflwr a morffoleg aneddiadau trefol yng Nghymru, ei waith arloesol *The Towns of Wales* (1965) yw'r un mae pawb yn mynd ato gyntaf, hyd yn oed hanner can mlynedd wedi ei gyhoeddi.

Mae theatr genedlaethol Cymru, sy'n perfformio yn Saesneg, yn datgan yn falch mai 'cenedl Cymru yw ein llwyfan'. Ers ei sefydlu yn 2010, mae **National Theatre Wales**, dan ei gyfarwyddwr artistig John McGrath, wedi gwneud defnydd llawn dychymyg o'r tirwedd ac adeiladau presennol ar gyfer eu cynyrchiadau megis *The Persians*, *Coriolan/us* a *Mametz* sydd nid yn unig yn cynnig ffyrdd newydd o ddehongli'r tirwedd a'r amgylchedd adeiledig, ond hefyd yn adrodd storïau mwyaf pwerus ein cyfnod ni.

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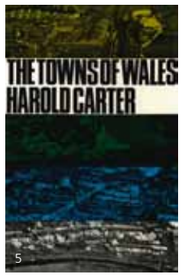

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Adroddiad y beirniaid

Gellir dyfarnu Gwobr Dewi-Prys Thomas i adeilad a'r rhai a'i creodd, i unigolyn, neu i sefydliad mewn cydnabyddiaeth o gyfraniad arwyddocaol unigryw i ansawdd bywyd yng Nghymru trwy gyfrwng pensaernïaeth.

Gwnaeth Dewi ei hun gyfraniad unigryw i bensaernïaeth Cymru, yn enwedig i'r syniad dadleuol o bensaernïaeth Gymreig hunanymwybodol. Roedd yn fodernydd ymrwymedig ac eto bu'n hyrwyddo archwilio natur cynllunio cynhenid a phriodol, yn enwedig yn ei waith mwyaf sef Pencadlys, Gwynedd ac yn arwyddocaol trwy ei addysgu garismataidd yn Ysgol Pensaernïaeth Cymru.

Denodd cynllun Gwobr 2015 un a deugain o enwebiadau/ymgeiswyr yn amrywio o gelf gyhoeddus, penasernïaeth a phrosiectau cadwraeth, i gyfraniadau gan unigolion a sefydliadau. Y rhestr fer oedd:

- Canolfan ymwelwyr Llandegfedd a chanolfan chwaraeon dŵr (Hall + Bednarczyk Architects)
- Adfywiad canol tref Blaenau Ffestiniog (Miller Research, MacGregor Smith, a Howard Bowcott)
- Harold Carter
- Capel Galilee, Eglwys Llanilltud, Llanilltud Fawr (Davies Sutton Architects)
- Tri thŷ, de Cymru (Loyn & Co Architects)
- National Theatre Wales
- Campws Cymunedol Coleg Caerdydd a'r Fro, Caerdydd (BDP).

Hanner can mlynedd wedi cyhoeddi ei waith arloesol *The Towns of Wales*, rydym yn cymeradwyo gwaith bywyd **Harold Carter** ac yn cydnabod ei gyfraniad aruthrol i ddealltwriaeth daearyddiaeth trefol a diwylliannol Cymru.

Mae **Canolfan ymwelwyr Llandegfedd** a'r **ganolfan chwaraeon dŵr** gan Hall + Bednarczyk Architects yn derbyn cymeradwyaeth. Mae gan y ddau ei hunaniaeth ei hun ond gyda'i gilydd maent yn rhannu synnwyr cyffredin o grefft, coethni a cheinder sy'n gwella mynediad a mwynhad y cyhoedd i safle'r gronfa ddŵr.

Mae **National Theatre Wales** hefyd yn cael ei chymeradwyo am ei gyfraniad llawn dychymyg i ddehongliad tirwedd Cymru a'i hadeiladau trwy gyfrwng theatr.

Dyfernir Gwobr Dewi-Prys Thomas 2015 i unigolyn am y tro cyntaf. Fe'i dyfernir i **Chris Loyn** gan gydnabod nid yn unig y tri thŷ fel corff o waith o'i stiwdio, sydd wedi gwneud y cyfraniad mwyaf arwyddocaol i ymarfer pensaernïaeth Gymreig dros y tair blynedd ddiwethaf, ond hefyd dylanwad adeiladau Chris, ei adfocatiaeth parhaus dros bensaernïaeth fodern a'i ymrwymiad i feithrin penseiri ifanc. Ysgrifennodd Dewi am rôl penseiri yn eu hawydd i gyrraedd safonau pensaernïaeth a fyddai'n atseinio dros y blynyddoedd. Mae gwaith Chris Loyn yn cyflawni'r genhadaeth honno. Byddai Dewi mor falch bod y wobr yn cael ei rhoi i un o'i gyn fyfyrwyr...

Diolcha'r Ymddiriedolaeth i'r sefydliadau sydd wedi cefnogi cynllun gwobr Dewi-Prys Thomas 2015, yn enwedig: **Canolfan Grefft Rhuthun** am gynnal y seremoni wobrwyo; **Manorhaus**, Rhuthun am gefnogi cinio dathlu'r enillwyr; **Cymdeithas Frenhinol Penseiri Cymru**; a **Persona-id**.

Menna Richards
Simon Fenoulhet
Rhys Llwyd Davies
Yr athro Rhiannon Evans

Cefnogir Gwobr Dewi-Prys 2015 gan:

Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru
Arts Council of Wales

Sir Ddinbych
Denbighshire

RSAW

Persona-id

manorhaus