



News Release

GSA graduate wins 5th Glasgow 1999 Design Medal



An innovative design for farm equipment has won the 5th Glasgow 1999 Design Medal it was announced today, Friday 30 January 2009. **Gavin Armstrong**, a Product Design Engineering graduate of The Glasgow School of Art, won the prestigious award for his *Swath Inverter*, a design that addresses the need to reduce the drying time of swath (cut hay) before it is baled.

Created as a lasting legacy of Glasgow 1999, UK City of Architecture and Design, the Medal and a £1,000 travel bursary are presented annually to a graduate from one of the city's Further or Higher Education institutions *"Glasgow is celebrated as a centre of design innovation,"* says Nick Barley, Executive Director of The Lighthouse, Scotland's national Architecture and Design Centre, *"and the city's Further and Higher Education institutions make a massive contribution to the strength of its creative community. The Glasgow 1999 Design Medal recognises the key role that these institutions play in nurturing young talent and celebrates a new generation of designers like Gavin Armstrong whose vision, skill and creativity will be vital to the future strength of the UK economy."*

"Gavin Armstrong's design is ambitious, successful and beautifully communicated," says Chair of the judging panel, Don McIntyre - Head of the Urban Learning Space at The Lighthouse. *"It is a 'real' project that solves a clearly identified and complex problem. Gavin's supplementary work also shows superb technical development."*

Gavin Armstrong grew up on a farm in Stirlingshire, and his Swath Inverter design was developed to address a need that he had personally experienced. It is powered and towed by a standard tractor and uses a pair of parallel belts to invert the swath. The rollers are driven from one hydraulic motor and are geared so as to spin at the same speed and in opposite directions ensuring that the touching inner two faces of the belt that perform the inversion move rearwards at the same speed

The 5th Glasgow 1999 Design Medal was presented at a special ceremony by leading British furniture and product designer, Michael Marriott.

"It is fantastic that projects like this can be recognised and championed via the Glasgow 1999 Design Medal," says Michael Marriott. *"Although I know absolutely nothing about farming, it's very impressive to conceive of and engineer a solution, which is so simple in concept, yet obviously so workable and robust too."*

Meanwhile two Visual Communications graduates from The GSA, Pamela Cuthill and Claudine Cockburn, were Highly Commended by the judging panel for their limited edition book, illustrated with a series of powerful and poignant documentary images, artefacts and memorabilia presenting the moving story of a young soldier's fight to re-build his life after suffering horrific injuries in Iraq

"This is a beautiful and thoughtfully presented project that tells an engaging story," says Don McIntyre. *"Pamela and Claudine have displayed highly professional attention to detail with a stark interpretation fitting to the subject."*

An exhibition of work by the twelve shortlisted designers will be on show in The Lighthouse until early May 2009.

The Lighthouse, 11 Mitchell Lane, Glasgow is open Monday and Wednesday - Saturday: 10.30am – 5pm; Tuesday 11am – 5pm; Sunday 12 noon – 5pm Individual tickets giving access to all areas of the building are priced £4 adults, £2 concessions and £1.50 children (family and group discounts also available).

Free on Saturdays

Public information +44 (0)141 221 6362 or www.thelighthouse.co.uk

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Notes for Editors

Judging Panel

The judging panel this year was chaired Don McIntyre - Head of the Urban Learning Space at The Lighthouse, and comprised:

- the leading textile and furniture designer - Donna Wilson;
- Fraser Bruce - a Lecturer in Product Design Engineering at Duncan of Jordanstone, University of Dundee;
- Oskar Kron of Skratch Design.
- Christina Jansen - Director of The Scottish Gallery.

Previous winners

- 2004 - **Sir Terence Conran** presented the inaugural award to GSA Jewellery and Silversmithing graduate, **Aileen Tam**, for a range of stunning kinetic jewellery.
- 2006 - **Peter Saville** presented the award to GSA graduate, Stuart Gordon, for a proposal to re-design the disused Cardross Seminary as a children's hospice.