

TEAMBUILD



November 2019

Design and Conquer ... news from TeambuildUK 2019!

The popular UK construction industry competition Teambuild UK took place this weekend from 15th to 17th November 2019 with some unexpected events when it came to announce the winners.

Once again this annual industry event in the UK enjoyed support from major industry bodies including CIOB, CET, WCC, WCCA and Future Designs. This year saw a wealth of talented competitors with six teams representing 11 major construction companies and consultancies around the UK.

“We know to expect some of the most focused, talented and motivated professionals in the construction industry, as participants,” says Richard Brindley who represents the charity. “This year was

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no exception and we were incredibly impressed by the high quality of the ideas and presentations. As always, the teams were tasked with taking on the design development and construction of a complex project which would take several years to complete in the real world, but condensed in the Teambuild competition into a highly accelerated weekend of intense activity and training.

“Individuals are expected to work together as multidisciplinary teams, when many have never met before. We also throw in unexpected but realistic challenges, such as Extinction Rebellion protesters taking up residence on their site, or burst sewers or collapsing buildings and see how they react.”

This year’s competition was based on a real current project: the Milton Keynes University (MK:U) for Cranfield University and Milton Keynes Council. The MK:U project was to design and implement a £188m (c61,120 sqm) Phase 1 Business & Entrepreneurship faculty campus on a city centre site in Milton Keynes, which is due to open in Summer 2023. “We chose this project because it is such an interesting concept of creating a new university focused on artificial intelligence and advances in information technology,” explains Richard Brindley. “It is also complex, involving residential, retail and academic spaces and involves an ambitious partnership between the MK Council and Cranford University. As it is a real project, as always, there is a sense that you can ‘feel it, touch it, see it’.”

Six teams, representing top construction industry companies, made it through to the hotly-contested finals, and impressed throughout with their professionalism, enthusiasm and dedication. Their performance was evaluated by six senior industry figures, each representing a construction institution. This year the judging panel included Patricia Bessey (PM Worshipful Company of Constructors), Richard Brindley RIBA (Past Master of the Worshipful Company of Chartered Architects), Christine Emmett (Kaizen Business Advisors Ltd), Richard Newton (EngineRoom) Richard Rooley (FCIBSE, Teambuild founder) and Richard Schofield (FRICS Hon.FAPM, Rider Hunt Management Services).

The winning team, Design and Conquer, with team members from a diverse range of companies (Weston Williamson, WSP, Costain) and disciplines excelled against a strong field, and were awarded a cash prize of £2,000, sponsored by the Worshipful Company of Constructors. There was however, a surprise announcement for another of the teams during the announcement of winners.

“Design and Conquer were well-organised from the start,” says Teambuild chairman Patricia Bessey. “All of the individuals on the team were confident and we felt, could have led the team. They gelled well and their solutions and presentations were excellent.”

“This year, however, we felt the need to add an extra prize for Most Improved Team. Tetris, whose young members came from Mott MacDonald demonstrated such a degree of fast learning and

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excellent response to feedback that all the judges felt we had to acknowledge their hard work and talent when it came to the prize announcements.”

The Procurement Prize - £1,500, sponsored by the Worshipful Company of Chartered Architects was awarded to Team Root from BDP.

Martha Andrews, an interior designer from BDP, who was also part of Team Root, was awarded the Leadership Prize of £500, which was sponsored by the Commercial Education Trust

“We felt Martha had real sparkle,” says Patrica Bessey. “As judges, we all noticed that she was able to pull her team together in a way which was gentle and subtle. We also noticed that her team listened to her and were happy to do as she suggested. She has a real aura and confidence about her and it’s clear she is destined for greater things.”

As well as our sponsors, Teambuild would like to thank Milton Keynes Council, Cranfield University and Malcom Reading Consultants for kindly allowing their MK:U project to be used as the project scenario for Teambuild 2019. Teambuild is also very grateful to the leading construction companies and consultancies who see the value of the Teambuild initiative to develop the talent of their young professionals, including: BDP, Barrett Mahoney, Buro Happold, Civic Engineers, Costain, Elementa Consulting, Hawkins Brown, Mott MacDonald, WestonWilliamson and WSP.

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Quotes:

Brandon Eastwood, WSP, member of winning team Design and Conquer:

“Teambuild exceeded all my expectations. What I valued most was the opportunity to mix and network with people from all backgrounds within the construction industry, as well as getting exposure to the fantastic judges. The feedback given throughout by the judges was invaluable and I look forward to building on this in the near future. Working to the time constraints really improves your ability to make quick decisions and it puts teamwork at the forefront. The presentation skills developed over the weekend were absolutely vital and can be implemented on a daily basis- whether formally or informally.”

Charlotte Cameron, WSP, member of winning team Design and Conquer

“We had so much fun participating in Teambuild this year and winning really was the icing on the cake! I would certainly tell others to embrace the opportunity to accelerate your development of a number of core skills over a very short space of time. Teambuild creates a really welcoming and comfortable environment in which to experiment with new ways of working and tackling problems. It is very exciting to have won Teambuild 2019. I think we have really grown as a team over the two days and I think our team spirit and collaborative approach really helped us to win. One of the highlights for me was the sense of 'team' that I felt with my team members who I hadn't met prior to the event, but I now hope to keep in contact with and hopefully collaborate with in years to come. I also enjoyed the chance to get to know the other teams as we throughout the course of the weekend shared presentations and feedback with them, it felt like we were all in it together by the end rather than competing against each other.”

Michael Thomson, Costain, member of winning team Design and Conquer:

“An excellent weekend. I enjoyed meeting new people, learning new working skills and gaining exposure to elements of the design to delivery process which I had no prior understanding of. It was very intense but very rewarding. I feel very proud to have been part of the winning team. They were great to work with.”

Martha Andrews, Interior Designer, BDP. Winner of Leadership Prize and member of the team Root which won the Procurement Prize.

“Although my fellow team members and I all work at the same company, we had never worked together before. In a situation like that you are never sure of how the various individuals will interact, but we made a great team and I found that I was the right person on this occasion to take a lead. What I have learned is that people can always communicate better, and that developing those relationships plays a huge part in the success of a project. I really enjoy these kinds of challenges and Teambuild 2019 was a wonderful and hugely beneficial experience.”

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Design and Conquer: Silvia Anna Ida Commisso, Weston Williamson & Partners; Adam Brown, Weston Williamson & Partners; Charlotte Cameron, WSP; Brandon Eastwood, WSP; Michael Thomson, Costain

Root (from BDP): Alex Mason; Edita Mencinskaite; Devangi Depala; Martha Andrews; Rachel Hough

Tetris (from Mott MacDonald): Jacob Drewitt; Kam Sandhu; Elliot Phipps-Carter; Yasmine Shafiq; Vahaj Syed; Nathan Turrell

NOTES FOR EDITORS

- *Teambuild is a registered charity, providing education and training in the construction industry.*

- **You can download hi res images, video and logos at the link below:**

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1LwGMsd8luaHxJR7id3oxZkbhJ9h2BbKA?usp=s>
haring

- *For more information, quotes or images / video please email admin@teambuilduk.com*

Background information Teambuild aims to promote understanding and co-operation between young professionals in the construction industry and counts as 4 days CPD as well as helping competitors fulfil several of the core objectives required for chartered membership of many institutions.

Now in its 29th year, the competition continues to attract the brightest young professionals from some of the best construction practices around the UK and Ireland. It is an exhilarating, fast-paced, challenging and exhaustive test of skills, leadership and collaboration.

- The idea for the 'Teambuild' competition arose within the Institution of Civil Engineers around 1990, as a result of poor communication and collaboration between construction professions aiming to deliver projects for clients.
- It is a multi-disciplinary team-working competition for your professionals across the UK construction industry, it is run over an intensive residential weekend as a accelerated training programme, which involves working together on a real project.
- The aim is to gain leadership, presentation and collaborative working skills, as well as increasing understanding and networking amongst a wide range of professions.
- The ultimate objective is to improve the delivery of projects for clients and the effective performance of the UK Construction Industry.

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- It was originally known as the Build-a-Building Competition, and has been held annually since 1992.

Next year's Teambuild Competition will be held over the weekend of 20-22 November 2020. Applications will be sought from early summer next year. Further details about Teambuild can be found at: www.teambuilduk.com