

multi-media robots which opened at the weekend.

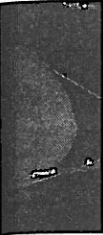
Mechatronics Circus, featuring interactive robots made from discarded bicycles and sewing machines, is the work of Mexican

whose work is making its debut in Scotland, claims his inspiration came from a natural disaster in his home country.

He said: "During the Mexico earthquake in 1985, as well as lives, many people lost businesses.

which is supporting the show, said: "It's a fascinating show which works on many levels and will interest children right through to professional artists."

The exhibition runs until the end of August.



**INVENTOR: Fernando Palma Rodriguez**

people as possible to take advantage of their local area.

North Lanarkshire Partnership, which includes Central Scotland Country-side Trust, Scottish Enterprise Lanarkshire, promote outdoor pursuits.

*City architects' innovative designs attract UK attention*

# Green housing wins top award

**By Catherine Lyst**

**AN environmentally friendly housing development on the site of an old meat market has won a major architecture award.**

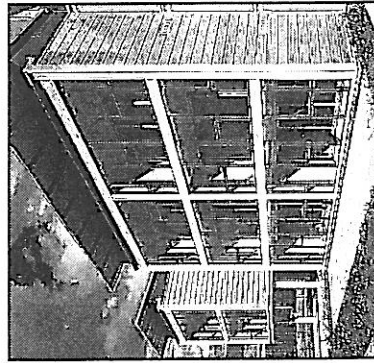
Glasgow architects McKeowan Alexander have been honoured with a coveted Royal Institute of British Architects Award for the design of the low cost Graham Square development.

The company won the design contract with their ideas for green housing for the Molendinar Park Housing Association development.

It came up with a plan for 20 flats featuring high energy insulation and glass stairwells that generate heat on cold days and keep the flats cool on hot days.

The architects also paid particular attention to the rooms which people use most.

The living rooms are all south and west facing while the bedrooms are mostly east facing to take advantage of the morning light.



**FUTURISTIC: Graham Square**

The flats, worth £40,000-£50,000, also feature sliding partitions between the kitchens and living spaces and have been designed so that all internal walls can be taken out to make one big loft space.

Project architect Ian Alexander, said: "This was the first kind of energy efficient housing we'd looked at but we now try to apply the principles we learned on that project to new work.

"It's all about minimising heat loss and maximising free energy gain, as well as making the best use of orientation of the building. And people seem to love it.

"We are delighted to have won this award."

The Graham Square development was one of just seven RIBA awards made in Scotland. The others included Dynamic Earth in Edinburgh, the Saughton Prison visitors' centre and Blair Castle visitor centre in Perthshire.

RIBA president Marco Goldschmied said: "Architecture affects everyone's lives and that is why RIBA is continuing its dialogue with the government to ensure that well-designed buildings become the norm."

All the award winners will now compete for the UK's most prestigious architectural honour, the Stirling Prize, which is awarded to the building which has made the greatest contribution to British architecture in the past year.

The awards show will be televised on Channel 4 on October 21.

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