

# HOUSING ASSOCIATION IS RIBA BEST CLIENT

**M**olendinar Park Housing Association has won the RIBA Client of the Year Award 2001 for its development at Graham Square, Glasgow.

The Award, announced in October, recognises the key role that a good client plays in the creation of fine architecture.

The £4 million Graham Square scheme includes three distinct projects by McKeown Alexander, Richard Murphy Architects and Page and Park. Backed by funding of almost £2.7 million from Communities Scotland's predecessor, Scottish Homes, it has provided 61 homes for rent and shared ownership on the site of a former meat market in the city's east end.

Praising the association's ability to bring out the best in architects, the judges said, "Molendinar Park is an exemplary housing association, which works by putting together teams of architects and getting them to talk to one another. Graham Square is just the latest and most significant in a series of design-led housing solutions."

Molendinar Park's Chairman George Campbell said the association was "proud, honoured and thrilled" to receive the award.

"Since it was established in 1993, the association has been committed to achieving quality in design, construction and management; developing durable, energy-efficient housing; creating artwork and

public spaces; and involving residents in housing management," he said. "We believe that social housing can be a positive choice and we are proud of our efforts to change people's attitudes to the sector."

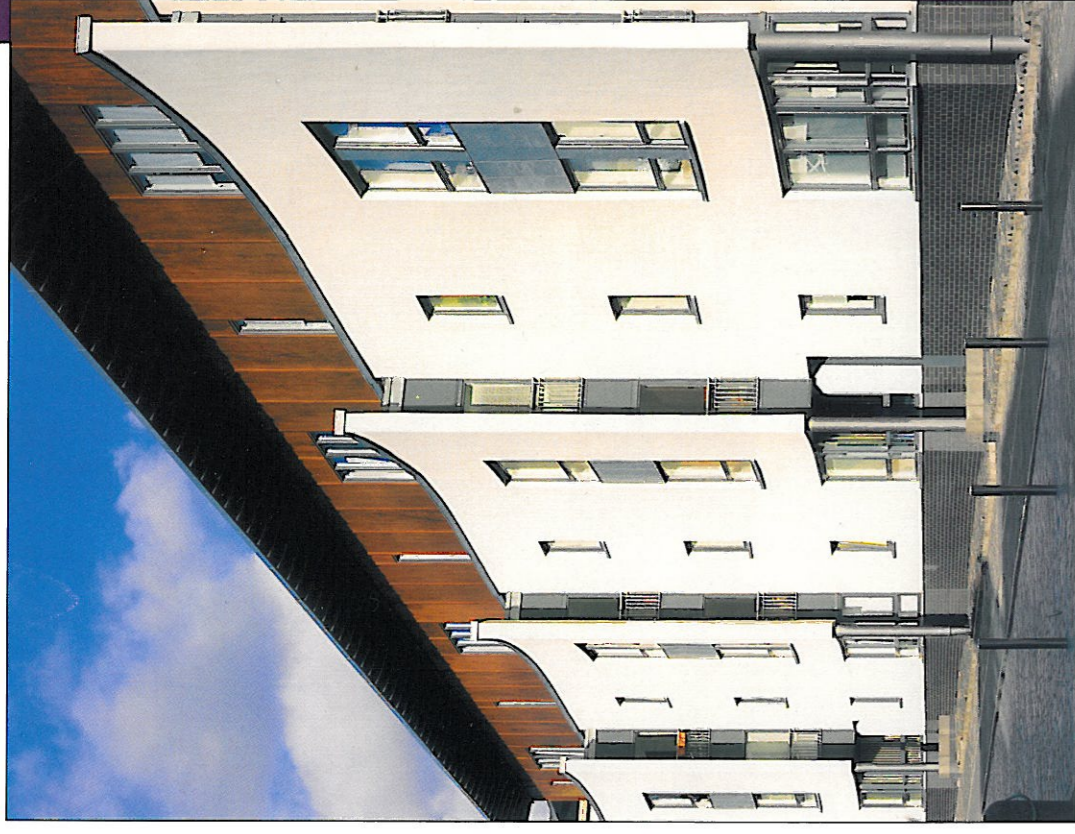
George said that Communities Scotland's predecessor had played an important role in setting up the association and supporting them in the redevelopment of Graham Square.

Communities Scotland's Hunter Reid said: "A sense of place' is what I immediately think of when I walk into Graham Square. It's not easy to get buildings to speak to each other, but here, Molendinar have harnessed the talents of three of the foremost architectural practices in Scotland, to produce a memorable whole that is a great deal more than the sum of the parts."

He added that the scheme had been extremely popular with tenants.

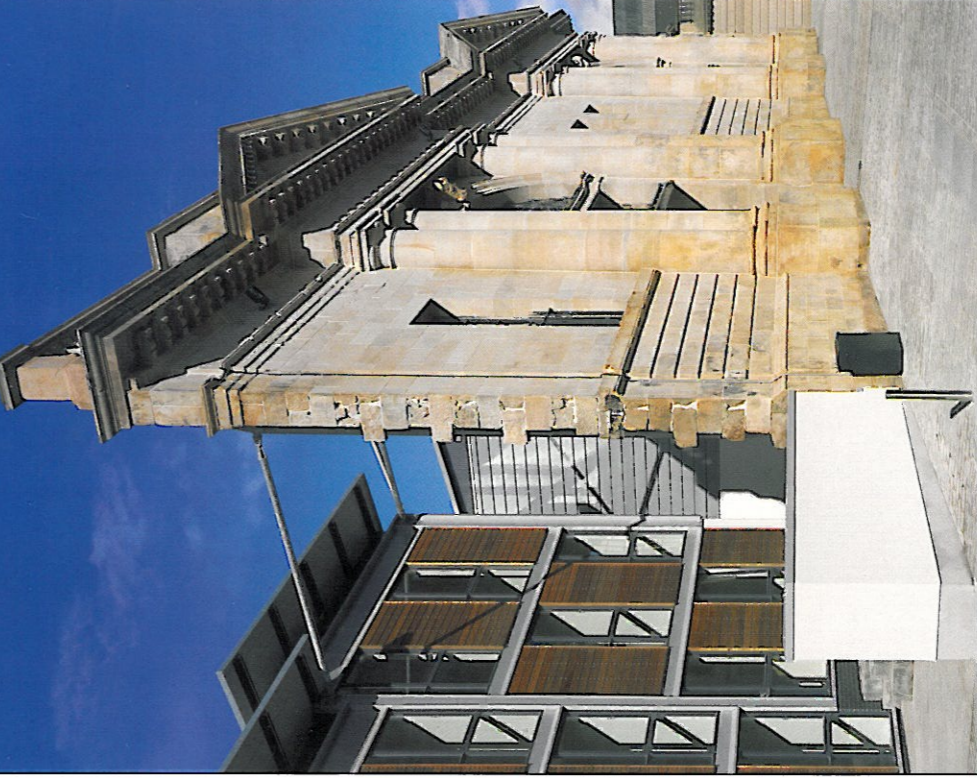
The project beat off competition from four other developments across the UK. In December 2000 it was also the joint winner, with the nearby Homes for the Future project, of the Regeneration of Scotland Supreme Award, which recognises the contribution good architecture makes to local economies, the quality of the visual environment and the wellbeing of people.

*For further information, contact Rob Joiner at Molendinar Park. Email: robjoiner@reidvale.org.uk or telephone: 0141 554 2406.*

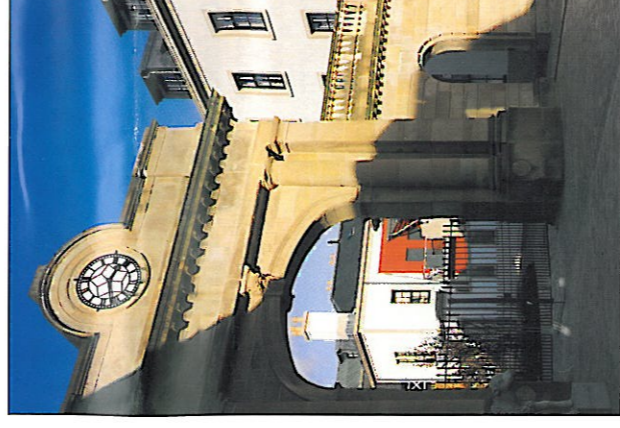


**Graham Square in Glasgow's East End. The facade of the Page and Park building (above) is a series of curved, interlocking planes linked to a restored tenement block.**

**The judges described the Richard Murphy building, sitting behind a restored grand arch (right), as a "re-incarnation of the market hotel with a charming courtyard punched out of its facade."**



**Left: the scheme by McKeown Alexander was praised by the judges as "the kind which may yet give facadism a good name, with its new build elements elegantly tied to the restored frontage of the old market by a steel support system devised by Arups" (photo: Andrew Lee).**



## QUALITY NEWS

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