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## Awards to honour Sunderland's best builders

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Sunderland City Council Business Excellence Awards winners with Cabinet Secretary Councillor Mel Speeding, centre, after the ceremony at the Stadium of Light.

Published on **Wednesday 13 February 2013 10:21**

TOP designers and building firms were honoured at an awards ceremony.

The Building Excellence Awards, now in their eighth year, were held at the Stadium of Light, to recognise outstanding standards of construction and design.

The awards, organised by Sunderland City Council, go to the most innovative construction projects in the city, completed over the past 12 months.

Richard and Alan Marsden won Best Housing Development for their property in Birchfield Road.

Gentoo Homes and Construction won Best Social Housing Development for Centrepoin in Dundas Street.

Sunderland Council Design Services and Robertson Construction won Best Educational Building for North View School. Nigel Chandler and Carter Building Construction won the Best Domestic Extension category for a development in Durham Road, and John Downing Builders was named Best Small Builder.

Mr Downing, who runs the 17-year-old business in High Barnes, said: "I'm really pleased with the award. It's nice to get this kind of recognition."

Gentoo Homes and Construction won Best Community Building for Grace House Hospice. Partner Construction took the Best Partnership Award.

The winners are eligible for entry into the Local Authority Building Control Northern Region Building Excellence Awards on June 14.

Councillor Mel Speeding, Sunderland Council cabinet secretary, said: "We have always been keen to promote building excellence and innovation within our city, and these awards are recognition of all those who demonstrate both commitment and imagination to achieve the highest possible standards. All of the winners in each of the award categories provide great examples of the high quality of work being carried out in Sunderland and across the region, and what is being achieved as a result of the strong partnership that we have helped create and develop between architects, contractors, developers and the city council."

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