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LEADING CONSERVATION ARCHITECT AWARDED PLOWDEN MEDAL

Conservation architect Donald Insall has been awarded this year's Plowden Medal by The Royal Warrant Holders Association in recognition of the significant influence he has had on conservation practice and policy in the UK and overseas. He will be presented with the Medal by HRH The Duchess of Gloucester at The Royal Warrant Holders' luncheon in London on 5 June.

The gold medal, inaugurated in 1999, is awarded by The Royal Warrant Holders Association in memory of the late Hon. Anna Plowden, the leading conservator who was President Elect of the Association at the time of her death in 1997. The medal is awarded annually to recognise the individual who has made the most significant recent contribution to the advancement of the conservation profession. It can also be awarded to recognise a lifetime of commitment and achievement within the profession.

For over four decades Donald Insall has made a unique contribution to excellence in architectural conservation projects, the development of conservation policies, training and encouraging specialists in conservation, and sharing conservation practice and expertise.

His urban conservation work has had a profound impact on planning legislation in the UK. In 1966 his team was appointed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government and Chester City Council to prepare a conservation study. This became an exemplar for other historic towns, both nationally and in Europe. It resulted in the appointment of the UK's first conservation officer and influenced planning legislation for Historic Area Grants. Chester's widely acclaimed

conservation programme received Europa Nostra Medals of Honour in 1983 and 1989.

Donald Insall was one of the first to recognise the importance of specialist training in conservation and for over 25 years served as honorary secretary and later vice president, of the Conference on Training in Architectural Conservation. He has lectured throughout the world and written extensively, communicating his knowledge and enthusiasm for conservation.

His declared philosophy is based on the need for continuity, both in buildings and towns, and on a positive approach to conservation planning and urban renewal. He has an exceptional record of public service in the interests of architectural heritage, serving on many organisations and committees concerned with heritage in the United Kingdom and overseas and on Committees of the European Commission.

His practice, Donald Insall Associates, was formed in 1958 and a significant part of its work has been concerned with historic buildings such as the Palace of Westminster, London's Mansion House, and recently Somerset House, as well as the post-fire restoration works at Windsor Castle, which won the Europa Nostra Medal of Honour. The firm has received over 90 awards for excellence in design, conservation and craftsmanship.

Comments Adam Brett-Smith, President of The Royal Warrant Holders Association, "We are delighted to be making this award to Donald Insall, who is regarded as the leading conservation architect in the country. His influence can be seen in towns and buildings both here and abroad. Donald's commitment to quality and excellence is something which Anna Plowden believed in and which every member of the Royal Warrant Holders Association shares."

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Note to Editors:

Anna Plowden was a founding partner of Plowden & Smith Ltd, one of the world's largest commercial conservation enterprises. Granted a Royal Warrant of Appointment to HM The Queen in 1982 and to HM Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother ten years later, Anna was elected to the Council of the Royal Warrant Holders Association in 1990.

