Property Week

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Occupiers

CoreNet Global awards

Fairground attraction: guests enjoyed carnival atmosphere at awards ceremony, which featured a big wheel and dodgems in the middle of the Square Mile

ALL THE FUN OF THE FAIR

Occupiers honoured at the CoreNet Global UK awards. Christine Eade reports

The UK chapter of CoreNet Global called its annual awards dinner on 30 June Sparkle and Stars. The 700 guests in a marquee in the garden of the Honorary Artillery Company in the City experienced both.

Stars working in corporate real estate departments of multinational companies were honoured for their pioneering work in sustainability and innovation.

Retiring president Nigel Baker used opportunities during the awards ceremony to tease his successor, Ian Smith, until Smith vowed to hire a professional presenter next year.

Comedian Ian Irving forced the guests to laugh at themselves by saying he had not seen so many white people together since he was up in court.

The evening ended in sparkle as guests drove dodgems and rode the big wheel in the Artillery Gardens.

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Henley's Ginny Gibson honoured

Ginny Gibson, deputy dean of Henley Business School and head of the school's real estate and planning department, is honoured by Nigel Baker, CoreNet's outgoing president, with the award for significant contribution to corporate real estate.

Gibson attended the dinner unaware that she was to be honoured, but surmised that it was given because over nearly 30 years she had probably taught half the guests. She was a student and later a lecturer at Reading University, which Henley became part of three years ago.

Gibson recalls that she knew so little of Reading that she pronounced it "Reeding" when in the early 1980s she applied on a whim to take a masters degree in property there.

Before moving from Canada to Reading, Gibson had graduated from the Ivey Business School in the University of Western Ontario. She has stayed in England, having met her husband, a planner, at the university.

As the daughter of a Toronto-based property broker and developer, she worked to make the government, her students and property professionals recognise the link between property and business. This included a government-commissioned report on driving performance through the management of the public estate.

Executive treatment for Citi's Killey

John Killey, head of Citi Realty Services for Europe, the Middle East and Africa (left), receives the prize for executive of the year from the awards sponsor, Gareth Osborn, business unit director at Segro.

Killey considers that one of the reasons he won the award is because Citi puts the sustainability agenda to the fore in all its corporate real estate operations. He notes that Citi has occupied some of its buildings for a long time, and it therefore has to engage the staff in the green agenda in their treatment of waste, water and energy.

CoreNet was particularly impressed with Citi's Frankfurt data centre, which opened two years ago and was given the first ever platinum rating from the US Green Building Council.

CoreNet describes Killey's attitude towards sustainability issues as so embedded in Citi's corporate real estate team that Killey himself viewed such issues as "business as usual."

Presidents consult Oracle for Caiger's award

Tim Caiger, who retired last year as vice-president for real estate and facilities management at the Oracle Corporation, stands between Baker, CoreNet's outgoing president (left), and the new president, Ian Smith, to receive the president's award.

Caiger's family has lived in Reading since 1850, but he says he was not offended by Baker's joke that he was the Ricky Gervais of corporate real estate.

Caiger reveals, "I've always loved Reading, and I have tried to put back as much as possible into the area."

Baker's testimonial to Caiger centred on the growth of the Oracle property portfolio during his 22 years in charge. The technology company now has 16,500 employees in 52 countries, working in 3.5m sq ft. When Caiger joined, there were 600 employees in 100,000 sq ft.

Caiger continues to work for his home county, Berkshire, and has a special interest in its medical buildings. He serves on the board of the Royal Berkshire NHS Trust.

Retirement brings new adventures – in September he climbs the 20,000 ft Mount Cotopaxi in Ecuador.

Stone and Pickett: perfect partners

Matthew Stone, a partner in Cushman & Wakefield's capital markets team (left) and Andrew Pickett, property director of Wolseley UK (centre), receive the partnership award from CoreNet president Ian Smith.

CoreNet gives the award to those whose collaborative work exceeded business expectation.

Last year, Stone and Pickett negotiated a £75m deal under which Wolseley transferred 164 leases for its surplus property to the Legacy Portfolio, a specialist company that mitigates lease liabilities.

CoreNet praised the partnership for achieving the first significant outsourcing of pure UK surplus properties, adding that this was a new market for occupiers to resize their estate in a single transaction.

Stone says the strategy will become more important under proposed accounting rules that make leases on balance sheets a liability.

Standring sets the Standard

Andrew Hunter, Standard Chartered Bank's group head of corporate real estate (left) receives the innovation and sustainability award from the award's sponsor, Stuart Bowman, divisional director for energy and sustainability at Hurleypalmerflatt.

The winner, Ruth Standring, group head of health, safety and the environment at Standard Chartered, was unable to attend, sparking a joke from the president that she had already used up her carbon footprint for the month.

Standring told the guests via video that Standard Chartered operated in the parts of the world that were most vulnerable to climate change. The bank therefore sets targets for energy reduction and water and paper consumption.

In the last three years, the bank has reduced its carbon emissions by 6% in its 2,500 buildings in 75 countries. Water consumption was down 35% last year. The reforms were achieved through smart lighting, water recycling, photovoltaic panels and efficient cooling systems. ■

Morning after @ PropertyWeek.com

Property Week's editor-in-chief Giles Barrie (left) presents Helen Casey of Legacy Portfolio with her essay competition prize.

Andrew Burt, vice-president of real estate service for Johnson Controls (right), sponsored the competition.

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