

# Lochside House lands top award

It was loch and awe for the judges of the Riba House of the Year 2018 competition, says Susan Welsh, as a Highland home took the title

**C**ongratulations to everyone involved in building Lochside House, which was named the Riba House of the Year 2018.

The sustainable Highland home was built by Perthshire-based JML Contracts from Structural Insulated Panels (Sips), precision-engineered and manufactured in the firm's Auchterarder factory before being transported to the Highlands and erected by hand on the completely off-grid site.

The low-energy home was designed by Haysom Ward Miller Architects and incorporates a complex floorplan with three different floor levels and eight roof areas across a single-storey building.

Set in a remote rural location, which hasn't been identified, the house was designed and built with sustainability at its heart and has its own water supply, sewage treatment

and electrical systems, all designed to reduce overall energy use to a minimum.

John Langley, director of JML Contracts, said: "We are absolutely delighted that this stunning house has received the recognition it deserves – it's great to see Scottish housebuilding being recognised on a national stage.

"This home is the perfect example of innovative housebuilding where sustainability has been considered at every point throughout the build process. It shows that sustainability definitely doesn't have to mean a compromise to the beauty of a home.

"This was a particularly challenging project for us, partly due to the remote nature of the site.

"We couldn't have any mechanical assistance on-site, therefore the Sips kit for the house had to be



The sustainable, low-energy home was described as a 'particularly challenging project'. PICTURES COURTESY OF AES SOLAR

designed, engineered and precisely pre-cut offsite in our factory in Auchterarder.

"On-site, everything had to be done by hand – our panels were even delivered

to the site using a Land Rover and trailer!" The property was

revealed as the competition winner on the final episode of Channel 4 series

Grand Designs: House of the Year, beating six other shortlisted properties.



Splendid isolation: the location of the beautiful, off-grid Highland home was not revealed during the competition



The one-storey home has eight roof areas and three floor levels