

## Riverside Named European Museum of the Year

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Riverside Museum:Scotland's Museum of Transport and Travel has been named European Museum of the Year at a ceremony in Belgium. Riverside Museum was among 40 museums from 21 countries which entered the running for this prestigious award with 29 making it through to final judging.

The award is judged on public quality, the extent to which a museum satisfies the needs and wishes of its visitors, and was presented last night in Tongeren in Belgium on International Museums Day. In their commendation the Judges said:"The Riverside Museum demonstrates brilliantly how a specialist transport collection can renew its relevance through active engagement with wider social and universal issues. The EMYA 2013 Judging Panel agreed unanimously that the museum fulfils the EMYA criteria of 'public quality' at the highest level."

The Zaha Hadid designed Riverside Museum opened to the public in June 2011 and has since attracted over 2 million visitors. Around 150 displays, created in conjunction with Event Communication, tell the stories of 3000 objects in the museum which has already won a string of awards including Best Science, Technical, Industrial Museum from the European Museum Academy in 2012, Best Customer Experience Scottish Digital Awards 2012 and Scotland's Favourite Visitor Attraction at the Scottish Entertainment Guide Awards in 2012.

Councillor Archie Graham, the Chair of Glasgow Life and Depute Leader of Glasgow City Council, said: "This is an outstanding achievement which, once again, shows that Glasgow is home to some of the world's finest cultural attractions. It's been 30 years since our cultural renaissance began in earnest, with the opening of the magnificent Burrell Collection. Since, then we have continued to change our fortunes by investing in our tremendous cultural treasures.

"Our fantastic Riverside Museum has been crowned Europe's best. That is no accident and is down to the hard work, passion and creativity of our staff who do everything they can to bring the stories of our transport and engineering past to existing and new audiences. They have made Glasgow proud."

Lawrence Fitzgerald, Riverside Museum Manager, said: "Everyone who has worked to make Riverside the success it is should feel incredibly proud. We were up against national museums in Edinburgh, Liverpool and major museums in France, Italy and elsewhere. We show the very best of Glasgow's amazing history in transport and engineering – our role as the engine room of the Empire, providing shipping, locomotives and industry to the world. Our museum is much more than that. It is, at its core, about the stories that connect these big industrial giants, the tales of how each of these exhibits made a difference to the people who made them, travelled on them or connected through them. Glasgow's story is about its people – and I'm delighted that our team has been recognised as the best at telling that story to our audiences and the best in Europe!"