

Architecture is a vote winner. It has a real impact on political issues.



Good design results in good quality buildings. Buildings that last, buildings that are loved and buildings that are environmentally and economically sustainable.

Creating a better built environment is central to the vision of the RIBA. Architects and the construction sector help drive Britain's economy and the 3 million people who work within it will help shape the places in which we live, learn, work and play.

Buildings matter.

The RIBA believes:

- 4 million homes should be retrofitted within the lifetime of the next parliament.
- Minimum design standards should be introduced for all public buildings.
- The same minimum space, design and environmental standards should apply to all new homes, whether they are privately or publicly funded.
- More support for Local Authorities to encourage good spaces and places.

Accordia
Architect: Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios/
Alison Brooks Architects/
Maccreeanor Lavington
Client: Countryside Properties
Awards: RIBA Award,
RIBA Stirling Prize
Photo: © Tim Crocker

The Royal Institute of British Architects has been promoting architecture since 1834.

The 40,000 strong professional institute is committed to serving the public interest through good design. Our mission statement is simple: to advance architecture by demonstrating benefit to society and promoting excellence in the profession.

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The Savill Building *Architect:* Glenn Howells Architects *Client:* The Crown Estate
Awards: RIBA Award, RIBA National Award, Shortlisted for the RIBA Stirling Prize

Westminster Academy at the Naim Dangoor Centre Internal
Architect: Allford Hall Monaghan Morris *Client:* Westminster Academy and Westminster Council
Awards: RIBA Award, RIBA National Award, Shortlisted for the RIBA Stirling Prize, Shortlisted for the RIBA Schools Award *Photo:* © Tim Soar

Young Vic, bar area *Architect:* Haworth Tompkins
Client: Young Vic *Awards:* RIBA Award, RIBA National Award, Shortlisted for the RIBA Stirling Prize

RIBA 

RIBA Manifesto

We spend an average of **20 hours per day inside buildings** and the quality of the built environment around us has been proven to have **dramatic effects on our happiness, health and how our children perform** in school.



1834–2009



Greening all our buildings

Saltholme Wildlife Reserve ▼
Architect: JDDK Ltd
Client: RSPB
Awards: RIBA Award
Photo: © Tim Soar

Well-designed buildings that are adaptable, use resources efficiently and deliver value over their whole life are the only ones that are truly sustainable and the only ones we should be building.

To reduce the UK's carbon emissions significantly we have to get serious about improving existing buildings.

We want to see:

4 million homes retrofitted within the lifetime of the next parliament.

42 million tonnes of carbon are produced from our homes in the UK every year contributing 28% of total UK emissions.¹ This needs to be reduced substantially and the task is huge. To meet 2050 carbon targets we will need to retrofit 11,000 homes per week every week for the next 40 years.

The RIBA estimates that to retrofit 4 million homes to use the same amount of energy as current new build homes it would cost £15,000 per home. This would cost England £15 billion per year or about £45 million per English Local Authority per year.

In all, 4 million tonnes of CO2 would be saved per year. Reducing emissions from homes in the UK by 10% or 2.8% of total UK emissions every year.²

Introduction of smart energy meters in every building and the publication of carbon bills by energy companies.

To help people reduce the amount of carbon they use they need to understand how much they are using. We can put the home owner in control by introducing meters into homes and publishing the amount of carbon used on all energy bills. Together with support on how to reduce energy consumption this will really make a difference.

Notes:

1 For central heating, hot water and light. Does not include appliances. Select committee on Communities and Local Government Seventh Report.
2 Ibid



Better schools, hospitals and homes

Maggie's Centre London ▼
Architect: Rogers Stirk Harbour Partners
Client: Maggie's
Awards: RIBA Award, Shortlisted for the RIBA Stirling Prize
Photo: © Richard Bryant

Well designed schools help children learn better and good hospitals and doctors' surgeries reduce sickness, giving the taxpayer long term value.

Too many newly built schools and hospitals are badly designed and will not be suitable for future learning or healthcare. This is both financially and environmentally unsustainable.

We want to see:

Better value for schools and hospitals.

Great public buildings are produced when the client can discuss with designers what they want first. We know from evidence in other countries,³ that by spending more time and money up-front working out what is actually needed we can save upwards of £1 million per school and reduce the time for procurement by 6 months.

Minimum design standards for all public buildings including post-occupancy evaluation.

There should be minimum design standards for all publicly procured buildings. No funding should be allocated unless each scheme meets the criteria and we get the best value from public expenditure.

Good homes for all.

People who live in well-designed and attractive homes are more satisfied, healthier and more likely to feel pride in their area. Their homes last longer and are cheaper to heat and light. Yet new homes in the UK are often poorly designed and are amongst the smallest in Europe.⁴

Homes funded by government must meet minimum space standards, design quality indicators, and achieve Level 3 of the Code for Sustainable Homes. Yet private sector housing does not. We want to see similar minimum space, design and environmental standards apply to all new homes, whether they be privately or publicly funded.

Notes:

3 For example in Northern Ireland: Cancer Centre City Hospital Belfast and Altnagelvin Hospital, Londonderry.
4 Unaffordable housing: facts and myths, The Policy Exchange, 2005



A stronger planning system

Formby Pool, interior shot ▼
Architect: Feilden Clegg Bradley Architects
Client: Formby Land Trust
Awards: RIBA Award, RIBA National Award

Buildings and the spaces in-between them are what make up the villages, towns and cities we live in. They can only be successful if local people embrace them. Local Authorities have a duty to consider design quality when developing their local plans⁵ and yet that can be difficult to achieve.

We want to see:

Support for Local Authorities to encourage good design.

Local Authorities are stretched and the provision for planning departments to encourage good design has reduced. There is no miracle pot of money but Government and policy-makers can achieve much by encouraging Local Authorities to employ a range of measures such as:

- Establish local Design Review Panels to raise standards and support design through peer review
- Seek better advice on issues of design, both through greater use of Procurement Support Agencies and Design Review Panel members
- Encourage new ways of working – Councils should consider shared planning services, or outsourcing planning application processing

We believe that if the quality of what is built is of a better quality there will be less resistance from local residents.

Notes:

5 Planning Act 2008