

Royal Institute of British Architects

**Report of the RIBA Initial Visiting
Board to the University of
Nottingham**

Confirmed by the RIBA Education Committee 08 December 2004

**Faculty of Law and Social Sciences
School of the Built Environment**

**Part One: MEng Architecture and
Environmental Design**

Date of Visiting Board: 11 June 2004

1. Information About the Courses

1.1 Course offered for validation:

M.Eng Architecture and Environmental Design, 4 years full time.

1.2 Address of the Institution where the course is delivered

School of the Built Environment
University Park
Nottingham NG7 2RD

T: 0115 951 4882

F: 0115 951 3159

W: www.nottingham.ac.uk

1.2 Name of Awarding Body

University of Nottingham

1.3 Name of Head of School

Professor Brian Ford

2. Membership of the Initial Visiting Board

2.1.1 The members of the RIBA Initial Visiting Board for the visit on 11 June 2004:

Professor Thom Gorst (Chair)

Mr David Howarth

Mr Robert Hutson

Mr Henry Shaftoe (Non-architect member)

Stephanie Beasley-Suffolk (RIBA) was in attendance as Secretary to the Board.

3. Procedures & Criteria for the Visit

3.1 Visiting Board carried out under the 'RIBA Procedures for the Validation of UK Courses and Examinations in Architecture,' published July 2003, effective from September 2003 and 'Tomorrow's Architect,' published March 2003, effective from September 2003. For more information see www.architecture.com.

4. Recommendations of the Visiting Board Confirmed by the Royal Institute of British Architects Education Committee 08 December 2004

4.1 The RIBA Education Committee at its meeting on 08 December 2004 confirmed: **Validation** for

M Eng Architecture and Environmental Design, 4 years full time.

4.2 The next Visiting Board will take place in 2007/2008.

5. Recommendation of the Visiting Board to the Construction Industry Council & EU Directive

5.1 The Visiting Board was satisfied that the Part One courses met the Construction Industry Council Common Learning Outcomes for Degree Courses in the Built Environment.

5.2 The Visiting Board recommends to ARB that the Part 1 contributed significantly to meeting all points of the EU Directive.

6. Criteria for Validation

6.1 On the basis of the sample of academic portfolios examined, the Visiting Board was satisfied that all the students graduating from the courses and examinations listed in 4.1 above satisfied all the Criteria for Validation (which are held in common by the RIBA for validation and the ARB for prescription).

7. Standards

7.1 On the basis of the sample of academic portfolios examined, the work from previous year of the courses listed in 4.1 was inspected during the visit and was found to meet the required standards.

8. Conditions of Validation

8.1 There were no conditions attached to the courses listed in 4.1.

9. Standard Requirements of Recognition

- 9.1 RIBA recognition of all courses/qualifications is dependent upon:
- i. external examiners being appointed for the course;
 - ii. any significant changes to the courses and examinations being submitted to the RIBA;

- iii. any change of award title, and the effective date of the change, being reported to the RIBA so that, where appropriate, recognition may formally be transferred to the new title by the RIBA;
- iv. submission to the RIBA of the names of students passing the courses/qualifications listed in 4.

10. Summary of the Recommendations, Advice & Commentary Contained in the Full Report

The M.Eng in Architecture & Environmental Design was awarded Candidate Course for Recognition status in 1999. The rationale for the development of the courses included the proposals in the Egan and Latham reports that conventional single-discipline courses in the built environment disciplines should be supplemented by more specialist cross-disciplinary courses. The University wished to develop a course which was capable of recognition by the RIBA, ARB and the Chartered Institute of Building Services Engineers (CIBSE). At the time of the visit, provisional CIBSE recognition had been achieved and full accreditation was being sought. The School anticipated that this process would be complete by June/July 2004.

The Board is satisfied that the course as currently constructed is producing graduates who meet the RIBA Part One criteria. The new course is innovative and focussed in its intent to produce graduates prepared for the modern workplace with thorough grounding across disciplines.

10.2 The School's strengths include:

- A commitment of staff and students to the integrated course
- The integration of the M.Eng students with students on associated courses.
- Excellent resources and facilities
- Its situation within a popular and successful University
- A research-rich environment with a commitment to sustainability.
- Strong links with local and national practice.

10.3 Recommendations

The Board made no recommendations.

10.4 Advice

- The Board was pleased to see that robust arrangements were in place to ensure moderation across units. The Board would be happy to see this maintained.
- The Board felt that the scale of some of the projects was over-ambitious.
- The School should review units and projects for appropriateness.
- The Board would encourage the School to diversify its methods of assessing history and theory.
- The Board would urge the School to ensure that examiners receive material, particularly student work, in advance to enable them to feel that they have had adequate time to review it.