

Spring 2008

London architect



RIBA Awards Shortlist 2008

RB Kensington & Chelsea sets up design review panel with RIBA

RIBA London has successfully helped the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea (RBKC) to set up an independent design review panel, staffed by architects. The inaugural meeting took place last month.

Set up by the London Urbanism and Planning Group, a sub-committee of the regional council, the review panel has emerged from a long-held belief within the architecture profession that planning officers should seek the advice of architects more often. The panel, who are providing their time free of charge, will meet and discuss contentious proposals for the borough (or even those for which the borough simply wants a second opinion) 10 times a year. Crucially, the panel has support at a very senior level within RBKC - in particular, that of deputy leader and "design champion" Daniel Moylan, and chief planning officer David Prout.

It is an oddity that, in spite of being one of the wealthiest boroughs in the country, RBKC suffers from rather "mediocre" architecture from the Edwardian era onwards, comments RIBA London Chair Andrew Hanson. Too many wealthy and influential residents block planning proposals that are architecturally ambitious. "What the borough wants is for property developers to come along with good quality schemes, rather than pastiches which they know will sail through the planning process. The borough wants a Stirling Prize winner," says Hanson.

The design review panel, which runs along similar lines to panels run by CABE, is actually a pool of people from which four panels can be selected - that way, members will be called upon every three or four months rather than every four or five weeks. Five very high profile chairs have been found: Will Alsop, Patron of RIBA London, Professor CJ Lim, Tom Jestico, Alfred Munkenbeck and John McAslan. These "cheer-leaders for good architecture" are backed up by around 22 other distinguished architects (including David Chipperfield and Greg Penoyre), from which panels of half a dozen people will be drawn. All panel members either live or work in the borough or were able to demonstrate considerable local knowledge.

The London Urbanism and Planning Group has been pressing the capital's boroughs to adopt design review panels for a long time - some (Westminster, for example) see no need, while most either have no such thing or rely on local interest groups. "We wanted a more regulated system comprised of people who really know that they're talking about - not just local people who are interested in architecture," says Hanson.

At RBKC, where the new body is actually called the "Architects Appraisal Panel", considerable thought was put into making the panel politically independent. Councillor Daniel Moylan, therefore, attends meetings as an observer only.

Not all planning applications will be referred to the panel; only those which are potentially controversial or for which planning officers have misgivings will be laid before the group. When the panel first met on 6 March, two schemes were discussed. Hanson expects the sanction of the panel to be a useful weapon in the armoury of planning officials in explaining merits of new proposals to concerned residents.

Hanson and others within RIBA London, including Luke Tozer and Neil Wilson, are now approaching other boroughs in the hope of setting up similar design review bodies. Brent and Lambeth councils have already been approached, and Hanson would like to hear from local architects wishing to be included on the panels. A key objective is to approach London's outer boroughs, where design often has a low priority.

The full list of participants in the review panel is as follows:

Gianni Botsford **Gianni Botsford Architects**
Kelvin Campbell **Urban Initiatives**
David Chipperfield **David Chipperfield**
Max de Rosee **De Rosee & SA**
Katy Ghahremani **Make**
Ivan Harbour **Rogers Stirk Harbour+Partners**
Richard Hyams **AStudio**
Paul Kalkhoven **Foster+Partners**
Andrzej Kuszell **Studio E**
Peter Morris **Allford Hall Monaghan Morris**
Sophie Nguyen **Sophie Nguyen Architects**
Greg Penoyre **Penoyre and Prasad**
Giles Quarme **Giles Quarme**
Paul Sandilands **Lifschutz Davidson Sandilands**
Steven Spence **Spence Associates**
Michael Squire **Squire+Partners**
Mike Stiff **Stiff & Partners**
Valerie Von Truchsess **Pringle Richards Sharratt**
Paul Williams **Stanton Williams**

Professor Will Alsop **SMC Alsop Chair**
Tom Jestico **Jestico+ Whiles Chair**
Professor CJ Lim **UCL Chair**
John McAslan **John McAslan & Partners Chair**
Alfred Munkenbeck **Munkenbeck+Marshall Chair**

Exciting revamp planned for CPD



RSPB Centre by van Heyningen & Haward Architects,
RIBA Award winner 2007

The London region is planning a new generation of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) events, making them learning experiences which members actually want to attend and look forward to. Miranda Housden, Head of RIBA London says: "Often CPD is something members do because it is required, rather than because they actually want to attend. CPD should be stimulating, so RIBA London has scheduled a new wave of events which will take place at inspirational locations, including tours of award-winning buildings and a refreshing look at well-established topics."

New events being drawn up include the following:

- Manipulating light, at Sir John Soane's Museum, with a presentation and tour by Richard MacCormac;
- Designing for floods, to take place at the Thames Barrier with a tour by Rachael Hill, Environment Agency;
- Computer modelling, taking place in the "spiky pod" at Queen Mary University of London, Institute of Cell and Molecular Science, Whitechapel;
- Ecotowns, including a presentation by Will Alsop on his masterplan for Croydon;
- Low carbon technologies, at the van Heyningen and Haward designed RSPB Environment and Education Centre, Rainham Marshes;
- Sustainable Construction, at the Creekside Education Centre, Deptford, including tour with waders;
- Two health and safety seminars, one at Wembley Stadium and the other which will give you exclusive access to the rafters of the Roundhouse;
- Natural ventilation, including a tour of Michael Hopkins' Lawn Tennis Association.

These events will run between May and December, with dates and speakers currently being confirmed. A dedicated bus service to take delegates to some venues not in Central London will be included in the price.

For the latest details on CPD events, contact Ben Neal at RIBA London ben.neal@inst.riba.org

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Royal Observatory by Allies and Morrison.
Photograph: Dennis Gilbert



Adelaide Wharf by Allford Hall Monaghan Morris
Photograph: Tim Soar



Cremorne Riverside Centre by Sarah Wigglesworth Architects
Photograph: Ioana Marinescu

At the time of going to press, RIBA London was busy assessing entries to the region's awards programme. This year, 132 projects were submitted for an award and these were reduced to a shortlist of 70 by architects chaired by Joanna van Heyningen, Christine Hawley, Alfred Munkenbeck and Spencer de Grey.

In partnership with Design for London, RIBA London has introduced two new awards: the Client of the Year Award and the Public Space Award. The English Heritage Conservation Award will continue to be a part of our awards programme.

The winners will be announced at the RIBA Awards for London ceremony and press breakfast at the Young Vic Theatre on Thursday 29 May. Please note that attendance is by invitation only.

RIBA London gets in Dark Waters for LFA2008

This year, our contribution to the London Festival of Architecture is a series of six site-specific sound installations, each taking place on a Thames pier between the O2 Arena in Greenwich and Millbank's Tate Britain. Sound recordings - including the voices of architects, clients and people from the river community - will be mixed with readings by author Peter Ackroyd, whose book

"Thames: Sacred River" was published last year. The sound installations are intended to heighten the visitors' senses, their experience of the river and transport them "into another time and space in the life of the Thames". The installations will be linked by a special Thames Clippers boat service. Also, a limited edition map of the exhibition will be produced by Ordnance Survey.



Thames.
Photograph: Wordsalad

Arts Space of the Future moves on

Following the success of the Arts Space of the Future exhibition, held earlier this year at the National Theatre, this exploration into the future of art venues will soon move to the Arcola Theatre in Dalston.

The exhibition, which showcased award winning new designs alongside images and models of well-established London arts venues, set architects a series of profound questions: what kind of arts space will be relevant to future generations? How can spaces better reflect the nature of the arts being produced within them? Do art spaces need to be transformed into something quite new? These are the sort of questions that underpin a new initiative in Dalston, which is why moving the exhibition to the Arcola Theatre is so pertinent.

Dalston Square is the site of a major new transport, housing and retail development which will include a library and public archive, as well as a new public square. Arcola Theatre hopes to deliver a

professional and community arts programme in the main square. Arts Space of the Future is intended to catalyse a cross-disciplinary development process which will embed performance arts in the physical and organisational infrastructure of the square. The exhibition will also include a series of maps which chart arts and cultural activities in the Dalston area (currently 123 organisations and rising), alongside the mapping of existing open spaces in the area. For more information contact Dr Ben Todd, Executive Director, Arcola Theatre ben@arcolatheatre.com or 07974 240 612.

RIBA London Chair, Andrew Hanson opened the seminar based on the competition and run by Central St Martins on 25 April. The event brought together professionals from arts management, architecture and cultural policy, as well as artists and students to discuss the issues raised in the Arts Space of the Future project, including issues of sustainability, flexibility and participation.

The Social



RIBA London has set up a new social networking group to get architects out of the office and into the driving seat, or pub, or park, or . . . 'The Social', a series of events sponsored by Judd Farris Recruitment, has been designed as a platform for architects and students to meet informally and "chew the cud". Events - ranging from drawing classes and talks to pub golf and go-karting - will hopefully encourage architects from practices large and small to meet, exchange experiences and even job opportunities in a relaxed environment. The organisers of The Social include Graham Boyce of Fletcher Priest Architects, architects and radio broadcasters Amenity Space, Leo Gee of Judd Farris recruitment and RIBA London's Antonia Faust. To register interest for these events email thesocial@inst.riba.org

Partners

AndersElite - a valued Major RIBA London Partner

"Since April last year staff from AndersElite have been working alongside RIBA London volunteering at industry events, getting involved in CPD programmes and supporting the region's efforts in connecting with the wider architectural community," writes Kate Waymouth, AndersElite. "We are pleased to say that this has been a beneficial partnership. It has provided AndersElite with a more in-depth understanding of the issues affecting architects in London while giving us with an insight into the RIBA awards programme. Having worked with RIBA London over the last 12 months, AndersElite is pleased to support the region's efforts and wishes to acknowledge their commitment to the industry."

RIBA London welcome Ibstock as their new Partner

Ibstock, the UK's largest brick manufacturer, has become a new partner of RIBA London. Ibstock provides the UK's largest range of clay facing bricks, with over 370 products including eco-products and innovative ranges such as the prefabricated Modular Bay Window, and Linear and Umbra - the latest inspirational ideas in brickwork design. Ibstock invests heavily in a sustainable future through its products, its manufacturing and the communities it operates in. Ibstock is committed to supporting the future of architecture and sponsors a number of activities including the RIBA Student's Newsletter and the Architecture and Design Awards in five of the RIBA regions. Ibstock is looking forward to partnering with RIBA London and to a successful relationship.

RIBA London is supported by: Major Partners **AndersElite** **Ordnance Survey** **Design for London**

And RIBA London Partners: ARRK - Rapid Architectural Modelling, The Building Centre, Ibstock Brick Limited, Mercedes-Benz UK, Silver Fleet and Sir John Soane's Museum.

RIBA 

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